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The history and antiquities of Rochester
Rochester
1833

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THE
HISTORY
AND
ANTIQUITIES
OF
ROCHESTER,
AND
THE VICINITY.

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THE
History of Rochester.
&c. &c.

ROCHESTER is situated on an angle of land formed by the current of the river Medway, which coming from the south, runs northward until it has passed by the city, and then turning, proceeds nearly to the east. This city is undoubtedly very ancient. The Romans called it Durobrovis and Durobroum, and by the Saxons it was denominated Hroffe, and Hroffe ceaster, from which by contraction it obtained its present name of Rochester. Bede says it took its name from one Roffe, who first built here, and that it was formerly considered rather as a castle than a city, and

accordingly he styles it "the Kentishmens' Castle."

Rochester has never been very extensive, and appears to be larger now than it was formerly. From ancient records there seems no question, but this city was walled before the conquest. Its natural situation on an angle of land, by a large river, and in the direct road from East Kent to London, made it a pass of some importance, and induced the kings and generals of ancient times, to improve it as a security against the invasion of their enemies.

Great part of the walls of this city still remain, and there can be no doubt of its being walled in the time of Ethelbert I. king of Kent, about the year 600; for

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in a grant of certain lands, made by him to support the church which he had built at Rochester, there is mention made both of a wall and gate.

There is reason to think that great part of the present wall of the city is on its original foundation, and that this place was first fortified by the Romans. Several Roman bricks were to be seen in different parts of the wall, particularly one row containing about seven bricks, which was lately very conspicuous towards the west end of the north wall.

The walls are built nearly according to the four cardinal points, and from east to west are about half a mile distant, but from north to south not a quarter of a mile, so that the city was originally in a small compass; which will account for its being called, in some grants, the castle, as appears from ancient records.

A part of the wall forming the north east angle is still entire, retaining its ancient form, height and embrasures. The wall in general is about four feet in thickness, and on the east side, where it is entire, the height is about thirty feet. The interior of the small tower situated in the same angle, does not appear to have suffered much from the ravages of time; the entrance to it is from Mr. Henslow's garden, through an arched door-way, to the right of which is a stone flight of steps, but little decayed, leading to the top: it has a fire place, and several loop holes; no doubt exists of there having been a similar tower to this at each angle of the wall. On the south the dimensions of the wall nearly correspond with the order of king Edward I. who in the year 1290 gave liberty to the prior and monks of the Convent of Rochester "To pull down part of the south wall, and to fill up the ditch without the wall, on condition that they built a new stone wall five rods and five feet from the former, sixteen feet high and well embattled, to stand on their own ground, and to be repaired by them." This new work is said to have extended from the east gate towards Canterbury to the gate of the Prior towards the

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south, and to have been in length fifty-four perches fourteen feet.

It is not easy to determine precisely concerning this new wall; it seems most probable that the whole south wall was carried five rods five feet to the southward, to give the prior and convent more room for gardens, vineyards, &c. and that it partly inclosed what is now

called the Vines Field, near the bottom of which, and not many yards from the elm-trees, are marks of the foundation of the east wall. The present south wall within this field seems to be the original wall which the monks had liberty to remove; and the wall without the said field appears to be that which they then built; it is indeed about twice the distance from the old wall which was prescribed by the grant, but the monks might encroach a little on this occasion, or measure from the outward edge of the broad ditch without the wall. They might also think it less trouble to build a wall with new materials, than to demolish the old one for that purpose; they might therefore permit the old wall to continue as a double security to their property, which being thicker than the new wall still remains, whilst this last is almost entirely demolished. Its length in all probability extended from the east gate round the south-east angle of the said field called the Vines, and so on to the south-west angle in the road to St. Margaret's, near which in the old wall probably stood the Prior's Gate.

The city has no gates at present, but the names of several are on record, viz. Broadgate, afterwards East-gate, which stood in the high-street near the free school, is mentioned in the *Textus Roff.* Part of the portal on the south side of the street was standing in the memory of several persons now living. Leland in his *itinerary* vol. 6, p. 10, calls it "a marvellous strong gate," and adds, "no more gates appeared here that were commonly used." Southgate was near Boley-hill, in the road to St. Margaret's; the gate was about nine feet wide, the arch of which was taken down

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in the year 1770, when the hooks on which the gates hung were remaining in the wall.

There was another gate as appears by the *Regist. Roff.* p. 565, called Cheldegate, this seems to have been in the north wall of the city leading to the marshes by the side of the river; for it is certain that Cheldegate Lane was on the north side of the great street, and opposite to the gate now called College Gate; as appears also from *Regist. Roff.* page 565; where it is asserted, that "a gutter, which ran down the College yard into the street, fell afterwards into a little street vulgarly called Bounds Lane or Cheldegate Lane." This street or lane is now called Pump Lane, and it is supposed took the name of Cheldegate Lane from the above mentioned Gate, to which it directly led; this supposition is further confirmed by the north wall of the city being called Cheldegate Wall in *Reg. Roff.* which appellation doubtless was derived from the gate leading through it.

There were no streets of any account within the walls of the city, except the High Street and Cheldegate Lane before mentioned; Doddingherne or Dodingherne Lane, or, as it implies in english, Deadman's Lane (a name which it probably obtained from its being a boundary to the cemetery), seems to have led from the principal street to Boley Hill. St. Clement's street was near St. Clement's church, now called Horse Wash Lane. What is at present called St. Margaret's Street, was without the walls, and in the reign of Ed-

ward II. A. D. 1317, termed South Gate Street, probably from its leading from the south gate. The whole street of St. Margaret's is included in that division of the city, which in the court-roll is still called South Gate Borough.

There was formerly a spring or well in East Gate, called after the name of St. Augustine, who erected the sees of Canterbury and Rochester; and was probably **near** where the obelisk pump now stands.

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CIVIL HISTORY.

Having **briefly noticed** the antiquities, extent, walls, and gates of this ancient city, we now proceed to its civil history; and although there is no doubt of the existence of this city when the Romans possessed the island (it being a Roman Station), yet we do not find it memorable for any particular event in that period: for after Julius Cæsar, in his second expedition, had defeated the united forces of the Britons near Canterbury, he met with little or no opposition in this county, the Britons retreating to the more interior parts of the island.

Though Rochester was undoubtedly a place of some eminence in the time of the Romans, yet it is remarkable that no particular mention should be made of it in the historical account which is given of a famous battle that was fought, near fifteen years after their departure, between the Britons and Saxons, about two miles south of the city. But it seems to have been more distinguished after the rise of the Saxon heptarchy.

This remarkable change in the government of the island was introduced by Hengist a Saxon general, who with his brother Horsa and their troops were called into Britain by king Vortigern, to assist him against the Picts and Scots. These Saxon strangers by force and fraud soon got possession of the county of Kent, Hengist being the first Saxon king, about the year 460.

The church of St. Andrew in Rochester, **was built by king Ethelbert I.**, which raised the city from obscurity, and gave it a distinguished place in ecclesiastical and civil history.

About the year 676, Lotharius **brother of king Egbert**, committed great excesses, laying the country waste, without any respect to churches or religious houses. He particularly plundered the city of Rochester, and drove bishop Putta from his see.

The country had scarcely recovered itself from the rapine of former invaders, before the infliction of this

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severe calamity; Mr. Phillipott says, that "This city drank deep of the bitter cup, the churches and monasteries of this see being destroyed in an horrible manner." After this it does not appear that Rochester suffered any particular scourge, or was memorable for any event, during the time of the heptarchy.

This city was frequently plundered by the Danes, who were the most ferocious invaders of Great Britain. **In the year 840**, they ravaged the county, when Canterbury and Rochester felt the effects of their barbarity, and hatred of the christian religion.

In 999, the Danes with a fleet of ships, came up the Medway as far as Rochester. The terror they struck into the hearts of the people, by their un-heard-of barbarities, exercised in various parts of England at this time, induced the inhabitants to leave the city, so that they met with little resistance; and, having plundered Rochester, they departed into East Kent. It does not appear that this city ever made any further opposition against the Danes.

The whole kingdom was soon after involved in such confusion, by the invasions of these emigrants, the treachery of the nobles, and incapacity of Ethelred, that the nation, despairing of the recovery of its liberty, or of being able to throw off this foreign yoke, tamely submitted to the ravages of the enemy.

In this state Rochester continued until the conquest of England by the Normans in 1066, to whom it submitted on the same honourable conditions as were given to the county in general. Lambard says, that in the time of William I. this city (in Doomsday book) was valued at one hundred shillings a year.^{/1}

Odo, bishop of Bayeux in Normandy, bastard brother to the conqueror, being created earl of Kent, took up his residence in this county, and very probably in this city, as there is a piece of land by the dean's house, which was formerly called Odo's Orchard.

Kilburn and others, make mention of great fires in

^{/1} Nearly equal to seventy-five pounds of our present money.

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this city, in the years 1130, 1137 and 1177. The marks of this deplorable calamity (Phillipot says) were visible even in his time, viz. in the seventeenth century.

The city recovered very slowly from these successive misfortunes; and the intestine commotions of the kingdom happening soon after, in which Rochester suffered considerably, as will appear in the history of the castle, it was half a century before it became of any distinction; and then it seems to have been indebted to the royal bounty of king Henry III. for great part of its strength and beauty. In the feats of chivalry performed at Rochester, the English entered the lists against all foreigners without exception; and in this field our countrymen discovered their aversion to the impolitic conduct of Henry, in his predilection for foreigners, which soon after threw the kingdom into such violent convulsions as to endanger the state.

Rochester suffered much in the civil war that ensued: but as these things chiefly relate to the castle, we shall defer them until we relate the history of that important fortress.

About April 1556 Rochester became the theatre of one of those horrid scenes that disgraced the reign and religion of Queen Mary I. John Harpole of St. Nicholas parish in this city, and Joan Beach of Tunbridge, were burnt alive as heretics, according to the sentence of Maurice Griffin bishop of Rochester, for denying the authority of the church, and the transubstantiation of the sacramental elements.

The illustrious sister of queen Mary was more propitious to this city. Being on her return towards the metropolis from a tour, her majesty came on Septem-

ber the eighteenth to Rochester, and for four of the five days of her continuance here she took up her abode at the Crown Inn; but on the last day Mr. Watts had the honour and happiness of accommodating her at his house on Boley Hill. There is a traditional story of this royal guest having given the title of Satis to this mansion; either as declaring it to be

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her opinion that the apartments were sufficiently large and commodious even for a lady of her exalted rank, and that therefore all further apologies on that subject from the master were needless; or as expressing her satisfaction at the treatment she had received in it.

When king Charles II. returned to England, after the death of Cromwell, he was received at Rochester on the 28th of May, 1660, where he knighted Mr. Francis Clarke, (who then resided in that antique mansion in Crow Lane, now the property of Mr. H. Prentis) and Mr. W. Swan, both of them gentlemen of the county of Kent.

The dreadful plague that almost depopulated London in the year 1665, raged much in this city; it appearing from the register of St. Nicholas, that, between April and Christmas above 500 corps were interred in the burying ground of that parish.

In December, 1688, James II. on his abdication of the throne, came to this city, and was received by Sir Rich. Head, in the house now **belonging to** Mr. C. Thompson. Being requested, by the prince of Orange, to remove from Whitehall to Ham, a seat of the duchess of Lauderdale, he begged that he might be allowed to remove to Rochester; which being granted, he continued here a week under the protection of a Dutch guard. But seeing that there was no probability of his keeping possession of the throne, and that he was deserted by his injured subjects; and being likewise alarmed with fear of his personal safety, he privately left the city the last day of the year, and embarked for France, on board a tender in the river, which was at that time employed in impressing seamen. The master of the tender was one Browne, a citizen of Rochester, who landed the king, the duke of Berwick, and some others who accompanied him, at Ambleteuse in Picardy.

This city gave title to Humphrey son of the duke of Gloucester, whom Richard II. made earl of Rochester in the year 1396. And perhaps earl Hroffe before the Norman conquest, took his title from this city.

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Robert Carr, the minion of king James I. to the disgrace of this city, was made earl of Rochester, on Easter Monday, in the year 1611.

In the year 1654, lord Wilmot was created earl of Rochester by king Charles II. then in exile: he left the title to his son John Wilmot, who is distinguished in biography for the licentiousness of his manners and obscenity of his writings; the dangerous tendency of which, he was convinced of, when it was too late to recall them; for he died truly sensible of his irregularities, in the year 1680, when the title became extinct; but was again revived in the person of

Lawrence Hyde, second son of the great earl of Clarendon, who was created earl of Rochester, on the 29th of November, 1682, by Charles II. who highly favoured and honoured him. He died May the 2nd, 1711, and was buried in Westminster Abbey, leaving by his lady Henrietta, fifth daughter of the earl of Burlington, who died before him, one son, Henry, and four daughters./1

Henry succeeded his father as earl of Rochester. He married Jane, daughter of Sir William Leveson Gower, by whom he had issue, one son, Henry, lord viscount Cornbury, who died in the year 1753, a short time before his father; and both of them dying without male issue, the title of earl of Rochester became a second time extinct, and has not since been revived./2

GOVERNMENT, PRIVILEGES AND PRESENT STATE OF ROCHESTER.

So early as the conquest, this city appears to have been governed by a chief magistrate, who in the Textus Roff./3 is stiled Præpositus, but by Phillipot is called Port-reeve. The first charter was granted by Henry II. A. D. 1165, who empowers the citizens to have a guild

/1 Collins's Peerage, 2nd edition, vol. 2, p. 302.

/2 Hasted's History of Kent, vol. 2, p. 61.

/3 Fol. 189. See Harris's Hist. of Kent.

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merchant,/1 under the government of their chief magistrate, who is here named Præpositus civitatis, and grants many other privileges, liberties, and customs; which are afterwards confirmed by Henry III. in a charter dated the 6th of February, 1265, where it is said, "That for the faithful service which the citizens have done for us, and for the damages and losses which they have sustained in our obedience in the time of trouble had in our kingdom," the citizens were remitted eight pounds out of the twenty pounds which had been paid to the crown. An exemption was also granted from stallage and murage through England, with liberty to have a fore-market within the said city, and the return of all writs. These privileges were confirmed by Richard II. in a charter dated the 6th of April, 1378; by Henry VI. in a charter dated the 14th of July, 1438; and another dated the 1st of January, 1446; by Edward IV. in a charter dated the 14th of December, 1460, in the first year of his reign.

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

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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

/1 Gilda Mercatoria.

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a court of portmote from fifteen days to fifteen days; and lastly the mayor, recorder, eldest alderman, and last mayor, for the time being, were to be justices of the peace within the limits of the corporation.

The city, which has been gradually increasing of late years, consists principally of one wide street of considerable length, called the High-street, having several bye lanes on each side of it. The extreme boundaries of the High-street are the river Medway and the bridge on the west, and the town of Chatham on the east. Rochester, by its situation in a valley, is peculiarly sheltered from storms. The air is salubrious, and instances of longevity are as frequent here as in most towns. A market is held weekly on Friday, for meat, poultry, butter, earthenware, garden-stuff, &c. in the area before the court-hall of this city; and one for cattle on the fourth Tuesday in every month, on the common, on the north side of the high-street. In the clock house a corn market is held every Tuesday, at which, though a very recent establishment, much business in the corn trade is now transacted. The town is well supplied with provisions of every kind, and with plenty of fish from the Medway. Water is conveyed in pipes from an excellent spring near the Vines field, to the houses of the respective inhabitants. Possessed of one of the finest rivers in Europe, this city may be thought advantageously situated for trade; but it does not appear that it ever enjoyed the benefit of any manufacture. The chief ships which deliver at this port are colliers, wine and east country ships, with various stores for the use of the dock-yard. Here is an establishment for the customs as one of the out ports, and also an excise-office: the former is under the direction of a collector, a deputy comptroller, surveyor, &c. and the latter is under the superintendance of 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

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coupled columns of stone, of the Doric order. In this building all business respecting the government of the city is transacted, and the elections of members of parliament are made.

The city contains many respectable private houses, constructed, for the most part of brick, in the modern style; but a few still retain an antique appearance, being built of wood and plaster, and, according to the practice which prevailed in former ages, with stories projecting over each other. In the high-street, besides a number of good shops in almost every branch of trade, are three capital and spacious inns, which for their good accommodations, as well as for their antiquity, may vie with the first in England. Nearly on

the same spot where the Crown now stands, has been an inn distinguished by the same sign upwards of five hundred years, it having been kept by Simond Potyn, the founder of St. Catherine's hospital, A. D. 1316. It also appears from court-rolls that on the same spot where the Bull and the King's Head now stand, there have been houses of public entertainment distinguished by the same signs for above three hundred and fifty years. Among the sources of agreeable amusement in this place may be reckoned the Phoenix Circulating Library and Reading Room which are furnished with a valuable collection of modern books, and regularly supplied with the principal London and county newspapers; and the Theatre in the Canterbury-road, built at the sole charge of the late Mrs. Sarah Baker, in 1791, which is generally opened a few months in every year for theatrical performances. In the river nearly opposite to the victualling office is stationed, during the summer months, a commodious Floating Bath, which receives the salt water every tide, and has every accommodation for bathing on very reasonable terms. To the north-west of the Canterbury road is Troy Town, which though comparatively of yesterday, having been wholly built within memory, is now very populous, and consists of four tolerably regular streets.

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This place derives its name from the late John Caze-neuve Troy, Esq., an eminent wine merchant in Chat-ham, who was the ground landlord. It stands on a fine eminence, and is much esteemed for the salubrity of the air. As the ground is chiefly let on building leases for ninety-nine years, at a small reserved rent, the houses in general are neatly and substantially built. Between Rochester and Chatham, on the south-side of the high-street, is St. Margaret's Bank, so called from its being in the parish of St. Margaret, which rises several feet above the carriage road in three divisions, and commands a very beautiful prospect of the river Medway, the shipping lying in the harbour, and the adjacent country. On the common, adjoining to the river, is Mrs. Ross's ship yard, in which, since the commencement of the late war, have been built the Vigo and Sterling Castle, third rates of 74 guns each, the former of which was launched in 1810, and the latter in 1812, and four frigates, and five sloops of war. Two annual fairs which were formerly held in this city and continued three days each, having gradually declined, and almost come to nothing, have been discontinued for several years. In several parts of the city and its environs are some very agreeable residences for small genteel families; and in the neighbourhood are several rural and pleasant walks, particularly on the banks of the Medway on the road to Borstal, and on the new road. The two latter walks especially command the most delightful and extensive views of the river Medway, and the surrounding country, which from their beautiful variety must be seen to be properly appreciated. From the summit of the quadrangular tower, which constitutes the principal part now remaining of the venerable castle, is a grand and extensive prospect of the river Medway, comprising views both above and below the bridge, even to its conflux with the Thames. The tower itself is so

conspicuous an object as to be discernable at the distance of twenty miles. Rochester is strongly fortified on the south side agreeable to the modern system.

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Fort Pitt, a strong fortress, situated on the summit of the rising ground contiguous to the new road on the south, and partly in the parish of St. Margaret, and partly in that of Chatham, was erected since the commencement of hostilities in 1803; it was originally intended for a military hospital. Not long afterwards, viz. in 1812, Fort Clarence a little to the westward of St. Margaret's church, was built, and a broad deep ditch extending from the river to the Maidstone-road, and defended by a rampart, with casemates for troops and magazines for powder, was completed at the same time; these, in conjunction with Chatham-lines, are considered as a regular series of fortified positions commanding the river, and extending from Gillingham fort to the right bank of the Medway above Rochester bridge.

The number of genteel families resident in this city and in the neighbourhood, its vicinity to Chatham-yard, the barracks, &c. and the thoroughfare between London and France render the Streets agreeably populous. Few places at the distance of thirty miles from London have a more frequent intercourse with that great city. Exclusively of seven coaches which set out every day from Rochester to London, there are carriages of every description almost continually passing between London, Dover, Deal, Margate, &c. which greatly facilitate the communication with the capital. The number of inhabitants, most of whom are engaged in trade and maritime occupations, as ascertained under the population Act, in 1810 was 9010, that of houses 1551.

For the benefit of trade an Act was obtained in 1781 to establish a court of requests, for the more easy and speedy recovery of small debts under the value of forty shillings, within the city of Rochester, and the several parishes of Strood, Frindsbury, Cobham, Shorne, Higham, Cliffe, Cooling, High-Halstow, Chalk, Hoo, Burham, Wouldham, Halling, Cuxton, Chatham, Gillingham, and the Ville of Sheerness, in the county of Kent.

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By a subsequent Act passed in 1808, the powers of this court were extended to the recovery of small debts not exceeding five pounds.

Rochester has sent two representatives to parliament from the first institution of those assemblies. They are chosen by the freemen, who are numbered at present about 1000. Within the liberties of this city, is an oyster fishery, for the conducting of which, there is a company of free dredgers, established by prescription, time out of mind, subject to the authority and government of the mayor and citizens.

CHARITIES.

Considering the extent of Rochester, few cities have benefitted by so many and considerable donations for the relief of the poor. One of the principal benefactors, RICHARD WATTS, Esq., of Rochester, by his will

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proved in 1759, ordered, that after the marriage or death of his wife, his principal dwelling house, called Satis, on Boley-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 mattrasses 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 four-pence and should warm themselves at the fire of the poor dwelling in the said house, if

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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 £36. 16s. 8d. The estates of this charity are now much improved and produce a very considerable annual income. The house appointed for the reception of poor travellers is situated on the north side of the High-street, and is probably the original building. It was repaired by the mayor and citizens in 1771, at no inconsiderable expence. Agreeable to the benevolent design of the donor, six poor travellers are received into it, and have each of them lodging and entertainment for one night gratis, and four-pence a piece; and that this charity may be more generally known, the following inscription is fixed over the door: —

RICHARD WATTS, Esqr.
by his will dated 22, Aug. 1579,
founded this charity,
for six poor travellers,
who not being Rogues, or Proctors,
may receive gratis, for one Night,
Lodging, Entertainment,
and four pence each.
In testimony of his Munificence,
in honour of his Memory,
and inducement to his Example,
NATHL. HOOD, Esqr. the present Mayor
has caused this stone,
gratefully to be renewed,
and inscribed,
A. D. 1771.

The mayor and citizens, in testimony of their gratitude and his merit, caused a very handsome mural white marble monument to be erected to his memory, on the south side of the door entering into the choir of Rochester cathedral.

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, dwelt at the inn, called the Crown, by his will, in 1316 bequeathed a house for an hospital to be called the Spital of St.

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Catherine of Rochester, for such poor men or women of this city, lepers, or otherwise diseased, impotent, and poor, to be received therein, and then to abide on the alms of charitable people. The dean and chapter with the mayor of Rochester, and the vicar of St. Nicholas, are patrons, and the revenue and disbursements accounted for by the provider.

This hospital was situated near the Star in Eastgate, and was rebuilt in 1717. It is now converted into cottages, and in 1805, a new hospital was erected more commodious than the former, and in a more airy and healthy situation, on the north side of the Canterbury-road, opposite to King-street, Troy town. It contains twelve convenient apartments occupied by the same number of poor people who have a certain allowance of coals, candles and money, annually out of the proceeds arising from the original endowments, and from donations that have since been made, after a deduction of the expences necessarily incurred in the casual repairs of the hospital and the apartments therein. Over the middle entrance is a stone tablet on which is this inscription

THE ANCIENT HOSPITAL
of
SAINT CATHERINE
Founded in EAST-GATE by SYMOND POTYN,
of the CROWN-INN in this City,
Ann: Dom: 1316.
Was removed to this Spot, and this Building erected,
Ann: Dom: 1805
With a Legacy of the late THOMAS TOMLIN of this City, gent.
To which was added a Donation by the Executors of
the late JOSEPH WILCOCKS, Esq.

Alderman Bayley of the city of Rochester, by his will dated 14th April, 1752, gave three hundred pounds to Mr. Robert Chapman, of Rainham, and William Gordon, Esq. of this city, in trust, &c. for the poor of St. Catherine's. By a deed of trust dated 20th August 1774, Chapman and Gordon to perpetuate the trust, assigned four hundred pounds, being the above three hundred pounds, and one hundred pounds which Gor=

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don had given and collected by subscriptions, to the mayor and citizens, which is now standing in their names in the three per cent consols, and the interest, twelve pounds per annum, is received by the provider, and each of the twelve poor inhabitants of this hospital receive an equal share of the dividend.

SIR JOHN HAYWARD, knight, by a deed, dated the 30th of August, 1635, directed, that if any overplus remained of his personal estate, after his debts and legacies were paid, whatever it should be, he willed that his executors might employ it towards the relief of the poor inhabiting such parishes as his executors

thought proper, of which St. Nicholas's parish in Rochester to be one.

Accordingly, by an indenture dated the 28th day of November, 1651, the trustees of Sir John Hayward's estate settled fifty pounds per annum for the poor of St. Nicholas's parish, to be paid from and out of the manor of Minster, and certain messuages, lands, &c. in the isle of Sheppy. This was for the sole purpose of erecting a workhouse, or otherwise for setting on work and employing the poor people and inhabitants of the said parish; and raising and continuing a stock of money and provisions for that purpose.

The rents and profits of these Sheppy estates having very considerably increased, in 1823 a portion of the funds was expended in building the present alms house on the common, which afford a comfortable asylum for twelve aged persons.

SIR JOSEPH WILLIAMSON, knight, one of the representatives in parliament for the city of Rochester, by his will, dated the 16th day of August, 1701, and proved the 17th of October following, bequeathed "five thousand pounds, to be laid out by his executors in purchasing of lands or tenements in England, for and towards the building, perfecting, carrying on, and perpetual maintaining of a free-school at Rochester, and of a schoolmaster or schoolmasters for the instructing and educating the sons of the freemen of that city, towards the mathematics, and other things

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that might fit and encourage them to the sea-service, or arts and callings leading or relating thereto."

The school room built from the proceeds of these estates, is spacious with a good house adjoining for the master. 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. Unfortunately the foundation of a great part of the building was laid on the rubbish that filled up the moat which surrounded the wall, and the builders not having taken the precaution to lay it on piles or planks to prevent its settling, the fabric from time to time has given way, and been attended with great expence to the charity. It is now rendered, however, by the timely and judicious administration of repairs a very firm and substantial edifice; and such, by the good management of the trustees in letting the estates, is the flourishing state of its revenues, which amount at present to upwards of five hundred and fifty pounds per annum; that the charity has been long since cleared of every incumbrance, and the masters have received for some years a handsome gratuitous addition to their original salaries. The annual salaries of the present upper and under master are one hundred pounds and fifty pounds respectively. The remainder of the annual revenues is expended in the casual repairs of the school, and for the benefit and accommodation of the scholars who are taught in it. On a stone tablet over the door, above which are the arms of the founder, is the following inscription: —

Dnus Josephus Williamson, Eq. Aurat.
Hanc Scholam,

Mathematicis Disciplinis dicatam,
Classi Britannicæ
Juvernus subinde pullulantum seminarium,
Futuram,
Sumptu proprio extrui,
Ac annuo salario dotari,
Testamento jussit.
JOHANNES BOYS, THOMAS ADDISON,
JOSEPHUS HORNSBY, Armigeri,
Peragendum curavere.
A. Ch. MDCCVIII.

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This foundation is under the direction of four extra=ordinary governors, eleven ordinary governors, and ten trustees.

Many respectable characters particularly in the navy, have received the early rudiments of instruction **in this school**. That eminent mathematician, Mr. John Colson, who succeeded Sir Isaac Newton in the mathematical chair at Cambridge, was the first master. He had for his pupil that celebrated actor, David Garrick, who while under his tuition at this school, shewed the early dawnnings of his great genius, several instances of which were long remembered by many in Rochester.

Besides the benefactions we have enumerated, there are several smaller ones, the benefit of which is materially felt by the poor of this city.

THE CASTLE.

The venerable remains of this strong fortification naturally awaken in an inquisitive mind a desire of searching into the history of its origin and grandeur, together with the various vicissitudes of fortune by which it has been reduced to its present abject state.

But even the learned and most accurate inquirer, in exploring the primæval state of this castle, will meet with that obscurity, which, like an impenetrable cloud, darkens the earliest periods of all history.

Some go back so far as Julius Cæsar, for the origin of this castle. Kilburn says, "that Julius Cæsar commanded it to be built (according to the Roman order) to awe the Britons, and the same was called Castle of Medway. But time and tempests bringing the same entirely to decay, Oesc or Uske king of Kent, about the year 490, caused Hroff one of his chief counsellors, and lord of this place, to build a new castle upon the old foundation, and hereupon it took the name of Hroffe's-ceaster."

This piece of history may justly be suspected; for Julius Cæsar staid in this island so short a time, and, during his residence, was so harrassed and perplexed,

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that it is very improbable he should engage in any regular fortification himself, and he left no immediate successor to do it in his absence.

But it is highly probable that the Britons, from their experience of the importance of this passage over the Medway, might erect some fortification to secure it after the Romans had retired to the continent; and when the legions again arrived, in the time of Clavius, under the command of A. Plautius, they might

improve it to a regular fort or castle; for such a place there certainly was when the Itinerary of Antoninus was composed, since both Durobrivis (or Rochester) is there mentioned as a Roman station, and the Roman Way certainly led across the River Medway near this place.

This appears more certain from the great variety of Roman coins, which have frequently been found here: viz. of the emperors Vespasian, Trajan, Adrianus, Antonius Pius, Marcus Aurelius, Maximus, Aurelian, Constantius, Constantine the Great, and others. All of which have been found in the ruins of the castle. Excepting coins, the antique curiosities found in the ruins of this ancient fortress have been but few. Mention has been made of a large sword, said to have been dug up near the foundation of the west corner of the Tower, and to have remained in the possession of the then governor; but upon enquiry, we are inclined to suspect this to be one among the many artifices made use of at that time, to attract visitors to the castle.

This fort or Castle might also have been rebuilt in the time of Uske king of Kent, about the year 480; for it is certain there was a Castle here in 765, when Egbert king of Kent gave a certain portion of land to the church lying within the walls of the Castle of Rochester: and in **the year** 855, Ethelwulf, king of the west Saxons, gave a house and lands to one Dunne (his minister) that were situated in "meridie castelli Hrobi," which we apprehend signifies to the south of the Castle of Rochester.

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But it is objected to this, that the whole city is called a castle by king Offa, in his grant to bishop Waer mund, who is therein stiled "Episcopum castelli quod nominatur Hroeffeceaseer." And again, that the extent of land mentioned by Egbert, viz. "unum viculum cum duobus jugeribus and intra monia castelli," must signify the whole city, and not any fort or castle in the city.

This certainly is a strong presumption against the existence of a castle at Rochester before the conquest; to which may be added, that there seems to be no account of any castle or citadel in the descriptions of the sieges which this city sustained in those early days, but after the conquest the castle is always noticed.

Nevertheless it does not follow that these objections are sufficiently cogent to induce us to give up the former opinion; for in those ancient writings or charters, which relate to the church of Rochester, in Reg. Roff. there is generally a distinction made between the walls of the City and the walls of the Castle, Thus we find frequent mention of the walls of the city towards the north, or south, or east, but they are never called the Castle walls in this manner; the city wall is also generally expressed by the word "Murus," but the Castle wall by "Mænia'.

And as to the extent of land within the castle, viz. "unum viculum et duo jugeribus," that is, one little street and two acres; we imagine the present walls of the Castle inclose as much as is there expressed, and the ancient fortress might be something larger.

Again in the grant of Ethelwulf, above mentioned,

the house and lands are said to be southward of the Castle; there is also mention made of two acres of meadow land, and "communionem marisci," a right of common in the reeds, which, it may be presumed, grew in this meadow by the river side, from all which it may be inferred, that this house and land, said to be southward of the Castle of Rochester, was at the west end of the city, by the river side, where the present Castle stands.

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On summing up these particulars, we must conclude, that there was a fortification called a Castle, within the City, on this spot, before the conquest, although much less strong and respectable, than the present Castle has been.

In the year 884, Hasting the Dane besieged and much damaged the first Castle; after this it lay a long time desolate and neglected, till, as Kilburn says, the Conqueror rebuilt it, and garrisoned it with 500 soldiers; but proves it by no authority. We are therefore inclined to believe, with Mr. Lambard, that the Castle (of which there are some remains) was the work of William the Conqueror, who created many such fortifications in England, to keep the people in obedience: and it is very probable, that Odo bishop of Bayeux in Normandy, bastard brother to William, greatly contributed to the work; for he was appointed chief justice of England, and earl of Kent, and, it seems, resided in this City. This conjecture is confirmed by the known exchange of lands, which passed between the bishop of Rochester and William I.¹ The Bishop having land given him at Aylesford, in lieu of a piece of ground in Rochester, for the King to build a Castle on: and we are inclined to think, that this piece of ground was the two acres within the Castle, before mentioned, given to the church of Rochester, by Egbert king of Kent; and now put again into the king's hand, that he might rebuild and strengthen the fortifications. This exchange gave rise to the prevailing notion, that Rochester castle stood in Aylesford parish.

From hence we may conclude, that about 700 years have elapsed since the building of this Castle: the remains prove it to have been a strong fortification, which will be further confirmed when we consider the number of sieges it formerly sustained: but before we

¹ "Gulielmus primus procul dubio construxit, legitur enim in libro Domesday, Episcopus Roucester tenet in Elesford pro escambio terræ in quo castellum sedet. Camd. Brit. p. 264, edit. 1594.

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proceed to this short history, it will not be improper, first to describe its situation, and extent, as far as can be collected from its present appearance.

This Castle is placed on a small eminence, near the River Medway, just above Rochester Bridge, and consequently is in the south-west angle of the walls of the city. It is nearly of a quadrangular form, having its sides parallel with the walls of the city. 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 filled up: on the other side runs the Medway. In the angles and sides of the Castle were several square towers, some of which are still remaining which were raised above the walls, and containing lower and upper apartments, with embrasures on their tops.

The walls of this Castle are built with rough stones of very irregular forms, cemented by a composition, in which are large quantities of shells, and is now extremely hard, and rise to the height of one hundred and four feet: their thickness on the east, and north, and west sides, is eleven feet; but on the south it is increased to thirteen feet. It is one of the most interesting and curious specimens of Norman architecture now remaining in England; and the skill and ingenuity exercised in the construction of this fabric, are particularly observable, in the various precautionary contrivances, that secured the entrance. The principal entrance was on the north-east, which was defended by a tower-gateway, probably designed to command the passage of Rochester bridge, with outworks at the sides; a remaining part of which has recently fallen. From this entrance is an easy descent into the city, formed on two arches turned over the castle ditch.

This descent from the castle terminated in a street, which in the Reg. Roff. is called a Venellam, and was the grand avenue from the high street to the Castle, which doubtless procured it the name of "Castle

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Street," which it appears, by a court roll, to have retained so low, at least, as 1576.

But what chiefly attracts the notice of a spectator, is the noble tower, which stands in the south-east angle of this castle, and is so lofty as to be seen distinctly at twenty miles distant. It is quadrangular in its form, having its sides parallel with the walls of the castle. But before we give a particular description of this tower, it is necessary to relate what passed just before its foundation was laid.

The castle being the work of William the Conqueror, it is probable (as was before observed) that his half brother Odo, bishop of Bayeux in Normandy, who was also earl of Kent, and chief justiciary of England, resided at Rochester, and superintended the work of the castle.

Odo was an ambitious turbulent prelate, of which his brother could not be ignorant, for he had stopped him in his intended flight to Rome, whither he was transporting the immense treasure which he had amassed by robbing the church, and oppressing the people: this induced William to send him prisoner to the castle of Rouen, in Normandy, which was about five years before the death of that monarch.

From this imprisonment he was released, by a general pardon which William granted just before he died: and when Rufus ascended the throne, Odo came over to England, and solicited the king for his estates; which were granted, and with them it seems, he received all his former honours, and places of trust, amongst which was the castle of Rochester.

Neither the tie of duty or religion could secure the

allegiance of this haughty ecclesiastic; for in the second year of Rufus, viz. 1088, he was in open rebellion against him, in favour of William's elder brother, Robert duke of Normandy: and drew over to his party many of the nobility of England.

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Rufus, who was not deficient in courage or conduct, hastened to stifle this flame in its beginning; but finding his subjects not so zealous in his support as might be wished, he issued a proclamation to this effect, "That whosoever would not be reputed a niding,^{/1} should repair to the siege of Rochester." This artful expedient had the desired effect; for the youth, abhorring that most reproachful name, repaired to his standard from every quarter, with whose assistance he soon took the town, and closely besieged the castle for the space of six weeks, without making much progress; but a contagious distemper breaking out, the besieged offered to capitulate: Rufus, however, would grant them no terms for some time; at length, through the persuasion and intreaties of many of his nobles, he permitted them to march out with their horses and arms, and to depart the kingdom, with the forfeiture of their estates: but Odo he sent prisoner to Tunbridge Castle, and afterwards, on condition of his leaving the realm, gave him his liberty.

This Castle seems to have received considerable damage by this siege; and perhaps the prior and bishop Gundulph might have been somewhat tardy in their allegiance to Rufus; at least the king seems to have entertained suspicions of that nature, and made it a pretence to extort money from them, for he refused to confirm a grant of the manor of Hadenham in Buckinghamshire, given to the see of Rochester by the then archbishop Lanfranc: but being intreated by Robert Fitz Hamon and Henry earl of Warwick, the king consented, on condition that Gundulph (who was a celebrated architect) should expend 60l. in repairing the injuries which the castle had suffered by the siege, and make other necessary additions.

/1 Various have been the conjectures on the meaning of this word; the most probable is, that it was a nick-name for those possessed of a mean, dastardly spirit, who were guilty of sacrilege, and rifling the dead. Some have supposed that our English word *ninny* is derived from it; but Dr. Johnson deduces it from the Spanish word *ninno*, signifying "a fool or simpleton."

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Gundulph accordingly repaired the walls, and laid the foundation of the great square tower before mentioned, which is still called by his name, and has proved through succeeding ages a lasting monument to his fame.

We cannot, however, think that Gundulph finished this stupendous work, but are rather of opinion that it was the labour of many years: for, in the year 1126, King Henry I. by advice of his council, granted to William Corbyl, then archbishop of Canterbury, and to his successors, the custody of this castle, and the office of castellan annexed to it, with free liberty to build a tower in it for himself; that is, says Phillipot, "another

tower correspondent to Gundulph's," but we imagine this to be the same tower, it being too large a work to be completed so soon as these accounts seem to intimate. The affair of Odo was in the year 1089, Gundulph might have finished the repairs of the Castle, and have made some progress in **the** building his tower, about the year 1092, by which time it is probable he had expended the greatest part of the stipulated sum, and could not proceed in his intended project of the tower without a grant of money from the crown, but it does not appear that any such aid was given.

If it be objected, that a desire to perpetuate his name, by this noble structure, might have induced the bishop to have been at the whole expence; it may be replied, that though it would have flattered his ambition, yet it is improbable that he should seek to be eminent in so expensive a work, which had no connexion with ecclesiastical affairs: the bishops of those days in general confining their attention to sacred edifices.

It may likewise be urged, that as Gundulph under= took the work more by compulsion than choice, he considered the sum to be expended as an unreasonable tax on the church, and therefore would be cautious not to exceed it. And supposing he had employed but one hundred men at only one penny a day wages, the

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whole sum would not have kept them in pay six months, in which time they would have made but a very incon= siderable progress in so large a building, and no ex= pence allowed for materials.

This bishop was likewise engaged in what appeared to him more important works. He was re-building the cathedral; and the adjoining monastery, which he had so lately founded, engrossed his thoughts and time. He was also at law for the recovery of several manors which belonged to the see; to which may be added, that his revenue was but small; from all which considerations it may be concluded, that Gundulph did not carry this tower to the height it now is. He died about twelve years after it was begun, leaving it unfinished: but as the plan and foundation were laid and formed by him, it has ever since been justly called Gundulph's Tower.

The grant therefore, of King Henry I. to the arch= bishop of Canterbury, in the year 1126, about nine= teen years after Gundulph's death, with liberty given him to build a tower in the castle, was probably with a view to the completion of the tower. This conjecture appears the more reasonable, if we consider that there is not the least trace of any other tower similar to this in the castle. It is also very remarkable, that the tower first built should be so entire as to strike a beholder with admiration; and the latter tower (if there was one) be not only thrown down, but its foun= dation so effectually erased, as not to be discovered by the strictest search.

It deserves also to be remarked, that Henry II. in a charter, without date, says, "I will that the monks of Rochester, and their men, be freed from all the work of the castle, expeditione archi sue construc= tione;"/1 by which it is evident, that the tower was then building. The first year of Henry II. was 28

/1 Expeditione archi sue constructione, though according to Dr. Thorpe, an exact transcript of the original, is not very intelligible.

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years after the grant made to the Archbishop, with liberty to build a tower, that being in 1126. Vide Regist. Roff. page 45.

Having given very probable reasons to conclude that Gundulph did not finish this tower, and that no other like it has ever been built in the castle; we now proceed to give some account of the walls and apartments of this once very important and stately pile.

The tower, is quadrangular, and its angles nearly correspond with the four cardinal points of the compass. It is about seventy feet square at the base; the outside of the walls are built inclining inward, somewhat from a perpendicular, and are in general 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 about twenty-eight feet square. The grand entrance was into this small tower by a noble flight of steps, eight feet wide, through an arched gateway, about six feet by ten; the arch¹ is adorned with curious fret-work. For the greater security of this entrance, there was a drawbridge, under which was a common entrance into the lower apartments of the great tower. These lower apartments were two, and must have been dark and gloomy. They are divided by a partition wall five feet thick, which partition is continued to the top, so that the rooms were twenty-one by forty-six feet on each floor. In the lower part of the walls are several narrow openings, intended for the benefit of the light and air; there are also arches in the partition

/1 The stone of which this and the other arches in this building are formed, is said to be brought from Caen in Normandy. The coin stones are also of the same nature. Formerly vast quantities of this stone were brought to England. London Bridge, Westminster Abbey, and many other edifices, being built therewith. See Stow's surveys of London, edit. 1633, p. 31, 32, &c. Now however, the exportation of this stone out of France is so strictly prohibited, that, when it is to be sent by sea, the owner of the stone, as well as the master of the vessel on board which it is shipped, is obliged to give security, that it shall not be sold to foreigners.

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wall, by which one room communicated with the other. These apartments seem to have been designed for store-rooms.

In the partition wall, in the centre of the building, is a well, two feet nine inches in diameter, neatly wrought in the wall, which well ascends through all the stories to the top of the tower, and has a communication with every floor.

On the north-east side within the tower is a small arched door way, through which is a descent by steps into a vault under the small tower: here seems to have been the prison and melancholy abode of the state criminals, confined in this fortress.

From the ground floor there is a winding staircase in the east angle, which ascends to the top of the tower, and communicates with every floor; it is about five feet five inches wide, the cement still retains the impres-

sions of the winding centers on which the arches were turned, but the stairs are much destroyed.

The floor of the first story was about thirteen feet from the ground; the holes in the walls where the timbers were laid, distinctly mark every floor, but at present no wood remains in the tower. The joists were about thirteen inches by ten inches square, and about thirteen inches apart, but somewhat less in the upper floors,^{/1} and extended from the outward wall to the partition. In the west angle is another stair-case, which ascends from this floor to the top of the tower, and communicates with every room.

The rooms in the first story were about twenty feet high, and were probably for the accommodation of servants, &c. The apartment on the north-east side in the small tower over the prison, and into which the outward door of the grand entrance opened, was on this floor, and was about thirteen feet square and neatly wrought; the arches of the doors and windows being adorned with fret-work. This room communicated

^{/1} The floor timbers of the castle were taken down and sold to one Gimmet, who bought them for the purpose of building a brew-house on the Common.

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with the large rooms in the great tower, through an arch about six feet by ten, which was secured by a portcullis; there being a groove well worked in the main wall quite through to the next story. The rooms of this floor also communicated with each other, by arches in the partition wall, and there are many holes in the outward walls on every side for the admission of light, and for the annoyance of the enemy. In the north angle is a small neat room, with a fire-place in it, and was doubtless the apartment of some of the officers of the fortress. In the south-east side is a small door, most probably for such as were not admitted at the grand entrance, the wall within this door is peculiarly constructed for its security.

From hence you ascend to the second story or third floor, on which were the apartments of state, and here the workman has shewn his greatest skill. These rooms were about thirty-two feet high, and separated by three columns, forming four grand arches curiously ornamented; the columns are about eighteen feet in height, and four in diameter.

There are fire-places to the rooms, having semicircular chimney pieces; the arches of which, in the principal rooms, are ornamented in the same taste, with the arches before mentioned. The smoke was not conveyed off through funnels ascending to the top of the tower, but through small holes left for that purpose in the outer wall near to each fire-place. About midway as you ascend to the next floor, there is a narrow arched passage or gallery in the main wall, quite round the tower.

The upper or fourth floor was about sixteen feet high; the roof is now intirely gone: but the stone gutters, which conveyed the water from it through the wall to the outside, are very entire.

From the upper floor the stair-case rises ten feet higher, to the top of the great tower, which is about

ninety-three feet from the ground, round which is a

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battlement seven feet high, with embrasures. At each angle is a tower about twelve feet square, with floors and battlements above them: the whole height of these towers is about one hundred and twelve feet from the ground. There is in the tower of the castle wall **near** the bridge, a funnel or space in the wall, open from the bottom to the top, supposed to have been used for the secret conveyance of necessaries from the river into the castle.

From this elevation there is a pleasing prospect of the surrounding country: of the city and adjacent towns, with their public building; the barracks and dock-yard at Chatham; the meanders of the Medway, both above and below bridge, even to its confluence with the Thames, and down into the Swin; on such an ancient pile, a serious mind cannot but reflect on the various changes that have diversified the scene below. On the battles, sieges, pestilences, fires, inundations, storms, &c. which have agitated and swept away the successive generations who have inhabited the city and adjacent towns, during the seven hundred years which have elapsed, since the first building of this tower. Considering how long **the** fabric has been neglected, we believe there are few buildings in England, of equal antiquity, so perfect: nor can we quit this venerable pile, without expressing our admiration at the skill and ingenuity of the reverend architect; the nice contrivance throughout every part of the building both for conveniency and strength, must strike the eye of every curious beholder; nor can a person who has the least taste in antiquities, or ancient architecture, spend an hour more agreeably than in surveying this curious fabric.

In the south-east and south-west sides of the great tower, are several fissures very discernable, from the top to near the bottom: where these fissures are, there appears a junction of more modern work, particularly in the inner side of the south-east wall. The facing

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and coin-stones of the arches, in this south or round tower, are not of the Caen-stone, which is used in all the other arches in this building, but of the fire-stone the produce of this kingdom. From these and other appearances, sufficiently obvious to a curious eye, it will appear evident, that this part of the building is not of equal antiquity with the rest, but was probably rebuilt after the damages the Castle had sustained by the sieges, in the reign of King John. This is, we think somewhat confirmed by an order made in the tenth year of Henry III. (viz. in 1225, about ten years after King John besieged it) to the Sheriff of Kent, to finish the great tower in Rochester Castle.

From a dateless rescript in Regist. Roff. it appears that there was a chapel in the Castle; but whether in this tower, or in what other part we cannot determine. It was named the King's Chapel; and the ministers that officiated in it were called King's Chaplains; their stipend was fifty shillings a year.

We shall now recite such parts of the English history

as mention this Castle. After finishing the tower above described, the first circumstance on record, is the imprisonment of Robert earl of Gloucester, natural son of Henry I. This great man was general and counselor to Matilda in her opposition to King Stephen; and in the year 1141, was taken prisoner at Winchester, after he had, by his gallantry effected the escape of his sister Matilda. He was committed to the custody of William de Ypre, who probably was castellan of Rochester Castle at that time, for he sent him a close prisoner to this fortress. King Stephen, at the same time, was in confinement by Matilda; and very soon after the captivity of the earl, The King was exchanged for him.

It has already been mentioned that this Castle was given in custody to the archbishops of Canterbury by Henry I. in 1126, but the clergy did not keep it long; for about the year 1163, that haughty primate, Thomas

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Becket, among the many insults with which he treated his sovereign king Henry II. accused him with having unjustly deprived him of the Castle of Rochester, which had been formerly annexed to the archbishoprick.

In the year 1215, this Castle was a subject of contention; for after King John had been obliged to sign the famous Magna Charta, he retired to the Isle of Wight with a few friends, in order to concert measures for resuming his despotic power, and quelling the turbulent spirit of his barons. To accomplish this they agreed to use both temporal and spiritual weapons; certain confidants were therefore dispatched to procure assistance from France and other agents posted to Rome to purchase the thunder of the Vatican.

Both these schemes succeeded; a body of foreign troops arrived, together with a bull from pope Innocent, furiously attacking and nullifying the great charter, absolving the king from his oath, and denouncing anathemas against the barons if they did not submit to the king; at the same time enjoining archbishop cardinal Langton to see these orders put in execution.

Langton, refusing to comply with the pope's commands, was suspended; and the nation seemed on the verge of a civil war. The bishops appointed meetings to reconcile the parties, but they were too much exasperated to listen to terms of accommodation. The barons seized Rochester Castle, and committed it to the custody of William de Albinet, a gallant nobleman.

John's first step was, to gain this strong Castle; he therefore invested it in a formal manner, and carried on the siege with vigour. The barons sent Robert Fitz-Walter to the relief of the Castle; but it seems the king had so secured himself by breaking down the bridges and fortifying all the passes, that Robert could not interrupt his operations, or was afraid to attempt it; for having marched as far as Dartford, with an army double the number of John's, he turned back, and left the Castle to the mercy of the king.

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Notwithstanding this, De Albinet made an obstinate defence, and baffled, for three months, all the efforts of the besiegers: during which the city suffered much;

and the garrison in the Castle was reduced to such extremities, that they ate all their horses; at length the walls being demolished by the battering engines of the besiegers, and having no prospect of relief, they were obliged to surrender at discretion.

John, fired with resentment at their long resistance, was about to sacrifice the governor and the whole garrison, to gratify his revenge; but being convinced of the imprudence of such a step, by some of his courtiers, he sent De Albinet, and other noble prisoners, to different fortresses; and then commanded, that, excepting the cross-bow men, all the common soldiers should be hanged, to strike terror into the minds of others.

After this success, he marched through his kingdom like a tyrant, inflicting horrid barbarities on the estates and dependants of those that had opposed him: in the mean time the barons, despairing of retrieving their wretched affairs, by their own strength, took the desperate resolution of calling in a foreign aid: they applied to Philip, of France, who was easily persuaded to help them, as it favoured his interest. He therefore made great preparations for an invasion; and the following year sent his son Lewis, the Dauphin, with a large force to the assistance of the barons.

Lewis set sail with a fleet of seven hundred vessels, and landed at Sandwich. John being unable to oppose him, retreated to Winchester. In his way he met Gualo, the pope's legate, just arrived in England, clad in the Roman panoply; and hastening to exert his powers on the sacrilegious dauphin, who in an hostile manner had dared to invade the patrimony of St. Peter, (as the pope then termed this island.) When Gualo arrived at Lewis's camp, with the usual moderation of the Romish church, he excommunicated Lewis and all his army. Lewis was at first intimidated, and made

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some concessions; but when he found that the sun was not darkened, that the elements did not fight against him, that his camp was not depopulated, nor his march impeded by this popish champion, he boldly set him at defiance, proceeded in his expedition, and invested the Castle of Rochester, which having suffered considerably the year before, he soon reduced. He then hastened to London, and compromised the barons affairs. That year king John died, and Henry III. succeeded him; who in the year 1228 gave Huberg de Burg, justiciary of England, the custody of this Castle, together with those of Canterbury and Dover.

The next shock this castle sustained, was in the contest between Henry III. and his barons, in the year 1264. Henry had too great an affection for foreigners. This favouritism his barons highly resented; and on every occasion shewed their disgust, which they had done, not only in the tournaments held in this city, but in other parts of the kingdom.

Simon Montford, earl of Leicester, a nobleman of great power and popularity, was at the head of the opposition against the king: he watched all his motions, and traversed all his designs. After a short suspension of arms, both parties agreed to take the French king for mediator. This mediation, however, proving unsuccessful, and the barons being soon after

disconcerted at Northampton, submitted to the king's mercy.

Leicester, hearing of this misfortune, put London in a proper posture of defence; and proceeded into Kent, with a resolution to besiege Rochester; **and after having** set on fire the bridge and tower which was upon it (both being made of wood), passed the river, and attacked the enemy with such success, that he entered the city in the evening of Good Friday, and spoiled the church and what was left of the priory; for Roger de Leybourne had before burnt down all the suburbs, as well as part of the city and the priory. He next made

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a furious assault on the castle: but the brave governor and his associates defended every inch of ground with so much ardour and resolution, that although Leicester made himself master of some outworks, yet after a siege of seven days he was unable to succeed. Notwithstanding, it must soon have submitted, had not Leicester been obliged to draw off his army to defend London, which was now threatened by Henry. Leicester left a few forces to continue the siege of the Castle, but these were soon slain or put to flight.

Soon after this siege, **Henry being defeated and taken prisoner by Leicester, at Lewes in Sussex, a treaty was entered into, called the Agreement of Lewes.**

Henry III. gave this Castle to Guy of Rochford, one of his foreign favourites, but he being banished, it reverted again to the Crown. The same king intrusted William St. Clare with the custody of this Castle, whose ancient seat was at Woodlands, in Kingsdown parish, in this county.

In the second year of Edward I. 1274, Robert de Hougham, lord of Hougham, near Dover, died constable of this castle. In the year following, Robert de Septuans, from whom the Harfleets, of East Kent, are descended, had the custody of it.

In 1304, Stephanus de Dene was constable of this castle: he was a great enemy to the monks, and caused them to be taxed for their close, Priestfield, and other places about their convent, which was never done before. But they brought it to a trial in the Exchequer, cast the governor, and got him turned out.

In 1328, one William Skarlett was constable of Rochester Castle, he made a distress on one Simon Sharstede, for lands in Watringbury, for castle guard.

In 1382, the fifth of Richard II. while the nation was in a ferment, by the rebellion of Wat Tyler, Jack Straw, &c. a party of the rebels besieged this place, and took a prisoner out of it by force.

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In 1413, William Kerial, or Criol, died governor of this Castle. After him it was given to Thomas lord Cobham, who held it till his death, in 1472.

Edward IV. who began to reign in the year 1461, repaired the walls of this Castle and of the city, which seems to have been the last work that was done to them. From that period they have been neglected, and have progressively advanced to their present state of decay. In the next century the Castle became of little importance; it rested among the manors of the crown, until

James the I. 1610, granted it with all its services annexed, to Sir Anthony Weldon, of Swanscombe. It is now the property of the earl of Jersey.

About the beginning of the last century an attempt originating in sordid motives, was made to destroy the whole of this venerable fabric; but this, through the solidity of the walls, was found to be too expensive an enterprize, and was therefore abandoned on the same principles from which it had originated. This attempt was made on the eastern side near the postern gate leading to Boley-Hill, where a large chasm shews the effects of it.

Much land in this and other counties is held of this Castle, whose tenure is perfect Castle-guard: for on St. Andrew's day, old stile, a banner is hung out at the house of the receiver of the rents: and every tenant who does not then discharge his proper rent, is liable to have it doubled on the return of every tide in the adjacent river, during the time it remains unpaid.

THE CATHEDRAL.

The first church at Rochester was begun about the year of our Lord 600, finished four years afterwards, and dedicated to the honor of GOD and the Apostle St. Andrew. This building suffered considerably by time and the ravages of foreign enemies; and appears to have had but few repairs until about 1080, when

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bishop Gundulph rebuilt the cathedral, which is situated about fifty-four yards south of the high-street;/1 it consists of a body and two aisles, one on each side; its extent, from the west door to the steps ascending to the choir, is fifty yards, and from thence to the east windows at the upper end of the altar fifty-two yards more, in all one hundred and two yards, or three hundred and six feet. At the entrance of the choir is a great cross aisle, the length of which, from north to south, is one hundred and twenty-two feet. At the upper end of the choir, between the bishop's throne and the high altar, is another cross aisle, which extends from north to south, ninety feet.

The west front extends eighty-one feet in breadth: the arch of the great door is doubtless the same which Gundulph built; and is a most curious piece of workmanship, every stone being engraved with some device. It must have been very magnificent in its original state, its remaining beauties being sufficient to excite the attention of the curious; it is supported by several columns on each side, 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, sitting in a niche, a book open in one hand, and the other raised as in the act of benediction; but the head is broken off; on each side is an angel inclining towards him: under the figure of our Saviour, are twelve other figures supposed to be designed for the twelve apostles, some few of which are perfect; but in general the whole arch is much injured by time, and the more merciless hand of bigoted zeal.

/1 The cathedral, priory and castle, with their precincts, covered much the greatest part of the city on the south side within the walls; it is also very probable that the scite of the religious edifices which now remain is the same it was originally.

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On each side of the west door is a square tower; that on the north side has lately been rebuilt, and has in the centre niche, on the west-front, a very ancient figure, supposed to be the statue of bishop Gundulph.

After passing through the great west door, you descend by steps^{/1} into the body of the church, which with the side aisles, is sixty-three feet in breadth. The lower part of the nave is probably all that remains of the fabric raised by Gundulph, and this is judged to have been of his construction, from the variety and dimensions of the pillars, and from the circular arches, the forming and ornamenting of which exactly correspond with those in the Castle. The joining of this part with that nearest the choir, is sufficiently evident; and the pointed or ox-eyed arches, which are visible within two pillars of the great cross aisle, are marks of the style of architecture of a more modern date, and came into use after the holy war. The roof of the nave seems to have been since raised, and all its windows^{/2} made new and enlarged at different times, particularly the large one in the west-front, on each side of which, within the church, may be seen the remnants of the arches that were destroyed at the enlargement of the

/1 At the bottom of the steps is a large stone, on which has been fixed the effigy of a bishop, with inscriptions and ornaments, all of brass. They have long since been worn out, or taken off; the nails which fastened the brass-work still remain; it is not improbable but this stone was laid by Gundulph, to preserve the memory of bishop Tobias.

/2 It appears that all the windows of this church were not completed, or at least had not glass in them, A. D. 1447, because on the 31st of July in that year, a country vicar was enjoined, by way of penance for some fault not specified, to go in procession to the cathedral, and to glaze at his own expence, one of the windows. We cannot discover whether any whole windows in this cathedral were ornamented with painted glass; it is however certain, that there are none, or at least, very few remains of it to be perceived at present. In one of the lights in the south-west cross, there were lately some remains of the arms of the family of the Marsham's, ancestors of the present lord Romney. As no traces of these are now to be discerned, we conclude that they were removed, or more probably destroyed, at the time when the present stained glass windows were introduced.

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window. The roof of this part of the building is now flat, although from the feet of the groins still remaining, it appears as if this part of the church was originally vaulted. The pavement from the west door to the choir steps, was laid after the restoration, by Mr. Peter Stowell, who expended in this useful work upwards of one hundred pounds.^{/1} Over the middle of the great cross aisle stands the steeple,^{/2} containing six bells. On the west side of the south end of this aisle is a chapel, which has generally been called St. Mary's chapel. It was, till the dissolution of the priory, the

chapel of the infirmary, and the altar in it was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, Feb. 28, 1240. The bishop's consistory court is now held here; and in this chapel, early prayers used formerly to be read. Thomas Trillick, Thomas Brinton, and Richard Young, bishops of this see, all lie buried in this chapel, but no trace remains of the particular place where they were interred. Although this chapel appears to have been vaulted, yet it is not of equal antiquity with the other parts of this fabric; the pillars which supported the arches, are in a style of architecture different from any other in this building, and are composed of the fire-stone.

On the east side of this aisle, and south of the choir leading to the chapter room, is a square chapel, usually called St. Edmund's chapel. In the south wall are evident marks of a door, which most probably opened into an apartment adjoining to the dortor or dormitory of the priory, called the excubitorium, where the porter used to keep watch, whose business it was to call up the monks to their nocturnal devotions. In the wall behind the choir is a stone chest, on which is the effigy of a bishop in a recumbent posture; the head is en-

/1 It was principally owing to this gentleman, that the dean and chapter, after the restoration, recovered many of their books, papers, and records, together with their old seal.

/2 The present steeple, in the form of a tower, surmounted by a pinnacle at each angle, and built in the gothic style, was finished in 1826. A new clock was put up in the cathedral in the year 1821.

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tirely gone to decay, and some other parts of it are now much defaced; this is supposed to be the monument of John de Bradfield, a bishop of this see, whose remains were deposited here in 1283.

From this chapel you descend into the undercroft, which is very spacious, and vaulted with stone. There were altars erected here to St. Mary and St. Catherine, but they seem not to have been much frequented: consequently these saints were not very profitable to the priests. There was an altar here dedicated to St. Edmund,/1 built and well endowed, by Geoffery de Haddenham, which appears to have been of some considerable reputation, and was most probably fixed in the east wall, near the south side of the foundation of the church; very evident marks of a large altar having been erected here are still visible, and the bason for the holy water remains entire.

From St. Edmund's chapel you proceed towards the chapter room, near the entrance into which, under the south windows, were two very old stone chests, (one only of which remains, the other having been removed during the repairs **several years ago**), raised about a foot from the ground, and undoubtedly the repositories of ancient bishops: on the tops are the figures of antique crosses. Browne Willis relates,/2 that the lid or covering of one of them being broken off by the rebels about the year 1646, a crucifix and ring were found in it. This eminent antiquary has given it as his opinion, in one page/3 of his account of this cathedral, that the greatest part of the monuments were defaced; and in the next, that all the inscriptions were demolished during the civil wars; but it is very probable that ma-

ny of them had been injured at the time of the reformation, the rage for destroying every thing decorated

/1 Weever and Kilburn are both mistaken in supposing this altar to have been placed in the body of the church; for it is evident from the Reg. Roff. p. 125, it was "in cryptis," in the undercroft.

/2 See his history of mitred parl. abbeys, &c. vol. 1. p. 288.

/3 Ibid, p. 286.

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with a cross was such at that time, that queen Elizabeth thought it necessary, in the second year of her reign, to issue a proclamation against the persons, who should be found guilty of this offence; and Fuller, who, in his church history, book IX. p 66. printed this proclamation, has observed, that her majesty to give the greater weight to her orders, signed each copy with her own hand.

The ancient apartment for the capitular meetings of the monks was situated south of the altar, as is also what is now applied to a similar use by the dean and prebendaries, and the former communicated with the church, by the door which leads into the present chapter room; the arch of this door **which is richly carved** and ornamented with a variety of figures, **has lately** undergone a perfect restoration, and the old unsightly door displaced for one ornamented in a style corresponding with the surrounding stone work. This doorway is one of the most beautiful specimens of the art in the kingdom, and well deserves the attention of the antiquary and traveller. It was executed evidently in the reign of Edward the third, about the time of Haymo de Hethe, or bishop Sheppy.

Mr. Carter, the celebrated engraver, conjectured that the resurrection of our Saviour might be the subject of the upper part of this door-way; and he considered that the male statue below might be designed for Henry the first, and the female one for his queen Matilda./1

/1 The following conjecture, lately suggested by an eminent antiquary, has so much appearance of probability in it, that it is submitted to the public as worthy of consideration. "The small naked statue above represents a pure soul – the statues on each side below represent angels in the midst of flames, praying the pure soul out of purgatory, or praising God for its release – the two statues on each side under the angels represent either four ancient fathers of the church, or four bishops, at their studies – and the two principal statues below them represent the Fall of the Jewish, and the Rise of the Christian Church; the one being a female with her eyes blindfolded, a crown fallen off her head, the broken Jewish flag-staff in her left hand, and the book of the law reversed in her right; the other a bishop holding a church in his left hand, and a crozier in his right."

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In the chapter-room, is a small collection of useful books; there is no fund established for the increase of this library, but the dean and chapter have frequently purchased out of the church revenue, several volumes, which have been added to it. An excellent regulation was also made several years ago, and has been strictly complied with, that every new dean and prebendary should give towards the increase of the library, a certain sum of money, or books to that value, in lieu of

those entertainments which were formerly made on their admission. In this library is a valuable and curious manuscript, entitled, "Textus Roffensis," compiled chiefly by bishop Ernulphus, in the twelfth century. William of Malmsbury makes mention of this manuscript; part of it was published by Herne, in 1720. The members of this church were surreptitiously deprived of this venerable monument of antiquity, nor could they for two years discover into whose hands it was got; and when the person was detected, he peremptorily refused to return it. The dean and chapter were therefore obliged to apply to the court of chancery, and at a very considerable expence obtained a decree for the restitution of it. The dean and chapter were in imminent danger of being deprived of this valuable treasure at another time; for it being carried to London by Dr. Harris, it unfortunately fell into the Thames: nor was it recovered but with great difficulty, and not without sustaining some small injury from the water. This learned body are also possessed of another very curious manuscript, judged by some intelligent persons to be more ancient than the Textus. It is entitled "Custumale Roffense," the principal part of

The heads of these two statues were broken off, but part of the fillet or bandage belonging to that of the female remained. The top of the broken staff was also gone as low as the hand; and what the male statue held in his right hand could not be ascertained.

The late restoration of these two statues was effected in their present state, in consequence of a discovery in Mr. Halfpenny's drawings of two similar figures, which were painted on the ceiling of York Minster, and which it was found necessary to efface, when that ceiling was many years ago repaired.

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which, we are informed, is published in Mr. Thorpe's Regist. Roff.

The removal of the old altar-piece in 1825, has brought to view the whole of the original composition of the east-end of the choir, consisting of three pointed arches, resting on clustered columns in relief attached to the wall, and sustaining a gallery even with the sill of the east window, fronted with a parapet of pierced quarterfoils. In the intercolumnciations are windows, and below each is a cross in a circle painted on the wall.¹ The windows are re-glazed in plain glass, the design of which is taken from the Mosaic pavement of an altar in St. William's chapel. The removal of the old pannelling in the choir allows the columns which supported the groined roof and their carved corbels to be seen to perfection; on the walls of the choir brought to light by removing the wainscot, are a series of pointed niches, with columns and entablature, in the taste of the seventeenth century.

On the north side of the altar, within the rails, are two very ancient tombs of two bishops. That nearest to the communion table is supposed to have been erected for bishop Laurence de St. Martin, who was interred in this cathedral, A. D. 1274. The canopy is curiously wrought on the top. The other tomb is much defaced; the top of it is partly of modern materials: it is open at each end, and is supposed to have been erected for Gilbert de Glanvill, who was interred in this cathedral,

A. D. 1214.

On the south side, near the communion table, is the tomb of another bishop, seemingly more ancient than the former, which is thought to have been erected for that great benefactor to this church, bishop Gundulph, who rebuilt the priory, he was interred A. D. 1107./2

/1 These unsightly paintings have been erased, and the walls restored to their original appearance.

/2 Whether the remains of this bishop were deposited on the south side of the altar, in the large stone chest still remaining, or under a stone lying before the altar, curiously wrought, is not certain.

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Near to this tomb is another, containing the effigy of a bishop, in a recumbent posture, with a canopy on the top of the stone coffin; this effigy is very perfect, and is supposed to be that of Thomas de Inglethorpe, interred A. D. 1291. Adjoining to this tomb is the confessional,^{/1} consisting of three divisions of arches, the workmanship of which is very neat. It is embellished with paintings of arms between each division. When Browne Willis surveyed this Cathedral, here was the portrait of a bishop finely drawn, but not the least vestigia of it now remains.

Under the elliptical arch in the north wall, which divides the choir from St. William's chapel, lies the effigy of bishop Sheppy, who died in 1360. The discovery of this tomb was made in 1825, by Mr. Cottingham, the architect, employed to carry into execution the laudable determination of the dean and chapter, to restore this ancient fabric to its primitive state. The bishop lies in a recumbent posture. A large piece of the mitre had been broken off, and the nose, upper lip, and chin, greatly mutilated, evidently by a sword or other sharp instrument. An extremely beautiful band attached to, and part of the mitre, adorned with an imitation of precious stones, encircles the forehead. The head reposes on two superb cushions with tassels, the face painted of a flesh colour, the hair of the eyebrows distinctly marked, and the pupils of the eyes coloured. The hands of the bishop, which had lost the fingers, are closed in the act of prayer, the feet (great part of which had been broken off), rested on two dogs, both damaged, the head of one being wanting. The external robe, called the Dalmatica vestis, or Dalmatic, was decidedly of a pink colour, and represented as lined with some other colour, which was scarcely visible; on the robe were figures of a diamond

<Kempe>

/1 This is no doubt, a mistake. It is stated in the Custumale Roffense, that these were stalls for the convenience of ecclesiastics of high rank, and for the officiating priests in the intervals during the celebration of mass.

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within a square, the collar being most beautifully ornamented. Underneath the Dalmatic is the stola, but the elegantly figured and painted border at the bottom is only seen. Under the left arm is the staff of the crozier, the head of which was gone. Round it a napkin beautifully bordered, and to this staff the curved part of the crozier was fastened by an iron or brass

pin, as the hole appeared in which the pin was riveted; the mantle adorned with jewels, hangs from the left wrist. The following inscription is round the effigy.
"Hic jacet dns Johns de Schepheie episcopus istius ecclesie." The top of the mitre, nearly all the fingers, part of the feet, and one of the dogs heads, have been subsequently found, and joined to the effigy.

Several disjointed fragments were discovered on the same spot, but supposed to be quite unconnected with the tomb. These, with a finely preserved statue of Moses holding the tables of the law, on which are inscribed the name of the law-giver himself: and some beautiful mouldings in frieze, &c. remain in high preservation, and are in the care of the dean and chapter./1

<Carlos>

The choir, which is ascended from the nave by a flight of ten steps, leading through a plain arch in an unornamented stone screen, on which rest the organ gallery and the organ, is nearly five hundred and fifty years old; being first used at the consecration of Henry de Sandford, bishop of this diocese, A. D. 1227.

William de Hoo, sacrist, or keeper of the holy things in this church, re-built this choir, with oblations left at the tomb of William, who was afterwards, A. D. 1256, canonized, and known by the name of St. William. Richard, a monk and sacrist, (probably successor to William de Hoo), built the south aisle of the choir. Richard Eastgate, a monk, began the north aisle, and friar William of Axenham finished it. The roof of the choir, and other parts of this building, are curiously

/1 The small painted fragments, that were found enclosed with the effigy, were in all probability ornaments attached to the tomb of Bishop Sheppy; the exact situation of which is not known.

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vaulted with stone, the columns of which are all of marble, brought from quarries near Petworth, in Sussex; it is of a gray colour, with a cast of green, thick set with shells, chiefly turbinated: several of these shells are filled with a white spar, which variegates, and adds to the beauty of the stone: its texture is rather irregular, but very firm, and not destitute of brightness, but in this church its beauties are, in general, obscured by the injurious white-wash. The old ponderous roof covered with lead, and depending almost entirely for support on the thickness and solidity of its walls, was removed several years ago, and replaced by a new one covered with blue slate, of a much lighter construction, and of less elevation than the former.

The choir is plainly neat and commodious: very considerable alterations and improvements were made in it, at a large expence, in the years 1742 and 1743, it being then wainscoted, new pews erected, and the whole pavement laid with Bremen and Portland stone, beautifully disposed. The pulpit and seats were then furnished, as were also the stalls for the dean and prebendaries, which are under the organ. The bishop's throne, which is opposite the pulpit, was built at the charge of the late prelate Dr. Wilcocks. Over the entrance into the choir was an ancient organ, which Browne Willis, when he surveyed this cathedral, termed "a sightly organ"; it was erected very early in the

seventeenth century, and so long since as 1668 it was styled "an old instrument;" and one hundred and sixty pounds were then paid for its repair, and a new chair organ. In 1791 a new organ of excellent workmanship, built by Mr. Green, was erected, and opened by Mr. Banks, the present organist, which for fineness of tone has few equals. The pipes are formed into clusters of columns, and the whole is crowned by pinacles and finials which produce a good and appropriate effect. The front of the organ gallery towards the nave, as well as the sides of the entrance into the choir,

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are of wood, carved in imitation of the pointed style, not well corresponding, it must be confessed, with the general character of the edifice.

At the north end of the upper cross isle, and near the pulpit is a chapel, called St. William's chapel, whose tomb is here situated. It is probably the same which was originally called St. Mary's chapel. From an instrument, entitled, "Ordinatio prima ad tumbam Sti Willielmi," published in the Regist. Roff. p. 549, we learn that when Haymo de Hethe appointed and endowed two priests, to pray daily for the souls of himself and succeeding bishops, and for all benefactors to this church, he directed that office to be performed near the tomb of St. William, at the altar where the mass of the blessed Virgin Mary hath used to be celebrated.

Bishop **Merton** was interred under the north wall of the chapel, where is a full length effigy of him in red veined marble, beneath a double pointed arched canopy, ornamented with vine leaves and acorns. This monument was executed at Limoges in France, where the art of enamelling which anciently contributed to ornament rich tombs, was then flourishing. The whole expence of erecting it, as appears from an account printed by Warton, in his history of English poetry, was 67l. 14s. 6d. The lower part was almost destroyed at the time of the reformation, and the present monument which appears to have been ornamented by the original canopy, was executed at the expence of the Warden and Fellows of Merton College.

This monument was again defaced and nearly destroyed by the fanatics in the grand rebellion, and was again restored to its former state in 1662 by the warden and fellows of Merton College.

It was cleaned and beautified A. D. 1770, by the direction of that learned body, who very judiciously ordered the white-wash to be taken off. The figure of this bishop Merton lies incumbent, having his mitre on his head, which rests on an ornamented pillow. On

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the wall behind are his arms and purse as lord Chancellor. He died on the vigil of St. Simon and St. Jude, 1277. In a pannel under the bishop's feet are these lines.

Magne senex titulis, Musarum sede sacrata
Major, Mertonidum maxime progenie.
Hæc tibi gratantes post sæcula sera nepotes,
En votiva locant marmora, sancte parens.

It is the conjecture of an ingenious, gentleman, who

was formerly a fellow of Merton college, that the writer of this tetrastick, at the time of his composing it, had in his thoughts the following well known epitaph of Matthew Paris on the empress Matilda,

Ortu Magna, viro major, sed maxima partu
Hic jacet Henrici filia, sponsa parens.

Adjoining to bishop Merton's monument is a large stone chest, much defaced, which is all that remains of St. William's shrine, that brought such considerable emoluments to the monks of this priory.

Opposite to this, in the same chapel, is a monument, in the form of a large altar, to bishop Lowe, who was interred in this chapel A. D. 1467. It is circumscribed with the following lines in old characters;

Miserere Deus anime fr. Johannis Lowe episcopi
Credo videre bona domini in terra viventium.
Santi Andrea et Augustine orate pro nobis.

On the middle of the tomb, are several escutcheons, in which are as follows,

I H C est amor meus. Deo grass'.

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At the bottom of the tomb are these words,

Quam breve spatum hæc mundi gloria.
Ut umbra hominis sunt ejus gaudia.

At the east end of this chapel is an aisle, enclosed with iron rails, and paved with black and white marble. In the north end of this isle is a beautiful tomb of white and black marble and alabaster, erected to the memory of bishop Warner, who was interred here A. D. 1666. On the south side of this aisle, and opposite to the former, is another tomb, of white and black marble, erected for John Lee Warner, archdeacon of this diocese, who died 12th of June, 1679. Between the two east windows, in the same aisle, is another marble monument, in memory of Lee Warner, esq./1

From this chapel is a descent into the great north aisle, by a flight of steps, which, being much worn, bear evident marks of their antiquity, and are a convincing proof how very numerous the votaries must have been who formerly resorted to the shrine of St. William. On one of the great pillars, in the north aisle, is a compartment for William Streaton, who was nine times mayor of Rochester, and died A. D. 1609: the epitaph on this monument, and that on bishop Lowe's, are the only inscriptions in this church which escaped the ill directed zeal of the first reformers, and the fury of those outrageous innovators in the last century, who were stimulated by the basest motives.

Near Streaton's monument, behind the choir, is the remains of an ancient tomb under an arch: Haymo de Hethe was buried in the north-side of this church; but whether under this tomb; or on the north-side without the rails near, the altar, where are some remains of a monument, cannot be determined.

The cathedral contains many memorials of eminent men, composed in elegant and classical Latin, which

/1 The inscription on all these monuments, are given at length, in the Regist. Roff.

are given at length in the Regist. Roff. Besides the monuments already described, there are many others, venerable for their antiquity, and curious for their workmanship, a minute description of which, would exceed the prescribed limits of our work. There are, however, two of modern date which deserve particular notice, as doing credit to the correct taste and professional abilities of their respective sculptors. We allude to two superb and stately monuments erected against the wall of the south aisle, to the memory of the late John, lord Henniker, and dame Ann Henrietta, his lady.

The monument of lord Henniker rises in the pyramidal form, and is about sixteen feet high. It exhibits a sarcophagus, at the sides of which are full length figures of honor and benevolence in alto-relievo. The former is distinguished by appropriate symbols, and in the act of crowning the latter, who is known by a pelican which she bears in her hand. At the side of benevolence is a medallion of the deceased,^{/1} with a coronet and unfolded patent of peerage; and against the base, which supports the sarcophagus, are his arms. Lord Henniker died, April 18, 1803, aged 79.

The monument of lady Henniker is wrought in Coade's artificial stone, and corresponds in size and general figure with that of lord Henniker, exhibiting a sarcophagus of white marble between two much admired figures of time and eternity standing on a base of grey marble. Lady Henniker died, July 18, 1792, aged 65.

In the east side of the great north aisle, is a large recess^{/2}, in which there is the appearance of an altar's

^{/1} The wig which ornaments the head, though not so large as Sir Cloudesley Shovel's in Westminster Abbey, will probably remind our readers of these lines of Pope:

"That live-long wig, which Gorgon's self might own,
Eternal buckle takes in Parian stone."

^{/2} Dr. Cæsar's monument is fixed in this place.

having formerly been erected. The receptacle for holy water, is still entire. It is by many supposed, that the altar of St. Nicholas was situated in this place; but if this altar had been fixed here, it must have been before the year 1312; for it appears from a judicial act (printed in the Regist. Roff. page 545) that it was removed about that time into the upper part of the body of the church, near the steps leading into the choir. The inhabitants of the adjoining parish most probably resorted to this altar till their church was completed: but, if the altar of St. Nicholas was not in the north west cross aisle, there is little reason to doubt of there being some altar on that spot, where masses were occasionally celebrated: for it appears from the will of William Ryvers, a citizen of Rochester, dated August 28, 1496, that he had directed his body to be buried in the cathedral, before the crucifix (*ante crucem*) near the north door; and as a distinction was made between the high altar and the altar of Jesu, and a legacy left to the latter, before which, it was the re-

quest of the testator to be interred; it is not improbable, that the altar of Jesu might have been fixed in this part of the church.

On the north side of the cathedral,^{/1} between the two cross aisles, is an ancient tower, which is generally allowed to have been raised by Gundulph. In after times it was called the five bell tower; but a late antiquarian, who was no less accurate than assiduous in his researches into the history of the ecclesiastical fabrics of his country, has, in his remarks on this cathedral, hinted an opinion that the bishop had not designed this building for a belfry, but for other uses, such as a treasury, or repository for records. This conjecture is confirmed by an attentive survey of its size and construction, the walls being above six feet

^{/1} Mr. Willis, by mistake, says it is on the south side of the cathedral. See his hist. of Mitred Abb. p. 286.

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thick; the area within the walls cannot exceed twenty-four feet square. There are appearances of two floors having been laid in the tower, the first at about twenty feet from the ground; the second at about twenty-five feet from the first: above the upper floor the walls rise about twenty feet, so that the height of the tower seems to be about 60 feet. Between the south side of the tower and that part of the church near which it stands, are evident marks of two floors having been laid, from each of which there are narrow entrances into the tower, but these seem to be of a modern date: the original entrance appears to have been at the top of the tower, and is worthy of particular notice. In an angle of the church, near ten feet from the tower, is a curious winding staircase of stone, leading to the roof of the church. From the top of this staircase is sprung an arch, extending to the summit of the tower, the entrance therefore into the tower, was over the arch, by a narrow flight of stone steps still remaining. The singular situation of this staircase, detached from the building to which it leads, confirms the conjecture that this tower was designed as a place of especial security.

As there are no sufficient grounds for believing that this tower was ever much used, it seems no very improbable conjecture that the members of the religious societies settled here, as well before as since the reformation, have not hitherto found the want of so strong and spacious a building for the safe custody of their archives and their wealth. In an edition of the *History of Rochester*, printed in 1772, the account of this tower concludes in these words: "May the present reverend and learned gentlemen, and their successors, experience the necessity of finishing this venerable tower, and applying it to the uses for which it has been conjectured, it was originally intended." So far, we regret to say, is this ardent wish from having been realized, that a part of this antique tower has been taken down, to supply materials

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for the repairs of the church. An attempt thus to demolish one of the most curious and interesting specimens of ancient architecture at present remaining in

England, will be deeply regretted by every enlightened antiquary; and imputed, however unjustly, to such sordid and selfish motives, as are utterly unworthy of so respectable a body, as the dean and chapter of Rochester. We must however observe, that though the historian of Rochester, entertained the idea that this tower was originally designed for the preservation of records; yet, other ingenious antiquaries are no less decidedly of opinion, that it was erected only for a bell tower. A careful inspection of the building, they tell us, will convince any intelligent inquirer, that the present entrance from below, is coeval with the fabric itself, and that the pointed arch, which opens under, is an innovation of later times.

The exterior of the cathedral has recently undergone a very general and substantial repair,¹ and the laudable

/1 Repairs and restorations effected in the cathedral from Jan. 1825, to the end of the year 1830, under the direction and superintendance of Mr. Cottingham, architect: –

- The wooden altar-piece taken down.
- The windows behind it restored.
- The upper east window entirely renewed.
- The roof of the choir, greatly injured by the dry-rot, repaired throughout.
- The roof of the lower cross aisle repaired.
- The roof of St. William's chapel repaired and releads.
- The roof of St. Edmund's chapel ditto.
- The ceiling of ditto restored.
- The roof of St. Mary's chapel partly repaired.
- The Grecian panneling and cornice, that ran along the side walls of the choir, removed.
- The tower repaired and raised, the old spire having been taken down.
- The lower belfry floor renewed.
- The upper belfry floor repaired and partly renewed.
- The east windows of the crypt re-opened and restored.
- The great west window and battlement entirely renewed.
- The great window on the south of the upper cross aisle, ditto.
- The window adjoining the chapter room door re-opened and renewed.

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attention of late bestowed by the dean and chapter upon this fabric, gives reason to believe, that at no distant period a renovating hand may be extended to the interior.

THE PRIORY; ITS DISSOLUTION; AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEAN AND CHAPTER.

The priory, as well as the church of Rochester, was begun about the year of our Lord 600. A chapter of secular priests was first placed here, which King Ethelbert endowed with a portion of land to the south of the city, called Priestfield; from this name Mr. Lambard conjectures it was granted for the support of the priests; he also gave other parcels of land within and without the walls of this city. Exclusive of king Ethelbert, the benefactors of this society were few, and some of their gifts of little value; the estates which these seculars enjoyed were moreover frequently plundered by the danes,¹ so that we have no grounds to believe their revenues were ever more than sufficient to support

six priests, and at the conquest they were certainly reduced to five.

The beautiful door-way of the chapter room restored, and a new door fixed up.

The exterior of the south of the upper cross aisle rebuilt.

The lower windows, north and south of the chancel, mostly renewed.

The brick-work, that closed up the two great archways opposite the chapter room, taken down.

The brick-work, that filled up and concealed the niches under the great window on the south of the upper cross aisle, ditto.

Some buttresses substantially repaired.

The ceiling of the chancel repaired in several places.

The white-wash removed from a great part of the choir.

Sundry other minor repairs.

New furniture for the communion table and choir.

/1 See Regist. Roff. p. 5.

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Gundulph compelled these men to leave the church, and by the advice and assistance of Lanfranc archbishop of Canterbury, appointed in their room, A. D. 1089, twenty monks of the order of St. Benedict, who from the colour of their outward habit, were generally called the black monks. This prelate rebuilt the priory, and obtained very ample revenues for this new community; and he had before his death the satisfaction of seeing the members of it increased to upwards of threescore./1

A. D. 1540, the monks were in their turn dispossessed of a settlement in this church, which they had enjoyed for more than four centuries and a half, from the time of the removal of the secular canons. The commission to the archbishop of Canterbury, impowering him to accept the surrender of this religious house, with all its appurtenances, to the use of the king, his heirs and successors, is dated on the twentieth of March; and on the eighth of April following, the seal of the convent was fixed to the instrument of resignation. This deed was executed in the presence of a master in chancery, and is probably inrolled in the court of Augmentations. The editor of the first edition of **the History of Rochester** mentions his having once seen a copy of it, and though each member of the chapter is said to have subscribed his name, the prior only seems to have signed it, and styles himself Walter Boxley; but in the charter of foundation of the present collegiate church he is called Walter Phillips, which appears to have been his usual name. The instrument mentions the unanimity of the chapter, and that they did this act deliberately, voluntarily, and freely; their souls and consciences being moved by causes just and reasonable.

His majesty likewise, in the preamble of the charter of foundation of the present dean and chapter, asserts, that the prior and his brethren were induced to make this surrender by some special and urgent causes; but

/1 See Regist. Roff. p. 143.

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the principal reason undoubtedly was, that they were

aware, if they did not at last acquiesce in what the king had manifestly shewn to be his pleasure, there might be some danger of their losing not only their properties but their lives: whereas by a compliance with his will they might hope to secure to themselves some future marks of the royal favor.

It has been already mentioned, that this priory was surrendered in the month of April 1540; but though the king was at that time authorized by the legislature to erect new sees, and ecclesiastical corporate bodies, out of the estates belonging to the old religious communities, more than two years passed before there was a new establishment in this place. The letters patent for it bear date June 20, 33. Hen. VIII. A. D. 1542; by virtue of which they were to consist of a dean, and six canons or prebendaries, with other ministers necessary for the due administration of divine service; and they were incorporated under the title of "The dean and chapter of the cathedral church of Christ and the blessed Virgin Mary of Rochester." In the charter of this foundation, as in that of Canterbury, a reserve was made, to the king's use, of divers buildings and parcels of land; some of which were, and others were considered to have been, within the common precincts of the monastery. Of the latter sort were the king's chamber; the king's chapel, with a garden adjoining; a house called "the armory," with a garden adjoining; a house called "le chambers lodgings," with a garden and little orchard adjoining; also a piece of ground called "le upper dich," with an orchard inclosed. The particulars, thus excepted, seem to have been more peculiarly of royal property, as having never been included in any of the royal grants for the foundation and enlargement of the monastery. However, these royal possessions, as well as what the king had reserved out of those which of right belonged to the convent before its surrender, were all of them afterwards assigned, by his special com-

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mission, to the common or separate uses of the dean, prebendaries, ministers, and members of his new erected cathedral, and still continue to be so enjoyed by them.

A deed of endowment was subjoined to the charter of foundation. According to a paper printed in Strype's Eccles. Mem. vol. 1. p. 274, from an original in the Cotton collection, which is said to have been drawn by the king himself, it seems to have been his majesty's intention to have settled on this church the revenues of the old priory, and part of those of the monastery of Leeds. But Henry certainly altered his mind; for some of the more valuable estates of these religious houses, were disposed of in a very different manner, and the deficiency was but ill supplied from what had belonged to Boxley Abbey and Newerk Hospital in Strood. To this, as to all the other collegiate bodies founded in his reign, were annexed, in lieu of manors and lands, the impropriations of many parsonages. Happy would it have been for the country clergy, had they been restored to those who had in equity the best title to them. The vicars however, of almost all the parishes here referred to, were considerable

gainers by the great tithes passing into the hands of the governing members of this church, being indebted to them for some very generous augmentations. The revenues with which this ecclesiastical body are endowed, are not in charge for first fruits and tenths; but in lieu of tenths. King Henry reserved to the crown the yearly payment of one hundred and fifteen pounds. A fee-farm rent of nine pounds, six shillings and eightpence, was afterwards added to this composition, for divers lands, &c. given to the dean and chapter, as the register book in the auditor's office expresses it; but where these lands were situated, and the time when granted is not clear./1

/1 This fee-farm rent was granted by patent for lives, by King James I. to Sir Edward Holey and others. It was at length alienated from the crown, and the right to it is vested in the governors of Guy's hospital.

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About three years after the first erection of this new society, a body of statutes for the government of it was signed and delivered to the church, by three commissioners, who had been appointed by Henry VIII. to prepare them; but they had neither the sanction of the great seal, nor were they indented. And the want of these forms, the one required by stat. 31. Hen. VIII. c. 9. and the other by the charter of foundation, has formerly subjected the members of this church to some inconveniences. The differences however between the dean and prebendaries, occasioned thereby, have neither been so frequent nor so warmly agitated, as those which have unhappily prevailed in some other chapters of the new foundation./1 Mention is made by bishop Kennet/2 of a dispute which had long subsisted between the dean and prebendaries of Rochester, though arbitrators had been frequently called in to adjust it.

But this contest did not proceed from any supposed invalidity of the statutes, nor from any doubts as to the interpretation of them. The subject of it was, the right to a considerable tract of ground, which joins to the deanery garden, styled at different periods the king's and dean's orchard, and which, as we have before noticed, was the ancient possession of the crown, and might probably for that reason, be excepted out of the charter of foundation. This ground, some deans imagined, had been granted by king Henry's commissioners to their separate use, whereas the prebendaries insisted that it was the common estate of the church. And the affair had from various causes, become in a course of years so intricate and perplexed, that there was at last a necessity of applying to a court of equity for a determination. A decree was given, A. D. 1710, by the lord chancellor, in favour of the Prebendaries claim. Part of what is now the dean's

/1 The reader may meet with an accurate account of the history of this matter, in Burn's Eccles. Law, under the title, Deans and Chapters.

/2 Vide Register and Chronicle, p. 620,

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garden, is taken out of the king's orchard; a lease of it for forty years was granted in trust by the chapter,

for the use of the deans of Rochester, soon after the decision in chancery, and was renewed at the expiration of that term. Bishop Kennet therefore, who seems to have inclined to the dean's side, must have been misinformed as to the real merits of the case.

There is another circumstance relative to the statutes of this church, which certainly deserves some notice in a history of it. In the annual account of the state of the diocese of Rochester, returned to king Charles I. by archbishop Laud, A. D. 1633, it is said that he complained to the king, "That the cathedral suffered much for want of glass in the windows, and the church-yard lay very indecently, and the gates down, because the dean and chapter refused to be visited by him, on pretence that the statutes were not confirmed under the broad seal." To which the king wrote this postill in the margin, "This must be remedied one way or other, concerning which I expect a particular account of you."/1 It is not improbable from this account, that the archbishop was determined in his own mind, and wanted the king's orders, to empower him to give a new body of statutes to this church, as he did afterwards to his own and some other cathedrals. But if we reflect on the warmth and eagerness of the archbishop's temper, we shall not perhaps be surprised at the then dean and chapter rather choosing to be governed by their old constitutions, than by others of his framing.

Besides, the dean and chapter were strictly justifiable in opposing a scheme, which was one of those stretches of the prerogative, for which that reign is distinguished. For by a passage in the rectical of the stat. 1. Mary, Sess. 3. c. 9, "such rules and ordinances could not be made without authority of parliament;" and the legislature had vested queen Mary and her successor with this power, during their natural lives only. The

/1 See Rapin's Act. Reg. p. 797.

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inefficacy of a commission from the crown for this purpose, though under the broad seal, was so generally admitted in the reign of queen Ann, that an act of parliament was passed at that time, to give a sanction to the statutes which had been used in any of the foundations of Henry VIII., from the restoration of king Charles II./1 It seems to be no unlikely surmise, that archbishop Laud suspected, that if he persisted in his attempt to oblige the dean and chapter of Rochester to receive, from him, a new body of statutes, he might have the mortification of seeing his commands disobeyed, and a contempt shewn to the authority by which he wanted to enforce them; and that this was the reason why he, for once, prudently considering what was practicable, as well as what ought, in his own opinion, to be done,/2 waved the further prosecution of a scheme, which he certainly had much at heart. But though the dean and chapter opposed archbishop Laud in this point, they submitted in the next year, to be visited by him as their metropolitan; and his Grace must, whilst exercising this office, have been sensible that he had been rather too hasty in the unfavourable report he had made of them to their sovereign. If the

church-yard lay in an indecent manner, the fault was not in them, but in the inhabitants of St. Nicholas, who, by the original articles of agreement between the city and the priory, on the building of their church, were to keep up the necessary fences; and as the parishioners had a right of resorting to the church as often as they pleased, and of burying their dead in the cemetery, gates to the precincts would have been extremely inconvenient. And with respect to the imputed neglect in not repairing the windows, it were to be wished his Grace had pointed out an easy method of keeping them entire. For from the church's being situated in

/1 See Burn's Eccles. Law, vol. 11. p. 91. 8vo. edit.

/2 A learned panegyrist of this prelate has observed of him, "Ita erat semper animatus, ut quid fieri debuit, potius quam quid fieri potuit, meditaretur."

Godwin de præsul. edit. per Richardson, p. 189.

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a sea-port town, notwithstanding the very heavy charge annually incurred in new glazing, passengers may still doubt whether any care is ever taken to remedy these defects. The archbishop, as is usual upon these occasions, issued interrogatories; and it appears from the answers to them, which are still in being, that the dean and chapter fully vindicated their conduct; by shewing, from indisputable evidence, that they had paid a due attention to the fabric, and had expended upon the repairs of it very considerable sums of money. But one of the injunctions, with which this inquiry was closed, discovers a probable cause of his Grace's severe stricture. The communion table stood, it seems, in the middle of the choir; this was ordered to be placed at the east end in a decent manner, and a fair rail put up to go across the chancel, as in other cathedral churches;/1 and their having neglected of themselves to make, in his opinion, so important a regulation, might create in him a suspicion of their being puritanically inclined.

But to return to the account of the new establishment of this church. In the first statute, the different members of which it was to consist, are enumerated; viz. a dean and six prebendaries,/2 six minor canons, one deacon, one sub-deacon, six lay clerks, one master of the choiristers, eight choiristers, an upper, and an under master of the grammar school, twenty scholars, six poor men, a porter, who was likewise to be the barber, a butler, a chief cook, and an assistant; and a yearly exhibition of five pounds was to be paid to four scholars, two of them to be members of each university. All these persons are now supported out of

/1 This was one of the first alterations made by Dr. Laud in the cathedral church of Gloucester, after his promotion to that deanship; and it appeared to him a point of such essential consequence, that after he became archbishop, his vicar general had directions to enjoin the observance of it, in every church he visited. See Coll. Eccles. Hist. v. 11. p. 760, 762.

/2 There was once an intention of adding a seventh prebend to this cathedral, since there is an entry in the bishop's register of the appropriation of the rectory and church of Rainham to this use.

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the revenues of the church, except a deacon and sub-deacon, a butler, cook and undercook. The two first have been disused ever since the reformation; and the other three are no longer necessary, there being no common table kept at this time. The prebendaries discharge in their turn the office of vice-dean, receiver, and treasurer; and the minor canons those of *præcentor* and sacrist; and there are besides, a chapter clerk, auditor, collector of the quitrents, and a steward of their courts, who is likewise their counsellor. By the charter of foundation, king Henry VIII, had reserved to himself and successors the right of appointing, (and in the statutes he expressed it should be by letters patent under the great seal), the dean, who must be doctor, or at least bachelor of divinity, or doctor of law; and all the prebendaries, who must have taken the degrees of master of arts, or bachelor of law. The dean is now nominated by the king; but four of the prebends are considered to be in the gift of the person who is entrusted with the charge of the great seal. One was annexed by letters patent, dated January 14, 12 Ann. A. D., 1713, to the provostship of Oriel College, in Oxford, and this union was confirmed by parliament the same year: and king Charles I. by letters patent dated Dec. 6, 1637, annexed the sixth stall to the archdeaconry of Rochester. The power of appointing the six poor men, who are usually termed bedesmen, was also reserved to the crown, and they are admitted to this day by warrants under the royal sign manual. The words of the statute, as to their qualification, are very general, for they include the poor, the infirm, and the aged, whether they have or have not lost their limbs in war, or have been worn out in the public service of their country. The dean appoints the inferior servants of the church; but the minor canons and all the other officers are elected by the dean and chapter, and the former to prevent being removed by any future deans, have their patents confirmed under the great seal of this society.

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<figure – "THE ANCIENT CONVENTUAL SEAL.">

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Separate habitations were, soon after the foundation, assigned to the members of this church, and was the schedule by which these were fixed remaining, it would not be very difficult to determine nearly the spot, where most of the buildings of the old monastery stood. But it is lost; the only allotment to be met with, is to the dean and one prebendary; and no other light can be thrown upon this matter than from papers and leases, most of them of a much later date. The grant to the dean, as expressed in the king's commission, mentioned in a former page, was "of the new lodging, containing two parlours, a kitchen, four chambers, a gallery,¹ a library over the gate, with all other buildings leading to the house of John Sympkins, one of the residents, with a garden adjoining, situated on the north side of the king's palace; also a place for wood under the vestry room; a stable near the gate of the tower, and a pigeon-house in the wall adjoining to the vineyard." It seems very clear, that the

apartments and the garden here assigned to the dean, had belonged to the prior, for his separate use;/2 and by a survey of the premises now enjoyed by the dean, **the Rev. Robert Stevens, D. D.**, we are inclined to believe, that some further additions were made out of those buildings which the king had still reserved to the crown, by a paper annexed to the commission. Be this as it may, the chief part of the buildings here granted, comprised what used to be called the old deanery. These were from, and probably before the restoration, let out in different tenements, and made a portion of the revenue of the preferment. But on the death of doctor John Newcome, the executors paid full dilapidations for them, as a part of the dwelling-house; and when that long contested point was settled, a faculty was obtained from the bishop for removing them.

/1 Ambulatorium & Musœum.

/2 The prior was, however, supposed to lie in the dormitory. Since prior Alured, who was abbot of Abingdon, is recorded as a benefactor, for having made a window in the dormitory, "Ultra lectum prioris." Reg. Roff. p. 121.

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What apartments were before, on the spot, which is now the deanery, is not certain; but in the year 1640, which date is in the front wall towards the garden, the centre part was rebuilt. This house was in the civil wars granted by lease, from the sequestrator, to John Parker, esq. who perhaps completed the apartments in it, which are mentioned in the parliamentary survey to have been unfinished: and it does not seem to have undergone any material change 'till Dr. Markham, who was afterwards appointed successively to the deanery of Christ Church, Oxford, to the see of Chester, and to the archbishopric of York, engaged in a large repair: the two wings were raised by him, but not finished before his removal to Christ Church; and upon a more accurate survey, after the promotion of Dr. Benjamin Newcome, who succeeded Dr. Markham in this deanery, the front wall of the centre building being adjudged to be insecure, was taken down. The whole was completed by Dr. Newcome, and is now a comfortable and elegant abode.

A reference is made to the house belonging to the first prebendary, in the foregoing assignment to the dean, it being then said to be inhabited by John Symkin (though not in right of his preferment, for he was nominated to the fourth stall): this house is now converted into tenements, holden by lease under the dean and chapter, and was exchanged for a house in the parish of St. Margaret's.

The house of the second prebendary adjoins to these tenements: they are situated on the north side of the church, and have a very extensive front towards the High-Street. While the monastery continued, the sacrist's apartments were on this spot; the title of the sextry garden, and the sextry well, occurs frequently.

The house contiguous to the gate leading to the deanery, one of the apartments of which is built over the gateway, is the abode of the third prebendary. The house was re-built by the late prebendary, the Rev. Mr. Lawry, soon after he took possession of this

preferment. A lodging styled the wax chandler's chamber, was situated close to this gate, as appears by a lease of it granted the seventh of April, 1544, to Nicholas Arnolde, priest, and one of the ministers of the cathedral church. He was to hold it for the term of his life; the annual rent reserved was one pound of wax to be offered on Good Friday unto the sepulchre of our Lord within the cathedral.

The residence of the fourth prebend, is a new house, begun by the Rev. Mr. Foote, and finished by Dr. Strahan. In the garden belonging to the fourth prebend, were certainly placed the cloysters, the dortor or dormitory, and the refectory or hall of the convent. It is very probable that one piazza of the cloysters extended to the ruins of the old chapter house, along the south wall of the church, the roof of which was doubtless in part supported by the corbel stones which project from the church; another piazza extended along the east wall of Dr. Strahan's garden. But the roof of this piazza from the chapter house was not of the same height with the other piazza; in this east wall are several arches, which communicated with the dean's orchard; the variety of niches and curious work, still remaining on the east wall, are strong indications of the elegance and grandeur of this venerable pile. The ancient chapter room was doubtless very spacious and magnificent; the three upper arches still remaining, were the windows towards the west: the area¹ under the room communicated with the cloysters through the

¹ The walls of this area are ornamented in the same manner with the east wall of the cloysters, with which there was an open communication through the three lower arches; that it was used as a place of honorable interment is certain; bishop Paulinus is expressly said by Bede to have been buried in secretario B. Apostoli Andreæ, quod rex Ethelbertus construxit. A skeleton was dug up in December 1766, by the workmen employed in digging a new cellar for the deanery, in this area, under the old chapter house, or secretarium of the priory, the skeleton was full seven feet in length, the skull very entire with fine teeth quite firm in the jaws. A stone coffin was also cut in sunder in 1770, by workmen employed in digging a drain in this place, but the corps it had contained was mouldered into dust.

three lower arches, which are chiefly of Caen stone, on these arches the artist has lavished a profusion of ornament, almost every stone being carved with some resemblance; on the centre arch are still discernable the twelve signs of the zodiac. On a smaller adjoining arch were some inscriptions in saxon characters, of which the following letters are still legible,

[] ARIESPERCORNVA []

The west side of this area was most probably occupied by the kitchen and other inferior offices, where is a small tower, doubtless the gate or entrance into the cloysters. The frater or great hall appears to have been to the south of this gate; some columns and arches, still remaining in the buildings facing the minor canons houses, favor this conjecture.¹ The king's palace appears to have been near the south wall of the

dean's garden: the remnants of pillars and foundations lately discovered, shew, that considerable buildings have formerly occupied this part of the precincts, the walls, if not the buildings of the palace, seem to have extended into the old ruins mentioned in the leases of the houses facing the east end of Minor Canon Row.

At the south-west extremity of the church, stood the almonry of the old convent; but after the change, it was allotted to be the habitation of the fifth prebend, the Provost of Oriel College, Oxford. This **being** considered an incumbrance and a prejudice to that part of the fabric of the cathedral, was taken down, and a house in the Vines, **belonging to** the dean and chapter, **is now** a prebendal house.

To the sixth prebend, as being the junior, was probably allotted, on the first partition, the meanest and

/1 In the register of bishop Langdon, about the year 1425, and in the register of W. Wode, who was prior A. D. 1475, mention is made of two halls, one called the great hall, for the bishop is said to have been walking in his garden on the west side of the great hall of the priory and convent; the other, which is styled gesten=hall, the room in which the guests were entertained.

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most inconvenient apartments: but Dr. Law, the **late** archdeacon, to which preferment this stall is annexed, made considerable additions to the house. The original habitation belonging to this prebend, was situated near the west end of the Minor Canon Row, and is described in the parliamentary survey as consisting of three low rooms, and four upper ones: but this building was, after the reformation, pronounced to be ruinous and uninhabitable: and by lease, dated the twenty-eighth of June 1661, the dean and chapter demised to archdeacon Lee and his successors, in lieu of it, a house in the Vines. This grant was, on the eighth of July following, confirmed by bishop Warner as visitor.

It appears from the special commission of Henry VIII. which has been cited more than once, that it was the design of the founder to have suitable lodgings appropriated to the separate use of all the other ministers and officers of his new establishment. But having seen what poor and contemptible habitations were assigned to the heads of the society, we may easily conclude, that a very bad provision was made for the inferior members of it. The precincts of the priory, after its dissolution, seems indeed to have been a scene of confusion and devastation: with respect to the edifices designed for the grammar school, minor canons, lay clerks, &c. the thirty-sixth statute expressly declares them to have been a pile of buildings, huge, irregular, and ruinous; and in order to enable the dean and chapter to convert them into places of decent abode, they were allowed to apply to this purpose, for five years, that portion of the revenue of the church which was directed, after that time, to be expended in public works. But it is most probable, that this sum was far from being sufficient. It is at least very certain, that in the year 1647 some of them were in a most woful condition; for the Canon Row is thus described in the parliamentary survey taken in that year;

"all that long row of buildings within the wall, con=

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sisting of eighteen several low rooms, and five upper ones, in which divers old and decrepit poor people inhabit, that did belong to the cathedral church." As the fabric of the cathedral received during the civil wars, unspeakable damage from the enthusiastic fury of pretended reformers, the dean and chapter were not able, out of their scanty revenues, to pay a proper attention to that, and also to rebuild these houses: which being judged irreparable, and affording only an harbor for indigent and disorderly persons, whereby a heavy charge was frequently brought upon the church, they were taken down in the year 1698, all the minor canons having given their consent, and bishop Sprat his approbation, to this measure. The dean and chapter allowed to the former an increase of stipend for house rent; and as soon as their circumstances would permit of their incurring so large an expence, they came to a resolution, of erecting the present neat and convenient habitations. The first order of chapter for carrying this design into execution, was dated July 17, 1721; and two years after they were finished, and the bishop assigned to each minor canon his proper mansion. The seventh house, at the east end of the row, which is appropriated to the organist, was not built till the year 1735.

There were three gates belonging to the precincts of this priory, viz. the Cœmetry Gate, which seems to be that which is now called College Yard Gate; and which, besides its original name, was denominaded Chertsey Gate, not improbably from a person of that name, who lived in Rochester. Edmund Chertsey, gentleman, appears to have been possessed of a tene=ment not far distant from it, in the reign of Edward IV.

St. William's Gate was another avenue into the pre=cincts of the priory: this was on the north side of the cathedral, and seems to have led from the high street directly to the north door of the church, and was so named from its being the ready way to St. William's

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tomb, and was in the place where there is at present a passage called Black-Boy-Alley. The Prior's Gate was where the grammar school now is.

Before we leave the precinct, it will be proper to take a view of that structure with some remains of antiquity, which is situated in the south-west corner of this district, and called the Bishop's Palace.^{/1} From its vicinity to the church, we may reasonably suppose that the spot on which these tenements now stand, was the quarter assigned to the particular use of the bishops of Rochester, soon after the establishment of the ca=tedral; but there is not, for many centuries after that period, any certain account in ancient writings of the peculiar place of abode of the prelates of this see. That Gundulph following the example of his patron archbishop Lanfranc,^{/2} raised a mansion here for the bishop, at the time of his re-edifying the church and the offices of the priory, is most probable, since he charged the manors settled by him on the monks with

an annual payment of several kinds of provisions to himself and successors, in order to enable them to keep up hospitality while they were in residence. It is not, however, said he was a benefactor in this respect: nor indeed does the name of an episcopal habitation occur for near fourscore years after his death, when bishop Glanville is recorded to have rebuilt what had been burnt down by one of those dreadful fires, which, as before related, laid waste the greatest part of this city. What attention was paid to the mansion of the bishops in this place, during a much longer term, we cannot discover; but bishop Lowe seems to have re-edified it, one of his instruments being dated from his new palace at Rochester, 27th March, A. D.

/1 Now inhabited by Mrs. Twopenny, and others.

/2 Somner in his *Antiq. of Canterbury*, p. 101, is of opinion that the archbishop of Canterbury, and the canons of that church, had one and the same habitation, till after the days of Lanfranc: but the only ground he could have for that surmise was, that he could meet with no account of a separate place of abode for the archbishop.

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1459./1 But whether it was that the building was not as substantial as it ought to have been, considering the use for which it was designed, or that the six prelates who were successively, within forty years, promoted to this see, and translated to a better station, neglected to repair it; it certainly was but a cold and uncomfortable habitation when bishop Fisher presided over this diocese.

In an epistle from Erasmus to this prelate, which we have translated for the entertainment of our readers, that elegant writer has given us no very favorable description of the state of this palace in the year 1524.

Letter DCXCVIII.

"Erasmus of Rotterdam, to John bishop of Ro=chester, greeting.

"Reverend Prelate,

"It was with the utmost concern I read that part of your letter, wherein you express your wish, of ever living to see my book arrive. My concern was still heightened, by the account your servant gave of the ill state of your health. Indeed, you do not pay sufficient attention to that tender constitution. I shrewdly suspect, that the state of your health principally depends upon your situation. Give me leave then, to act the part of a physician. The near approach of the tide, as well as the mud which is left exposed at every reflux of the water, renders the climate severe and unwholesome./2 Your library too

/1 See *Regist. Roff.* p. 457.

/2 The expressions here used, it must be confessed, are very applicable to the palace at Halling, but the circumstance of the library removes every doubt of Erasmus having the episcopal mansion at Rochester in his thoughts when he dictated this letter to bishop Fisher; since it appears from Bailey's history of this prelate, that his lordship's library at Rochester was, "so replenished, and with such kinds of books, as it was thought the like were not to be found again in the possession of any one private man in christendom." The same author observes, that the

king's commissioners, who seized the effects of bishop Fisher after his being attainted, "trussed up and filled with his books thirty-two great fats, or pipes, besides those that were embezzled

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is composed of thin walls, which let in through the crevices a subtle, and, as the physicians term it strained air, which is highly prejudicial to weak and tender constitutions. Nor am I unacquainted how much time you spend in your library, which is to you a very paradise. As to my own part, I could not live in such a place three hours, without being sick. I would rather choose a chamber, that was well floored with wood, and wainscoted, for the exhalations which arise from a brick pavement must needs be very pernicious. I am well aware, that death itself, is no way terrible to the virtuous. Yet considering the scarcity of good men, the church in general cannot be but greatly interested in the life of so worthy a prelate. It is by no means a matter of equal moment, whether Erasmus is in health, or not," &c.

This unfortunate cardinal was the last prelate, who as far as we can discover, resided much in this city. The palace was, however, continued to the bishops of Rochester, by the charter of foundation of the new establishment: and by the same this church was ordained to be for ever their cathedral. But ever since the reformation, not only this house, but those at Totterscliffe and Halling, have been forsaken for the palace of Bromley; nor can we be surprized at the preference given to this last mansion, when we consider the delightful spot on which it is fixed, and that it is likewise within the diocese, and as convenient a situation, upon the whole, for the clergy, as any of the other places of abode. The consequence, however, has been, that these have been leased out to tenants; and indeed the

away, spoiled, and scattered." In his palace at Rochester, was deposited likewise a large sum of money, (viz, four hundred pounds), a gift from his predecessor to himself, against any occasion that might happen to the bishoprick; which it is most probable he used to keep in the house where he chiefly resided; the king's commissioners found likewise a coffer, which, in the opinion of this superstitious prelate, contained a much more valuable treasure than that of money, viz. a shirt of hair, and two or three whips, with which he used often to scourge himself.

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revenue of the see of Rochester is not sufficient to keep more than one house in repair, if more than one were necessary for its bishops. The tenements which are now standing at this place were, it is supposed, erected by the persons who obtained a grant of the ground during the civil war.

The prison which was formerly a part of these buildings, has long since been disused; and nearly on the same spot where it stood, was erected in the year 1760, at the charge of Dr. Pearce, an office for the use of his Register.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH.

The churches of St. Nicholas, St. Margaret, and

Strood, are the only three now standing within the liberties of the city of Rochester; but mention is made in the Regist. Roff. of one dedicated to St. Mary; and that there was another to St. Clement, appears from various writings of a much later date. That of St. Mary was placed without the wall in the south-east quarter of the city, on a piece of land called the "Healve aker," which was given by Ethelwolf king of the West Saxons, with the consent of Ethelstan king of Kent, to duke Ealhere./1 The church of St. Clement was not suffered to go to decay,/2 or rather was not applied to a use different from what it was originally designed for, till after the reformation, when the parish was united to that of St. Nicholas. This last is probably the **most** ancient parish; the name of it occurs as early as the time of Gundulph: and from the expressions used by that prelate, it should seem that there was a district under that denomination, prior to the conquest./3 The inhabitants of it, however had

/1 See Regist. Roff. p. 23.

/2 A rate for the reparation of this church was ordered to be made at the archdeacon's visitation, October 25th, 1529.

/3 See Regist. Roff. p. 6.

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not any peculiar church for many centuries after, but they had a right to offer their devotions at an altar in the cathedral which was styled "the parochial altar of St. Nicholas." Some have thought, and it was indeed a claim avowed by the monks, that their right reverend patron and protector had settled on them not only all the tithes of the parish, but all the profits of the altar; however, the words of this suspicious grant imply no more, than that the prior and convent were to present to the bishop, the clerk who should officiate at it. And when, after a tedious suit at the court of Rome, pope Coellestine, at the earnest solicitation of bishop Ascelin, granted a bull of restitution to the convent of St. Andrew, of many churches of which archdeacon Robert Poleyn had forcibly deprived them; the altar of St. Nicholas is said to have been restored to Jordan the chaplain, as if he had been the person more immediately interested./1 During the ecclesiastical administration of Walter, who sat in this see from the years 1147 to 1182, the religious certainly obtained an appropriation of this altar:/2 this grant was set aside by Glanvill; who reserved, or more properly restored to the bishops of Rochester, the right of collating a clerk to this parish; but in order to heal the rupture which had long subsisted between him and the monks, he consented that they should quietly enjoy an annual pension of forty shillings, which was to be paid to them quarterly, by the incumbent for the time being;/3 and as it is termed "a due and accustomed pension," we conclude that the officiating chaplain, on his appointment to that office, had always agreed to pay them that sum, in consideration of his being permitted to receive all the emoluments of the cure. From the time of Glanvill, the patronage of this living has remained in the bishops of this see; and a list of the vicars, with very few interruptions, may be deduced from the year 1319.

/1 See Regist. Roff. p. 8. /2 Ibid. p. 43 and 528.

/3 Ibid. p. 529, 143.

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In the account of the cathedral, already given in this work, it was intimated that the quarter of the church, in which the altar of St. Nicholas was originally placed, could not be accurately determined; but the reader was apprised of its being removed into the upper end of the nave, not far from the steps leading into the choir. As this change was made without the privity, or undoubtedly without the consent of the parishioners, it occasioned an altercation between them and the monks; but the difference was at length compromised, as it appears by a judicial act dated the 6th of April, 1312, and printed in the Regist. Roff. p. 545; some of the terms were, that "neither the vicar nor his substitute should, without notice, celebrate mass at that altar, except on Sundays and on the festival of All Saints; St. Nicholas; the nativity of our Lord; and of the purification of the virgin Mary; and that even on those days they should officiate at an hour that would least interfere with the time of the monks performing their religious services." The vicar was indeed permitted, if he pleased, to preach to his flock on the four principal feasts, and even on Sundays; but this duty was to be discharged immediately after mass was ended. Every parishioner, on being convicted of a breach of the rules established in this agreement, was, for each offence, to forfeit four shillings, which fines were to be applied towards defraying the expences of the holy war. It is plain from this instance and from other circumstances which might be specified, that much inconvenience and trouble must unavoidably have ensued to the monks, from the right which the inhabitants of this parochial district had to frequent the altar of St. Nicholas; and yet so desirous were the former of keeping the latter in a state of dependence on the mother church, that though in this deed there is a kind of promise from the prior and his chapter to accommodate the parishioners with a piece of ground on which they might erect a church for their separate use,

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more than an hundred years passed before this favor could be obtained. The spirited conduct, however, of bishop Yonge, and the interposition of archbishop Chichely, to whose arbitration all parties consented to submit, at length prevailed over the pride and obstinacy of the monks: and the inhabitants were, by a composition dated March 7, 1421, suffered to finish a church, the walls of which had been raised several years before, in the north side of the cemetery. This agreement is inserted in the Regist. Roff. p. 563, to which book we refer the curious reader, as we have only room to take notice of some of the principal articles in it.

And by the first article of the agreement, the inhabitants of this parish were on no account to enlarge without leave of the convent, the original building, except by the addition of a belfry,^{/1} at the north-west end of the church; and the hours were ascertained on

which they were permitted to ring the bells. The parishioners were to renounce their old claim of performing divine offices at the altar of St. Nicholas within the cathedral; but as a mark of their obedience to that church, they were to attend the celebration of mass on the day of its dedication; and the vicar was likewise, as formerly, to bear the host in the procession of the monks, on some particular days of the year. As solemn processions, in that superstitious age, were judged to be an essential part of religious service; and as the district allotted to the parishioners was very confined, the monks consented, that they should, after walking round the north-east side of St. Nicholas church, enter into the cathedral at the door of the north cross, and pass out of it again at the north door leading into the church-yard. The inhabitants were to be permitted to bury in this part of the cemetery,

/1 When a belfry was first erected is not clear, certainly not before 1552; because Alicia Hunt bequeathed by her will, which was dated in that year, four marks, to be paid by her executors. "In inchoatione fabricæ campanilis eccles. St. Nich. Roffen.

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on paying a certain fee to the servant of the convent, whose duty it was to dig the graves; but they had a right to inter their dead in the other ground, without making any acknowledgement; however, almost all the fences of both church-yards were to be repaired and renewed at the charge of the parish. That this article of the composition was not well observed, is evident from sundry presentments, in the bishop's court, against the church-wardens and inhabitants for their neglect of it; and in the year 1514, the vicar was prohibited the performing of divine offices, because the hogs were suffered to enter daily into this consecrated ground, and destroy the graves of people who were interred therein. A difference arose between the convent and the parishioners of St. Nicholas, soon after the finishing their church, from their attempting to erect a porch at the west end. The monks were to be commanded for putting a stop to this work, as it was a direct violation of the original agreement, and particularly as the new building must have obstructed the passage, leading from the cemetery gate to the cathedral, and to the entrance into the priory. They applied to the bishop for a redress of this grievance; and his lordship having cited the church-wardens, the mayor, and some of the citizens to appear before him, they promised that the porch should be immediately removed. No description, as far as we can learn, is extant of this church:/1 but it appears from the copy of the will of Thomas Shemyng, dated September 1523, that there were several chapels, or at least different altars on which lights were constantly burning. For after directing his body to be buried in the chancel of our Lady in St. Nicholas church; and having bequeathed ten shillings to the high altar for his tythes forgotten, he gives to the Lady-light in the body of the church three shillings and four pence, to the lights of St. George, St. Erasmus, St. Nicholas, and St. Anthony, ten-pence

/1 There was certainly an entrance from the south, see Regist. Roff. p. 565.

each, and to the lights of the aultars of the Trinity and St. Joone, the same sum. The testator was in other instances a benefactor to this church; he gave thirty shillings to the best behoofe of it, and fifteen shillings to the reparation of the steeple; he likewise bequeathed a fine **surplus** of eight-pence an ell, and to the chainging of organnes five shillings. The church, having stood nearly two hundred years, became so dilapidated that in 1620 a complete and thorough repair was absolutely necessary to preserve it from total ruin. And although over the west door is an inscribed tablet purporting that this church was rebuilt in the year 1624, which account is corroborated by an entry in the register; yet the appearance of the building itself, as well as the brief issued for its repairs, and other documents evince its extreme fallacy.^{/1}

The building, having undergone a state of repairs so complete that it might **also** be considered as an entire new structure, was a second time^{/2} consecrated, Sept. 24, 1624, by Dr. John Buckeridge, bishop of Rochester:^{/3} it extends in length from east to west one hundred feet, and from north to south sixty feet; it is a very substantial building; the stone walls are of a considerable thickness, and supported on all sides by buttresses; it consists of a nave and two aisles, the aisles are divided from the nave by two ranges of lofty stone columns, from which spring the gothic arches that support the roof; the church is spacious, and extremely well constructed for public worship. In the chancel is a very handsome wainscot altar-piece of the Corinthian order, finely enriched: this altar-piece was given by Edward Bartholomew, esquire, A. D. 1706; the same gentleman gave for the use of this church, two silver flaggons, and a patten of thirty pounds price. From

^{/1} Beauties of England, vol. 8, p. 655.

^{/2} It appears to have been consecrated on the 18th of December, 1423; see Regist. Roff. p. 570.

^{/3} On the following day, the like ceremony was performed on an additional burial ground.

a list of benefactions near the altar-piece it appears, that Edward Harlow, in 1609, gave a gilt cup for the service of the communion: Francis Brooke, esq. in 1703 gave a large silver plate for collecting the offerings at the communion: Henry Austen, gentleman, in 1704, gave two very handsome and large common prayer books to be placed at the communion table. In three of the north windows are the arms of several families painted,^{/1} in good preservation. Near the west door is a very ancient stone font, with the word CRISTIAN round it in ancient capitals. In 1822, the inhabitants, by voluntary subscription, placed an excellent organ, built by Bishop, in the gallery over the west entrance; and in the same year, the pews throughout the church were made uniform, and the gallery extended over the ends of the side aisles. At the north-west angle of the church is a square embattled tower containing two bells. There are but few monuments or inscriptions of any considerable antiquity in this church, two only are preserved of what were in the former fabric; one

is an inscription on a brass plate fixed in the north wall, to the memory of Thomason Hall, who died the 30th of August, 1575; the other is a flat stone lying in the chancel, which, by an inscription, appears to have been laid down in 1577. There are several elegant monuments of a later date, one in particular **on the wall of the south aisle** to the memory of George Gordon, esq. late a merchant of this city. The ground of the niche and tympan of the pediment are jasper marble. The embellishments are statuary marble elegantly executed.

Among the monumental inscriptions, the most curious is one on a fair marble monument on the **south** wall, in Latin, interspersed with Greek quotations from scripture, a copy of which we shall here insert: —

/1 The arms in the north window in the chancel are those of John Cobham, esquire and alderman of this city, who set up this window at his own charge in 1624, the year in which the church was finished.

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Infra hunc locum
Dormiunt in pace beatam domini Jesu Epiphaniam
Præstolantes, Philippus Bartholomeus, generosus,
Et Sara uxor ejus dilectissima; vixerunt
<+++++> Tit. II.
Obierunt eodem anno <+++++>
Hæc 24. Apr. 1696. Ille 5. Aug. seq. & jam
In tumulo conditi sunt. <+++++>
+++++> Job V.
<+++++>
+++++> Heb. XIII. Monumentum
Hoc, pietatis ergo, posuit Leonardus
Bartholomew, filius ipsorum
Unicus jam supentes.

It has been already mentioned, that the parish formerly called St. Clement, is united to this of St. Nicholas; but the date of the consolidation cannot be absolutely determined, as no public instrument relating to it is extant. Dr. Harris, in his history of Kent, says, it was done by act of parliament in the reign of Edward VI., but as no special law for that purpose occurs in the statute book during the reign of that prince, it seems most probable that the junction was effected by the 37th of Henry VIII. c. 21. (A. D. 1546), by which churches might be united, where one of them is not above the yearly value of six pounds, particularly in corporations, with the consent of the chief magistrate. And there is one circumstance which inclines us to believe that this consolidation was made soon after the passing of that statute; for the living of St. Clement being vacant in February, 1538, by the death or cession of John Harrope, the last rector collated to it, the parish, as appears from the consistorial acts, was served by different curates to 1546, but from that date no mention is made of any assistant clergyman. A considerable part of the walls of this church is still remaining at the entrance into the lane formerly called St. Clement's, but now Horsewash-lane; the

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east end or chancel is visible; the south wall, or a

part of it, is now the front of three houses almost opposite to 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, and a row of pillars and arches extended from east to west at about fourteen feet from the north wall. Adjoining to the north wall of the church, was the church-yard, which had become private property, A. D. 1580, as appears from an entry in a court roll; and according to another minute in the same roll, the garden of the parsonage was situated at no great distance from the mill ditch, and the north wall of the city. In **another** part of this work, mention **is** made of a chapel being erected at the east end of the bridge by Sir John Cobham.^{/1} It was called "Allesolven chapel,"^{/2} and three chaplains, to be appointed by the wardens of the bridge, were to officiate in it. They were to have apartments in the houses contiguous to the chapel, in which they were to be constantly resident, and each of them was to receive an annual allowance of six pounds. These stipends were to be defrayed out of estates appropriated to the repair of the bridge; but there being a deficiency in these revenues, on an application to King Henry VI., that prince in 1421, granted to the chaplains a yearly fee farm rent of one hundred shillings, which the Abbey of St Austin's, in Canterbury, used to pay to the crown for lands in this county.^{/3} The pious founder of this chantry designed it chiefly for the use of travellers,^{/4} and as it was situated within the parish of St Clement; he took every possible

^{/1} On the ground where the chapel stood, a very neat stone building was erected by the wardens of the bridge in 1735; the upper part of this building is termed the bridge chamber, and it is here the wardens hold their meetings. On the front of the building are the arms of several benefactors to the bridge.

^{/2} See Regist. Roffen. p. 555.

^{/3} Ibid. p. 573.

^{/4} There was a chantry on the Strood side of the river adjoining to the bridge, built for the same use. See Reg. Henry Holbeach, fol. 42. b.

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precaution that the rectors of that district should not be sufferers by this institution. Some months previous to the endowment,^{/1} articles of composition were signed by John Tutnor, of Lambeth, the incumbent at that time, and David Whyte, chaplain, by which it was stipulated, among other things, that all the oblations made in the new erected chapel should be delivered to the rectors. The profits of this benefice being very small,^{/2} it was necessary to secure to the incumbents every emolument of this kind, and when masses and other superstitious ceremonies of the Roman church were abolished, there was no longer a sufficient income for the support of a minister; and this was the reason of the parish of St. Clement being annexed to that of St. Nicholas, after the commencement of the reformation. Another union or addition seems to be now wanting; for the proportional value of this, as of most town livings, being much diminished; the annual profits are an inadequate allowance for the trouble of so populous and laborious a cure. As the net income of

it exceeded fifty pounds in the reign of queen Anne, when a valuation was made of all parochial benefices, the vicars were not only debarred the advantage of an augmentation from the bounty of that Princess, but also remained subject to a heavy charge of first fruits and tenths./3 – The bishops of Rochester are, as before observed, the patrons of St. Nicholas; and their lordships having likewise in their disposal several small livings in the neighborhood of this city, it will most probably be hereafter found expedient to collate the

/1 See Regist. Roffens. p. 557.

/2 The income of this rectory must have been very trifling, as it never was in charge for first fruits and tenths, nor was it, as far as appears, ever subject to an assessment, except of one shilling in the year 1533, towards defraying the expence of a proctor, for the convocation: whereas A. D. 1523, the senior priest of this chapel, was taxed at six pounds, thirteen shillings, and four-pence, and the other two at six pounds each.

/3 Anno 20 Edward I. A. D. 1291, St. Nicholas was rated only at five marks, by the valuation taken in the reign of Henry VIII., it was raised to twenty pounds, eight shillings, and nine pence.

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vicar of this parish to one or other of those benefices. A house was allotted to the incumbents some centuries ago: it was situated not far from the free-school; and a piece of ground which belonged to it extends to the north wall of the city. This old house, was exchanged for the present vicarage house on Boley-hill, which has lately been re-built, and is now a comfortable residence for the vicar.

BULLY HILL.

In the first donation made by king Ethelbert to the church of Rochester, A. D. 600, this prince is said to have granted to that body all the land on the south side of the city, extending from the river Medway to the east-gate./1 And in the year 765, Egbert presented to that religious society one hamlet or small street, and two acres of land within the walls of the castle./2 The line of the walls of the city and castle at these early periods cannot be easily fixed; but it is plain, that under one or the other of these grants the monks of St. Andrew were entitled to the greater part, if not the whole, of that ground which incloses the present tower, and of that styled Bully Hill./3

Whether the secular clergy, who inhabited this priory before the conquest, enjoyed, at the time of that revolution, the possession of these two parcels of land, is not clear; but Gundulph, not long after his being raised to this see, certainly recovered the property of them, with many other larger and more valuable estates, which had been wrested from the church. For

/1 Regist. Roff. p. 3.

/2 Regist. Roff. p. 16.

/3 When Mr. Brooke, who was formerly proprietor of part of the hill, filled up the castle ditch, by lowering the surface of the hill, the workmen found many Roman urns and Lacrymatories near them, which Mr Brooke presented to that learned antiquarian Dr. Thorpe, then living in Rochester, and there is no doubt but it was the burying place of the Romans during the time of their being stationed at or near Rochester; which is a further proof that Bully-hill was without the limits of the city.

the bishop of Rochester is recorded, in Doomsday book, as holding lands in Aylesford parish,/1 for exchange of the ground upon which the castle stands: and if we are not mistaken, Gundulph received from Odo bishop of Bayeux, while governor of that fortress, in lieu of the other tract of ground, three acres of land adjoining the convent, which the monks afterwards cultivated as a garden. Gundulph's release to the king for this ground is printed in the *Regist. Roff.* p. 526. And from the terms in which it is expressed, it is not unlikely, that though the two bishops had entered into an agreement relative to this matter, the exchange was not fully completed till after the imprisonment of Odo, by William Rufus. As that prelate was an officer of skill and experience, he could not but perceive how necessary it was to the person, who had the custody of the castle, to have a spot of ground, from which, if occupied by the enemy, the garrison must be greatly annoyed: and there can be little doubt of the hill itself having been originally thrown up with an hostile intent. Dr. Harris in his history of Kent, observes, that perhaps it was the mount cast up by the Danes, who besieged this city in the year 885. But whoever compares with attention the passages of the several ancient historians who have related this fact, will we are inclined to believe, think it something more than probable that this was the work of those frequent invaders of our island. For the satisfaction of such of our readers as may be desirous of examining these passages they are added in a note./2

/1 Camden's *Brit.* by Gibson, p. 231.

/2 *Dani de Francia redeuntes, urbem Roffensem obsiderunt, ac "arcem contra portas construxerunt."* *Chron. Joh. Bromton x.* script. coll. 812.

Altera vero turma rediens in Cantiam civitatem Rovecestre obsidit, sed viriliter repugnantibus civibus, superveniens rex Elfredus cum exercitu paganos ab obsidione compulit ad naves, "relicta ibi arce quam ante portas prædictæ extruxerant urbis." *Hoveden Ann.*

Altera turma ad Britanniam veniens Cantiam adiit, quæ Rofecstre dicitur; "ante hujus portam castellum pagani fecerunt,"

We shall, however, offer a remark or two, which have occurred to us on the perusal of these extracts. The first is, that, besides the mount which we suppose the Danes to have thrown up, and which possibly is now nearly of the same height it was originally they seem to have erected upon, or within it, a tower or fort; and that this was the work which they had not time remove, because the unexpected approach of Alfred obliged them to retire to their ships with the utmost precipitation. And as "aliud propugnaculum," and "alias firmitas," another fortress, is the expression used by the compiler of the Saxon Chronicle, and by Henry Huntingdon; does not this corroborate the opinion which has most generally prevailed, that there was a castle then standing not far from the spot, upon which what is called Gundulph's tower was afterwards raised? But from a passage in the *Textus Roff.* one would be apt to suspect that this old castle was constructed

partly of wood and partly of stone: and that, to secure it from fire, the wood was covered with raw hides. For the castle which Gundulph built by the command of William Rufus, was to be entirely of stone./1

When the crown had obtained a legal title to this ground, we may conclude that neither labour nor expence would be spared in fortifying it; and some skilful persons, who have surveyed it carefully have been of opinion, that the wall of the city, which before the conquest is supposed to have stood between the castle ditch and the mount, was after that period

nec tamen civitatem expugnare potuerunt. Adveniente subito rege, ad naves suas Dani confestim configiunt concussi terrore, "relicta sua arce, &c." Simeon Dunelm hist. x. script. p. 130.

Venerunt ad Rovecestriam: et civitatem obsidentes, ceperunt facere ibi "aliam firmitatem." Huntindon hist.

Altera pars porrexit ad Hrofeceaster, obsiderunt autem eam civitatem, et ipsi extruxerunt circa eam "aliud propugnaculum," cives nihilominus urbem defenderunt, quosque Ælfridus rex superveniret cum copiis. Tum se contulit exercitus ad suas naves, "dimoisso munimento." Chron. Saxon. sub anno 885.

/1 See Textus Roff. p. 144.

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carried round the hill. As the fortress itself became by degrees, from the reign of Edward IV. of little importance, the mount was no longer necessary as an outwork to it; and indeed there are grounds for believing that liberty had been allowed some years before of erecting houses upon it. That monarch's charter to the mayor and citizens of Rochester is dated A. D. 1460, the first year of his reign; and by virtue of it, they obtained a right to a view of frank pledge, and also to hold a court of pie-poudre/1 in a certain place called the Boley within the suburbs of the city. This is a separate court leet from that holden in the Guildhall of this city, and the inhabitants of this small district are to appear before the recorder of the city as steward of the court of the mayor and citizens, which is annually held on the Monday after St. Michael; who then appoints an officer, called the baron of the Bully, for the year ensuing, by presenting him with the staff of office; for no oath of office is required, it being thought the baron was the first officer under the governor of the castle before the court leet was instituted, and is supposed to be the person to whose care the security of it was intrusted under the governor of the castle; for it is most likely that this might be the case when the governor permitted houses to be built on the hill, and was the cause of making it a separate court leet. The court is holden **on the spot where formerly stood an elm-tree**, at the east end of the hill. The householders of the several tenements on this spot, are generally appointed to the office of baron in succession.

Whence the hill itself derived the appellation of "Bully or Boley," is a point that has often puzzled antiquarians, and as it may not be unacceptable to

/1 By the court of pie-poudre, whenever any difference arises concerning bargain and sale, either in the fair or market, the mayor has power to take with him two discreet citizens on Bully-hill, and there, upon hearing the merits of the cause, they have a power

immediately to decide.

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many of our readers to be acquainted with the different surmises which have been formed relating to it, we will state them in few words. A learned gentleman was willing to deduce it from the greek word <++++>/1; nor was this a bad guess, if we regard only the suitableness of the sound and of the sense: but a question put by an eminent etymologist/2, upon a similar conjecture, would be equally pertinent, viz. how, at the time we must suppose this name to have been given, could the Greeks communicate to these northern parts of Europe any knowledge of their language? The declension of learning in England, from the beginning of the eighth century, may be ascribed to the incessant ravages of the Danes, who were not only an illiterate, but a barbarous race of men; and so gross was the ignorance of our countrymen in the time of Alfred, that that prince is said to have declared he knew no priest south of Thames, that could turn a piece of Latin into English. As little reason is there to believe that the monks settled in this priory by Gundulph were acquainted with a particle of the Greek tongue. To read well, and to excel in chaunting their prayers, is mentioned by Earnulph, as their chief qualification./3

Those however who are dissatisfied with a Greek original, may perhaps approve of deriving Bully from the Latin word Bulla, a seal, which corresponds nearly as to the sound; nor is there much variation in the manner of writing it: and were there sufficient grounds for supposing that the title was given at the time of the exchange of the lands between Gundulph and Odo, a circumstance that then probably occurred, will account for the choice of this term. Seals, as is well known, were rarely used by our princes before the conquest/4; and might not this mode be first used in

/1 Jactus, a casting up.

/2 Skinner, in Etymologico Linguæ Anglicanæ, ad vocem Anent.

/3 Textus Roffen. p. 143.

/4 Edward the Confessor is generally allowed to have been the first of the kings of England who confirmed Charters and Patents

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this neighborhood on the king's part, in executing the deed relating to this agreement?

In the opinion of others, Boley is only a corruption of the French words, beau lieu, a fine situation, from the beautiful prospect of the river and adjacent country, and such, without dispute, this small district enjoys. But perhaps at last, the name of a man may have given a denomination to this, as well as to many other tracts of ground, and according to Camden/1, there was a Nobleman of Norman extraction called Bulley, or Busley, who fortified a castle in Derbyshire; and though there is no tradition remaining of it, yet one of this family might have signalized himself in one or more of the military exploits which have in former days been transacted on this spot, and, by affixing his name to it, have flattered himself, but in vain, to have perpetuated to future ages this memorial of his valor.

The writer is aware, that perhaps the whole of this

disquisition may be deemed insignificant by some nice critics, and that they may be inclined to ridicule the latter part of it especially, as the whimsical and frivolous surmises of minute antiquarians. Nor can he indeed venture to promise that any real and substantial advantage will ever result from the determination of the points here discussed; unless it should be a means of ensuring to the future inhabitants of this little district those privileges and exemptions which their predecessors had enjoyed for many centuries. But though no profit should accrue to any single person, yet, if any of his readers do, from the perusal of

under a broad seal; see Speed's Hist. of Great Britain, p. 399. The difference in the method of conveying land before and after the conquest, as far as the members of the priory of St. Andrew were interested in it, is thus specified in the Regist. Roff. p. 2. "Hæc omnia prædicta data fuerunt ante adventum Normannorum in Angliam in codicillis, at post adventum facte sunt donationes in chartis." In which passage, though the use of seals is not directly expressed, it seems to be implied.

/1 Brittan. p. 584. The same author at p. 990, mentions there being in Westmoreland a castle called "Buley Castle."

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these few pages, receive a small share of information and amusement, he flatters himself that he shall not be censured for the pains he has taken in order to oblige them. An attempt to gratify the harmless inquisitiveness of one another is surely commendable. And of the great number of travellers, who every year enjoy the opportunity of viewing and admiring the beauties of this elegant and engaging rural recess, situated not far from the centre of three populous towns, how few are there, whom curiosity does not prompt to enquire into the ancient history of it, and who do not express a desire to learn the original of so singular a name as that of Bully-hill?

This delightful retreat has of late years been considerably improved. Several new walks have been made for the accommodation of the public, and the scenery heightened by the plantation of shrubberies. To the taste and liberality bestowed on this favorite resort, the inhabitants are indebted to Samuel Baker, Esq. who resides on the spot and who is the owner of a great portion of the Estates on this Hill. The promenade under the cliff leading to the Bridge was made from a Public Subscription, the Earl of Jersey contributing £200. and the Mayor and Corporation £100. towards the same.

THE BRIDGE.

Before the present stone bridge was built at Rochester, over the Medway, there was one of wood, but not in the same place, it being situated, as Lambard expresses it, "over against Strood hospital," in a line with the principal streets of Rochester and Strood, and, consequently, in a more eligible situation, if the bed of the river was equally good.

When this wooden bridge was first built, cannot accurately be ascertained; but it appears to have been very ancient, and erected a considerable time before the reign of king John: according to Stow, the first

mention of a bridge in this place, is in the year 1215.

By ancient manuscripts in the library of Rochester Cathedral, it appears, that the bridge consisted of nine pera, or piers of stone and earth; these nine piers made ten intermediate spaces in the length of the bridge, which, according to the abovementioned MSS. was twenty six yards (or rods) and a half, equal to 431 feet, which corresponds, nearly, to the present breadth of the river at that place.

These ten divisions were each forty-three feet from the centre of one pier to the centre of the other, so that the sullivas/¹ or beams here mentioned were forty-three feet long. The beams rested on the piers of stone and earth, above high water mark, of which there were twenty-eight. Supposing therefore that three beams were laid in parallel lines over each of the respective divisions, excepting the two extreme arches, where two might have been sufficient, the whole number will then be regularly arranged.

Across these beams were laid thick planks, which completed the work. We cannot ascertain the breadth of this bridge, but think it could not have been above ten feet. There was a wooden tower erected on it, called a fortification, built with "marvellous skill;" and it is probable, was near the east end of the bridge, and was used as a gate, for the defence of this passage. The bridge was secured with a balustrade,^{/2} which with the tower was doubtless kept in repair by Rochester and Strood.

^{/1} So termed from the Saxon word Sylle, which we yet retain in the term groundsille.

^{/2} But it may be conjectured, that this balustrade was not very high, and of little security to passengers, because it was accounted dangerous to pass the bridge on horseback; as appears from an accident which happened about the time of Richard I., when William de Elintune, son of Viscount Aufrid, a rash young man, not alighting from his horse, as was customary, the beast took fright and leaped into the river, by which accident they were both drowned. Regist. Roff.

It is probable, that the money for erecting this bridge was raised in the same manner by which it was kept in repair, viz. by a taxation on the adjacent manors, places and bounds, according to their respective value.

These places, manors or bounds, which were chargeable with the repairs of the bridge, were accustomed from time immemorial to elect two men from among themselves, to be wardens and overseers of the repairs of the bridge.

There is no account upon record of its being destroyed or injured by any foreign or domestic enemy, 'till the time of Henry III., when it suffered in consequence of the civil commotions betwixt that monarch and his barons. Kilburn indeed says, that "King John attempted to burn it, when he besieged de Albinet in the castle, but that Robert Fitz Walter put out the fire and saved it."

In the year 1264, on Good Friday, this bridge was much damaged by Simon Montford, earl of Leicester, who (as before mentioned), set on fire the bridge and

tower: but this conflagration consuming only the wooden materials, it is probable the bridge was soon repaired.

In 1281 there was a long and severe frost, with a great quantity of snow; which being followed by a sudden thaw, the water poured from the adjacent hills into the river, and accelerating the rapidity of its stream, the floating cakes of ice were carried with such impetuosity against the stone piers, as to sweep some of them away, and considerably damaged the remainder.

After this frost, the bridge continued a long time in ruins. Mr. Harris, says that in the year 1293, twelve years after the frost, "the bridge was so broken and out of repair that people were obliged to go over in boats, and that the wharf at Rochester was so bad that all vessels used the wharf at Strood."

The bridge appears to have laid several years in this

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ruinous state; but king Edward III. meditating a war with France, was induced to make good this passage, which was so necessary for conveying his army to Dover. An inquisition, therefore was taken, A. D. 1344, before John Vielstone, the king's escheater, for the county of Kent, by the oaths of twelve men, about the repairs of Rochester bridge. Soon after this inquiry, it is probable, the bridge was put into so good repair, as to admit of men and horses passing over; but after the taking of Calais, in the year 1347, the traffic on this road was so considerable, and the number of carriages and burdens that necessarily passed was so great, that the wooden bridge appeared insufficient to support them with safety.

In what year the present stone bridge was begun, cannot accurately be determined: it was, however, completed in the fifteenth year of Richard II, in 1392, as appears by a statute made for repairing and supporting the new bridge at Rochester, in which statute the bridge is expresly said to be built of stone. From this record it may be conjectured that the bridge was begun about the year 1387.

Sir Robert Knolles is celebrated for being the founder of this bridge. He was distinguished both by his courage and military preferments, being raised by degrees from the rank of a common soldier to that of a general. He attended Edward III. in his successful campaigns to France; and when the king's affairs declined by the ill state of health of Edward the black prince, Sir Robert was sent over to the continent with an army of thirty thousand men. He advanced into the heart of France, and extended his conquests as far as the gates of Paris. In this, and many other expeditions, he acquired great riches, and returned to his country laden with wealth and honor.

Lambard says, Sir Robert built this bridge with "the spoils of towns, castles, churches, monasteries and cities, which he burnt and destroyed; so that the

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ruins of houses, &c. were called Knolles's Mitres."

But if Sir Robert really acquired his wealth by these methods, it must be acknowledged, that in building

this bridge he made some kind of restitution, even to the subjects of the country which he had pillaged, by expending the money in a public work; and in such a part of the county as would be most beneficial to them in their journey from Dover to London.

Though Sir John de Cobham joined with Sir Robert in the petition to parliament, to obtain a statute for the repairs of the new bridge; yet it is evident from the concurrent testimony of ancient authors, that it was built chiefly at the expence of Sir Robert./1

This bridge, for height and strength, is allowed to be superior to any in England, excepting the bridges at London and Westminster. It is above five hundred and sixty feet long and fifteen feet broad, and about forty yards nearer the castle than was the old one, its east end being just by the north-west angle of the castle wall. The motives which induced Sir Robert to alter the situation of the bridge, are not very apparent. The statute, enacted for the repairs of his new bridge, calls it a "better place."

Nothing, however, but an absolute impracticability of rebuilding on the ancient spot, should have induced the founder to this removal: as the former place was so much more eligible, on account of its being in a direct line with the great streets of Rochester and Strood, which would have rendered the bridge far more noble and commodious, than it is in its present situation./2

/1 The above mentioned petition to parliament asserts, that "The new bridge contains in length more than the old bridge." The sum of the parts appropriated to the places, manors, &c. for the repairs in future, amounts to 566 feet, one inch, and half a quarter of an inch.

/2 The foundation of the old bridge is still visible at low water, in spring tides, the ground there being frequently dry.

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After the bridge was completed, Sir Robert Knolles and Sir John de Cobham petitioned the king in parliament for a statute to support their new structure; and as the bridge was considerably longer than the former, they shewed very accurately in feet, inches, and quarters of inches, the proportion of the repairs belonging to each division, according to the former ancient regulations. Agreeable to which it was enacted, by two statutes, one made in the fifteenth, the other in the twenty-first year of Richard II. that the bridge should be repaired by the divisions there specified; which specification of the proportions assigned to be repaired by each division may not be unacceptable to the reader, especially as these statutes are still in force.

Divisions. Ft. In. Qrs. Pts.

- | | |
|---|--|
| I. The manors of Borstalle, Cokil= | |
| stane, Frendesbury, and Stoke, | |
| shall repair from the east arm of | |
| the bridge 64 0 3 0 | |
| II. The manors of Gillyngham and | |
| Chatham 21 4 1 0 | |
| III. The manors and places of Hallynge, | |
| Trotisclyve, Mallynge, Southflete, | |

Stone, Pynyndene, and Faulkham	53 4 2 2
IV. The manors, places, and bounds of Eylsford, and its whole lathe, those upon the hills, and of Okle, Ufen= halle, Smalelande, Consyntone, Dudeslande, Gislardeslande, Wol= deham, Burgham, Acclesse, Her= stede, Farleghe, Therstane, Chalke, Henhurste, and Hothdone	74 8 3 2
V. The manors of Wrotham, Maide= stane, Otteryngbury, Netilstede, the two Peckhams, Heselholte, Mereworthe, Lillebourne, Swan= tone, Offeham, Dittone, and Westerhame	85 6 0 0

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Divisions. Ft. In. Qrs. Pts.

VI. The manors, places, and bounds of Hollyngbourne, and the whole lathe thereto belonging	85 6 0 0
VII. and VIII. The manors and places of Hoo	96 0 2 2
IX. The manors of Northflete, Clyve, Heyham, Dentone, Meltone, Lo= desdone, Mepeham, Snodelonde, Bierlinge, Padelesworthe, and all dwelling in those valleys	85 6 0 0

The whole length of the bridge 566 1 0 2

The aforesaid statutes further enact, that the said persons, manors, places, and bounds, should be considered as a community; and give them power to choose two men annually, from among themselves, who should be called wardens of the new bridge at Rochester, have the superintendency of it, and provide for the repairs. It was also permitted them to acquire lands, &c. to the amount of two hundred pounds a year, and to hold them as wardens of the said bridge. They were to be accountable to certain auditors, appointed by the community to examine their receipts, disbursements, &c./1

/1 Lands and tenements proper, belonging to Rochester bridge, in the reign of Henry VIII.

The manor of Langden was given by the bishop of Rochester, and others.

The manor of Little Delce, near Rochester, by Mr. Justice Kitchell, and others.

The manor of Rose Court in Greane, by king Richard II, being forfeited to the crown, by John Cobham, and others.

The manor of Nashenden, by John Peckham, and others.

Tenements in Rochester, by the king, the bishop of Durham, and others.

Lands and tenements in Frensbury, by John Double, and others.

Lands and tenements in Dartford, by John Trelingham, and others.

Lands and rents in the isle of Shepey, by the king, and others.

Lands in Halstow, by

Lands in Hoo, by

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In the ninth year of Henry V. A. D. 1422, a statute

was made confirming the two former acts, and enabling the wardens to purchase and receive lands, tenements, and rents, of any persons whatsoever, and, with their successors, to hold them for ever, for the repairs of the said bridge. They were permitted also to have a common seal, and had power to plead in any court, by the name of the wardens of the new bridge at Rochester.

About sixty years after the bridge was finished, it required some repair: for in the year 1445, the prior and convent of Rochester gave towards the bridge, then broken, forty shillings, which was toll-money due to them from the wardens. And in the following year, king Henry VI. made them a present of some ground, on each side the bridge, with the house called Barbican, for its better accommodation.

Mr. Harris relates a very curious anecdote concerning the bridge, from a manuscript written originally by Sir Roger Manwood, chief baron of the exchequer, in the year 1588, and at that time one of the bridge wardens. "In the year 1489," says he, "Rochester bridge being much broken, and out of repair, John Morton, archbishop of Canterbury, published a remission from purgatory, for forty days, of all manner of sins, to all such persons as would give any thing towards its repairs."

Forty marks rent out of Sharingden and Nesse, in the isle of Elmley, by king Richard II, forfeited by John Cobham, &c.

A rent of eight quarters of Barley, out of Great Delce, near Rochester.

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

Seven acres of land, at Little Delce.

Sixteen acres, at Dartford.

Thirty acres of salt marsh land, at Eastwick and Sparts, near Hoo and Greane.

A grant from the King, of a rent of five pounds per annum, from the hundred of Blengate.

The manor of Southall, alias Tilbury, in Essex, given by king Richard II. and forfeited to the crown, by John Cobham, and his feoffees.

The chief messuage of Cornhill, in London, given by Richard II. Other tenements in London, given by Wayngord, and others.

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From hence it appears, that the repairs of the bridge had been much neglected in the hundred years it had stood: and that the prelate thought it an object of too much importance, to be neglected any longer. Though the method he took to procure money, may appear somewhat extraordinary, yet it seems to have answered his intentions; for about twenty years after, archbishop Warham adorned great part of the coping of the bridge with iron bars neatly wrought; which indicates that the bridge itself was at that time in good condition, and probably the iron balustrade was put up with the surplus of the money raised by Morton's subscriptions.

Archbishop Warham did not finish this work, being prevented by death, or the loss of his prerogatives in the reign of Henry VIII. and the succeeding reigns being turbulent, it remained unfinished 'till the time of Mr. Lambard, A. D. 1570. When it was compleated, does not appear, but probably soon after he wrote his

Perambulation.

Notwithstanding the repairs that archbishop Morton had given this bridge, about the year 1490, in the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign, time and neglect had not a little contributed to its decay. Mr. Lambard affirms, that, "the revenue of the bridge was converted to private uses, and that the county was charged with a toll and fifteenth, to supply this public want; yet the bridge went out of repair, and was threatened with absolute destruction."

In the year 1573, queen Elizabeth made a tour into Kent, and, as was before observed, resided five days at Rochester. Being informed by her principal secretary Sir William Cecil, of the ruinous state of this bridge she was pleased to grant a commission to certain lords, to Sir William, and divers knights and gentlemen of the county, to examine the defects, and find means to remedy them: and, in this particular, the assiduity of the chief baron of her majesty's

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exchequer merits commendation, who, surmounting every difficulty projected a scheme for its present and future preservation; and procured the statute of the eighteenth of Elizabeth, which was made for the perpetual maintenance of Rochester bridge, by which it appears, that certain rents and revenues were appropriated towards its repairs.

This statute enacts, that on the morrow after the general quarter sessions of the peace in the county of Kent, next after Easter, the wardens and commonalty of the lands contributory to the repairs of the bridge, as many as conveniently may, shall assemble at the castle of Rochester, and choose two persons of their commonalty to be wardens of the bridge, residing in the county; and twelve persons of their commonalty to be assistants to the wardens for one year, and thus to assemble and elect in the said place annually for ever.

A Warden elected and refusing to serve, forfeits ten pounds. The wardens have power to appoint officers under them, with such stipends or wages, as they shall think necessary. Every year, on Thursday in Whitsun week, the two late wardens shall have their accounts audited, in presence of one of the new wardens at least, and four of the assistants; who were ordered to meet at the Crown Inn near the bridge at Rochester, or at any other convenient place; no contribution was to be demanded from the ancient lands, manors, &c. unless the new fund, or lands proper proved insufficient to defray the expence.

Nine years after, A. D. 1584, the new fund proving inadequate to the necessary repairs, and the wardens and assistants not having sufficient authority to levy money on the contributory manors, &c. a statute was provided, investing them with full power to assess the lands for the repairs of the bridge, and to distrain in case of a refusal.

This statute, of the twenty-seventh of Elizabeth,

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enacts, that two householders, at least from every parish within seven miles of the bridge, in which are four

houholders, (being owners of contributary lands), shall be present on the day of electing the wardens and assistants, under the penalty of ten shillings; and that the wardens, assistants, and inhabitants, at such annual elections, shall defray their own charges.

The day of election proving very inconvenient, it was altered by a statute, in the first year of queen Ann, A. D. 1702, and for the future appointed to be on Friday, next after Easter week.

The improvements in the estates belonging to this bridge, have proved sufficient for its repair, without any assistance from the contributary lands, for many years past; and we indulge a confident hope that a period may arrive, when the surplus of these revenues will be sufficient **for the erection of** a new bridge on a better plan than the present, and on the place where the old bridge originally stood, which is justly considered, in regard both to beauty and convenience, as a far more eligible situation. Nearly forty years ago, the yearly value of the lands proper, is stated to amount to one thousand pounds per annum.^{/1} The annual value is now upwards of three thousand pounds, and a surplus in the hands of the wardens and assistants of at least twenty-six thousand.

THE BRIDGE CHAMBER.

The Bridge Chamber, or Record Room, is a neat building of Portland stone, with a portico beneath, occupying the site of the western porch of a chapel, or chauncry, that was founded by the potent baron John de Cobham, at the time of the building of the bridge. The chapel is now a dwelling house, and the entrance of it is through a portico nearly opposite the east end of the bridge. In the apartment above

^{/1} Hasted's History of Kent, vol. 2. p. 20.

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the portico the muniments of the bridge are kept; and over the gate-way of the Crown Inn, is the audit chamber, in which the wardens and assistants hold their meetings. A considerable part of the stone mouldings of the gothic door of the chapel is in good preservation, and on each side of the door are mouldings of the west windows that had also pointed arches. Traces of the old windows in the east and south walls are discernible in the yard of the same Inn. The chapel was designed principally for the use of travellers; three chaplains were appointed to officiate in it, who were to have a salary of six pounds each yearly, payable from the receipts of the bridge estates. By the rules established by the founders there were to be three masses said every day; the first between five and six o'clock in the morning, the second between eight and nine, the third between eleven and twelve, to the end that travellers might have an opportunity of being present at these divine offices, this being the principal cause for which the chantry was endowed. At each mass there was to be a special collect for all the living and dead benefactors to the bridge and chapel, and for the souls of the founder and his lady, of Sir Robert Knolles and his lady, whose names were to be recited. This chapel was called Alle-solven, or All Souls: It appears to

have ceased to be a place of divine worship by disuse, rather than from legal dissolution: for "I find," says Mr. Thorpe, who mentions this circumstance,¹ "by a plea in the Exchequer, that in the nineteenth of Elizabeth, the Queen's attorney general sued the wardens of the bridge for the sum of five hundred and thirteen pounds, being the amount of eighteen pounds per annum (which used to be paid to the chaplains,) for twenty-eight years and a half, then last past; which sum was at that time presumed to be forfeited and due to the Queen by virtue of the Act of 1st Edward VI. for dissolving chantries, &c. But it not appearing to the jury that any service had

¹ Custumale Roffense, p. 150.

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been performed there, nor stipend paid to any chaplain or chantry priest, for officiating there, for five years next before the passing that Act, (according to the limitation therein specified,) a verdict was given for the wardens."

Over the centre window of the Record Room, in which are deposited the archives of the bridge, are the arms of Sir Robert Knolles, and John de Cobham, with a lion passant guardant, or, (part of the city arms,) in chief; above is a mural crown; and below, the motto, *Publica privatis*. Immediately beneath the window, is this inscription: —

Custodes et communitas
Pro sustentatione et gubernatione
Novi pontis Roffen.
Hanc porticum
Ad munimenta sua conservanda
Instaurari fecerunt.
MDCCXXXV.

Below this, on a kind of band, continued along the middle of the building, are seven small shields cut in stone, in resemblance of the same number that stood in front of the ancient porch, and were too much corroded by the weather to be placed up again. On these shields are the arms of Richard II. and of his uncles, John of Gaunt, Edmund of Langley, and Thomas of Woodstock, &c. in whose time the chapel was built. On the common seal of the wardens and commonalty, is a view of the bridge in its ancient state, with a draw bridge in the centre, and Rochester Castle near the east end: on another seal belonging to them, is a curious representation of God the Father, seated in a rich gothic chair, or throne, and supporting the figure of our Saviour on the cross: round the verge are these words:

Sigillu' : Gardianoru' : Commutatis : Pontis : Roffensis.

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THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The school and house for the upper master joins to the gate of the church precincts, leading towards St. Margaret's, and the room over that gate belongs to the master's house. This school was founded by Henry VIII. with an appointment of an upper and an under

master, and of twenty boys called "King's scholars;" to be educated on the foundation, with a yearly allowance, which they have, each of them, from the church. The school was established, according to the words of the charter; "Ut pietas et bonnæ literæ perpetuo in nostra ecclesia suppulscant, crescant, et florent; et suo tempore in gloriam Dei; et rei= publicæ commodum, et ornamentum fructificant."

Henry VIII. endowed this school with four exhibitions, to be paid by the church to four scholar; two of them to be of Oxford, and two of Cambridge; which exhibitions of five pounds a year to each person, they enjoy till they have taken the degree of A. M. provided they continue members of the universities, and have not the good fortune to be elected fellows of their respective colleges.

The other benefactor to this school was Robert Gunsley, Clerk, rector of Titsey in Surrey, who by his will, dated December 15th, 1618, bequeathed to the master and fellows of University college, Oxford, sixty pounds per annum, for the maintenance of four scholars, to be chosen from the free-school of Maidstone, and from this grammar-school, natives of the county of Kent; who are to be allowed chambers and fifteen pounds a year each; the preference to be given to his own relations, particularly to those of the name of Ayerst./1

/1 The scholars who have been sent from this school, on Mr. Gunsley's foundation, are as follows. (Note F. K. signifies founder's kinsmen.)

F. K. Thomas Ayerst, elected for the first choice, November 17th, 1648.

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At this school the reverend William Ayerst, D. D. late prebendary of Canterbury, received the first part of his education, under Paul Baristow, M. A. The doctor was secretary to the embassy at the congress for the treaty of peace held at Utrecht in the year 1712. He was a gentleman of great politeness and learning; and much esteemed among persons of the first rank and distinction, who were his contemporaries.

The late reverend M. Jonathan Soan, master of this school had the happiness to educate Mr. John Pilgrim, a most amiable, learned and ingenious youth; who was removed from hence to St. John's college in Cambridge. Rapid and extensive was the progress he made in the different branches of learning, which are assiduously cultivated in that ancient seminary. But unhappily for his family and friends, though not for himself, since young as he was, he was exemplarily virtuous, and religious; his days were soon numbered. He died in the year 1753, of a lingering disorder, the effects probably of too intense an application to his studies, but not before he had been favored with one

F. K. Thomas Deane, May 3, 1659.

F. K. James Deane.

F. K. Edward Deane, December 21, 1671.

Thomas Allen, June 4, 1685.

F. K. Thomas Ayerst, August 31, 1691.

James Dixon, July 24, 1693.

- F. K. Gunsley, John Ayerst, March 8, 1700.
 John Walsall, February 2, 1704.
 James Hales, April 24, 1716.
 Francis Gibson, March 24, 1720-21.
 Henry Swinden, September 14, 1722.
 William Dormer, June 17, 1735.
 F. K. Francis Gunsley Ayerst, October 12, 1744.
 Austen Gammon, September 16, 1749.
 Edmund Faunce, February 15, 1753.
 Richard Fletcher, February 27, 1756.
 James Allett Leigh, 1789.
 George Davies, November 1803.

We would willingly have continued the list down to the present time; but we cannot find, on the most diligent enquiry, that any regular account of the scholars who have been sent to the university from this school subsequently to the year 1756, is preserved.

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of the highest marks of distinction, the university of Cambridge confers on such of her members who excel in philosophic sciences, and had also obtained one of the honorary rewards judiciously instituted in the preceding year by its illustrious chancellor, the late duke of Newcastle, in order to encourage the advancement of classical knowledge.

Mr. Soan might also justly boast of having had for his scholar the late worthy and eminent Richard Leigh, Esq.; recorder of this city: whose death **was** a loss justly lamented by this town, and by his country.

This royal grammar school, has, since its foundation, supplied the universities with many excellent scholars besides those above mentioned. The **late** upper master **was** the reverend John Griffiths, A. M. late fellow of Queen's college, Oxford, who for some years conducted the school (the fame of which **was** more widely diffused during the time that he presided over it, than at any former period,) with much credit to himself, and with much advantage to his numerous scholars. **Many of these were afterwards distinguished at the university,** among whom may be mentioned the Rev. Thomas Stephen Hodges, of University college; the Rev. Richard Sankey, fellow of Corpus and now Head Master of the School at Brompton in Middlesex; the Rev. Edward Heawood, Master of the endowed School at Sevenoaks; the Rev. Robert Walker, Tutor of Wadham College, and some others educated either wholly or in part under Dr. Griffiths in this School. His predecessor was the reverend Evan Rice, A. M. of Pembroke college, Oxford, under whose care he himself had been educated, and upon whose death in 1801, he succeeded to the School. The assistant master **was** the Rev. James Jones, rector of Kingsdown, in this country.

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ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH.

In the time of Gundulph, and for almost a century after, what is now styled the parish of St. Margaret was dependent upon that of St. Nicholas; and as long as that inferiority subsisted, the chapel of the one underwent the same changes with the altar of the other¹. A separation was, however, made by bishop Glanvill, who granted the church of St. Margaret,

with all the profits of it, to the hospital of St. Mary, which he had founded in Strood; reserving only a payment of half a mark per year to the priory of Rochester, instead of the oblations which the members of that religious house used to receive from it². Notice has been more than once taken in this history, of the heavy complaints brought against this prelate by the monks of St. Andrew, for his arbitrary and unjust treatment of them; and whoever is acquainted with the avaricious and encroaching spirit of those regulars, must be aware, that no pains would be wanting in order to recover the estates and churches which they pretended had been wrested from them. Fruitless were their attempts while Glanvill lived; but after his death they had some success in their applications to the court of Rome, A. D. 1239. In consequence of a letter from pope Gregory IX. the dispute between the convent and the hospital was referred to arbitrators, who, cancelling what they pronounced to be a forced composition made by the bishop and priory, not only decreed a restitution of the church of St. Margaret to the monks, but granted to them, out of the tithes of Aylesford, an additional pension of eighteen marks, to the two to which they were before entitled³. The master and brethren of the hospital, being

/1 Regist. Roff. p. 6, 8, 48.

/2 Regist. Roff. p. 50, 178

/3 Angl. Sacr. v. 1. p. 349.

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dissatisfied with this determination, appealed in their turn to Innocent IV. who appointed Richard, a cardinal deacon, with the bishop of Præneste, to enquire into the merits of the point contested; and the former, by an instrument (the original of which is now remaining among the archives of the church of Rochester, with the cardinal's seal appendant to it) confirmed the first agreement entered into by Glanvill and the monks¹. An end was not however put to this dispute by this award: for it appears that Alexander IV. the successor of Innocent, adjudged, March 11th, in the second year of this pontificate, A. D. 1256, that the church of St. Margaret should for the time to come belong to the priory, and that the hospital should not hereafter be subject to any imposition of the church of Aylesford². This decision was final. The appropriation of the parish of St. Margaret, and the right of presenting a vicar, was enjoyed by the monks till the dissolution of their convent; and king Henry VIII. settled the same, by his charter of endowment, on the present dean and chapter.

As St. Margaret's was a subordinate district, it seems rather surprising that there should be within it a building consecrated to religious purposes, when the inhabitants of St. Nicholas were obliged to perform their devotions at an altar in the cathedral. But it is very clear from the passages in the Regist. Roff. before referred to, that there was certainly a church or chapel (for both terms are indiscriminately used) in this quarter soon after the conquest; though the time of its being erected is unknown, as are also the dimensions and almost every other circumstance relating to it. There is the same difficulty in discovering the period

at which this edifice was rebuilt; but the names of some few benefactors to one or the other of these churches, and to the parish, are not sunk into oblivion.

/1 Registr. Roff. p. 70. /2 Ibid. p. 560.

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In the year 1361, Thomas de Woldeham, bishop of Rochester, bequeathed thirteen shillings and four-pence to the repairs of the church, and twelve shillings to the poor. John Derham, who had been vicar, gave also a legacy of one pound six shillings and eight pence, about the year 1445, to the fabric¹; William Goldherd left in his will, A. D. 1447, six shillings and eight-pence for his burial in the church; and William Clerke of Southgate, in this parish, bequeathed twenty-pence towards making of seats. Thomas Shemyng, whose legacies to St. Nicholas have been already mentioned, was likewise a benefactor to this parish, giving to it, by his will, a torch, two surplices, and a rochett; and directing a house in it to be sold, the money whereof was to find a priest to sing in the church, so long as it would last, for his own soul, the soul of John Bote, Joan his wife, and the soul of John Carden.

Though the church or chapel of St. Margaret, as dependent upon the parochial altar of St. Nicholas, had been given to the priory by Gundulph, the monks did not acquire an appropriation of all the profits of it, till Waleran was bishop of this diocese; but after they had obtained this indulgence, as the oblations were paid to them, it seems most likely, that instead of settling a curate upon it, the duty of the parish was from time to time discharged by those members of their society who were in orders. And it is equally probable, that while the hospital of St. Mary in Strood enjoyed the revenue of this church, the same method was adopted of supplying the cure, by one of the priests of that charitable foundation. However, within a few years after the convent recovered possession of St.

/1 About this period the church seems to have been in a dilapidated state. In November 1444 the prior and convent were presented, at the visitation, for their neglect of the roof and east window of the chancel; and in 1447, there was an order issued from the bishop's court, requiring the churchwardens to repair the roof of the church within a year.

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Margaret, a vicar was certainly appointed, for William Talevaz occurs under that title so early as the year 1272.

By the taxation made of all ecclesiastical benefices in the reign of king Edward I. this vicarage was estimated at four marks per year; and as this general valuation was always considered as one most rigorous and oppressive to the clergy, we may suppose that this poor preferment was rated to the extent of its annual income; nor do the incumbents seem to have acquired any increase of their profits till the year 1401, when a composition¹ was entered into between the prior, with his chapter, and John Eastgate, who was the vicar at that time. As one of the articles was, that the vicar should receive the small tithes of three manors, as well as of the other lands within the parish, it is probable that the convent had before received all the tythes,

both great and small, of these manors²; and as they were manors of a large extent, this was a considerable diminution of the profits of the vicarage. The prior and his brethren reserved to themselves, by this deed, the tythes of mills and of all their demesne lands; but in order to make the vicar some compensation, they granted him an annual allowance of three quarters of wheat, and of the same quantity of barley; and one bushel of every quarter of this grain was to be heaped up. It was further stipulated that this vicar, and his successors, should be content with this portion assigned and never require of the monks any encrease of it. Edmund Hatefield, who was a successor, did not however consider this clause as obligatory upon him: for in the year 1488 he petitioned the bishop for an augmentation, and his lordship very soon granted his reasonable request. The instrument of this augmentation is printed in the *Regist. Roff.* p. 578, in which

/1 See *Regist. Roff.* p. 559.

/2 Those of Neschenden, and the great and little Delce: all the tythes of these districts had been granted to the monks of St. Andrew before they obtained the appropriation of this parish, as Neschenden was a chapel dependent on St. Margaret.

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from the Bishop's having enumerated the various articles of which the vicar should receive the tenth, one would be apt to imagine there had been some disputes between the convent and the vicars, which were small tythes. His lordship likewise determined that the tythe of mills should belong to the incumbent, that the prior and convent should pay him an annual pension of three marks, and one more quarter of wheat and barley than was reserved in the former composition; and he reserved to himself, and his successors in the see of Rochester, a power of augmenting or diminishing the profits of the vicarage, as should be found expedient.

The securing to the vicar a part of his allowance in corn was a wise precaution, against the inconvenience which must arise from the payment of a fixed sum of money, the value of which will decrease in the course of years. Of this advantage an incumbent¹ of this parish was not sensible, or, if he was, he from interested views deprived his successors of it. For by an agreement he made with the dean and chapter, April 24. 1582, he consented to take an annual payment of five pounds six shillings and eight-pence, instead of the pension in money and corn, granted by the composition of bishop Audley. This vicarage is rated at ten pounds in the king's books.

/1 John Ready was the name of this person. The alteration, even at the time of making it, was very prejudicial to the vicar, since he accepted ten shillings only in lieu of a quarter of wheat and a quarter of barley; whereas, according to bishop Fleetwood in his *Chronicon Pretiosum*, the average price of that quantity of the former grain was eight shillings, and five shillings of the latter. But he has in the deed of release probably assigned the true motive for this action, viz. for "other benefits and benevolences by the said dean and chapter on me the said John Ready bestowed." Some recompence has however been made for this hard bargain by the successors of that dean and chapter, in settling on the vicar-

age a larger augmentation than on any other church in their patronage.

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At the beginning of the present century the church consisted of one nave, about 44 feet long by 26 wide with a low and incommodious gallery at the west end. The chancel, (still remaining) is about 33 feet long by 23 wide. It is the property of the dean and chapter of Rochester, it is leased with the great tithes to certain descendants of Sir Francis Head, whose sub-tenants are the actual possessors of it. On the south side were two smaller chancels, erections of a later date than the body of the church: that towards the east end in this part of the fabric which is still standing has become the property of the parishioners, and is the present vestry room with a small gallery built above it in the year 1818 for the use of the girls in the Sunday school. At the west end is a tower containing five bells.

In 1803 the whole of the church and chancel was new pewed, and a more commodious gallery erected at the west end. But the church, being still much too small for the rapidly encreasing population, was in 1824 taken down together with one of the chancels on the south side, and rebuilt with capacious galleries on the north, west and south. Its present width is more than 60 feet. The expence of this improvement exceeded three thousand pounds, £600 of which were given by the society for enlarging churches, and more than £800 were raised by subscription. Among the most liberal of the subscribers may be reckoned the family of Twopeny, including the late W. Twopeny, Esq., the dean and chapter of Rochester, W. Nicholson, Esq. and the Rev. A. Browne.

Adjoining to the north wall of the church-yard is a piece of ground which has probably belonged to the incumbents of this parish from the first settlement of the vicarage. An ancient court-roll mentions their being possessed of it in the year 1317; and according to a deed printed in Regist. Roff. p. 548, a messuage situated upon it, and all its appurtenances, had been assigned to them by the prior and convent of Rochester,

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with the ordination of the bishop. The vicars, we are told, now hold it of the dean and chapter's manor of Ambree, on paying a small acknowledgement; but by the instrument just referred to, the master and brethren of Newerk hospital granted it in the fifth of Edward III. A. D. 1331 to John Folkstone the then vicar, and his successors, upon a quit-rent of two shillings per year, and one shilling for a relief on the death of a vicar. The house, being from age become irreparable, was taken down; and a convenient and substantial dwelling erected in the room of it, the reverend Mr. Lowth, the then vicar, having for several years previously deposited with the dean and chapter, an annual sum towards defraying the charge of this commendable work. The dilapidated state of many buildings on our ecclesiastical benefices, and the mean condition of a much greater number, has long been a subject of public as well as private complaint and concern. This worthy clergyman seems to have adopted a very judi-

cious plan, which, if encouraged, would in some degree prevent the growth of this evil; and if a scheme, which has been tried with success in Ireland, had also in this country the sanction of the legislative authority, probably, in a course of years, few parishes in comparison, that had the advantage of a healthy situation, and the profits of which were sufficient for the decent support of resident ministers, would be destitute of a proper habitation for them. The law of a neighbouring kingdom, here alluded to, is that which allows to an incumbent, on his resigning his preferment, or to his representatives in case the vacancy is made by his death, a certain proportion of the sum he has, with the consent of the ordinary, expended in building or rebuilding a house upon his benefice. But perhaps it might be better to give a clergyman the option of either of these plans, as it may best suit his convenience or his circumstances.

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Excepting the share of Mr. Watt's charity which this parish enjoys, the donations to it appear to have been very few. A. D. 1536, John Wryte, vicar of this parish^{/1}, invested in trustees, for the use of the inhabitants, about half an acre of land, called at that time "Culver Hawe:" by the boundaries as set forth in the Regist. Roff. p. 586, it seems to be that waste spot of ground, part of which is now added to, and the remainder adjoins to the south wall of the church-yard; and it was near the road leading to Bostal, designed as a place of exercise and recreation for the parishioners^{/2}

Robert Gunsley, clerk, by his will dated June 30, 1618, left to the poor of this parish a piece of land in the parish of Hoo, containing six acres and one rood which now lets at the yearly rent of seven pounds. Thomas Manley, Esq. by will dated November 10, 1687, left to the poor widows of this parish, ten shillings per annum to be given in wheaten bread. This, with Mr. Gunsley's donation is distributed in bread to the poor of this parish, on the Sundays in Lent.

John Baynard, Esq. who died July 9th 1792, at the age of eighty eight years, among other considerable benefactions to various charitable institutions, bequeathed by his will one hundred pounds to the poor of the said parish who do not receive alms. He gave also £1000 to Bethlehem hospital on condition that this parish should at all times have a right of admission for one patient. He gave also £300 for the support of the Sunday-school in this parish: and although this school has been kept up for almost forty years, there was no building particularly appropriated to this purpose until the year 1830, when a grant from the

^{/1} Mr. Wryte occurs also as vicar of Raynham, and of Lyngsted in this county. He was buried by his own directions, ante sanctum sacramentum in eccles. sua paroch. St. Margaretæ.

^{/2} A copy of the grant of this piece of land is preserved among the parochial papers in St. Margaret's church.

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National Society was obtained and a subscription opened, with the amount of which two school rooms, each 24 feet by 18, were erected on the waste ground

above mentioned, and in the front of the buliding is a stone with the following inscription –

BAYNARD'S SCHOOL,
BUILT BY SUBSCRIPTION
WITH THE AID OF THE
NATIONAL SOCIETY.
MDCCXXX.

Mr. Henry Barrel of this parish gave one hundred and thirty-three pounds six shillings and eight pence in the three per cent. India annuities, which produce four pounds per annum to teach eight children to read.

Edward Dockley, gent. by his will, dated 11th February 1786, bequeathed seven pounds per annum (part of the interest on three hundred pounds stock in the three per cent consols) to be given in bread to the poor of this parish on the several Sundays in Lent.

On the west side of the street is a poor-house, erected in the year 1724, for the reception of the needy and indigent poor belonging to this parish: towards the building of which, two hundred pounds were appropriated out of the seven hundred and fifty pounds given by Sir Thomas Colby and Sir John Jennings.

The last benefactor to the poor of St. Margaret's was a man, who resided many years in the parish, and whose name will long be remembered with respect and affection by its inhabitants. Mr. Thomas Harling, who by his will, proved in 1828, bequeathed five hundred pounds in the new four per cents (since reduced to 312) to the poor of this parish; the interest to be expended yearly in bread to be given away on the Sundays between Advent and Easter.

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STROOD CHURCH.

Offa king of the Mercians, and Sigered king of Kent, A. D. 764, granted to Eardulph, bishop of Rochester, a considerable quantity of land, with its appurtenances, in Eslington, otherwise Frendsbury.^{/1} We may conclude from a passage in the Regist. Roffen.^{/2} that there was no church in this quarter, during the first part of Gundulph's administration; probably the old fabric had been destroyed by the Danes, for one could hardly imagine so large a district to have been destitute, for near three centuries, of a place of public worship. Whether Gundulph raised any edifice here for this use, is not quite certain; if he did, it was constructed of such slight materials, that within twenty years after his death, Paulinus, the sacrist of the priory at Rochester, thought it necessary to rebuild it with

^{/1} See Text. Roff. p. 72, and 152. In some pages of the *Tessus Roffensis*, and of the *Registrum Roffense*, these terms are promiscuously used, and in others they signify different districts, but it is certain that from the conquest, if not before, Eslington was only a part of the parish, and dependent on the manor of Frendsbury. James Best, esquire, is now possessed of this subordinate manor, and it is said pays a quit-rent for it to the dean and chapter of Rochester, as lords of the manor of Frendsbury. There was a chapel of Eslington in the time of Gundulph, which being rebuilt, was dedicated to St. Peter, by bishop John, the second, between the years 1137 and 1144. It is still standing, but is now converted into a oast house. The learned editor of the

valuable collection of ecclesiastical records, so often cited in this book, supposes Frendsbury to have been formerly styled Eseling, as well as Eslingham; see Reg. Roff. p. 344; but the deed published by him seems to relate to the parish of Eastling, near Ospringe, in this county. The instrument we mean, is a decree of archbishop Islip, concerning an arrear of a pension due from the rector Peter St. John, to the convent at Ledes, in which his grace mentions the parish to be in his own diocese. Reg. Roff. p. 371. Besides Frendsbury had been for almost a hundred years before the date of this decision, appropriated to the see of Rochester, and the church served by a vicar endowed.

/2 Regist. Roffens. p. 8.

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stone./1 John, the successor of Earnulph granted Frendsbury with the chapel of Strood annexed to it, to the monks of this society; and the patronage of this church was one of the presentations which these regulars complained had been unjustly taken from them by bishop Glanvill. Strood continued as a chapel of ease to Frendsbury, till after the foundation of the hospital of St. Mary in this parish, when that prelate being of opinion that the chapel was conveniently situated for the brethren of this charitable institution, he, with the consent of Robert Pullus or Poleyn, rector of Frendsbury and who was also at that time archdeacon of the diocese, converted it into a parochial church, and settled it on this new fraternity. The words in the instrument are, "that the church of St. Nicholas in Strood should be constituted a mother church, and have a burial ground allotted to it."/2 By this assignment the bishop intended to discharge it from every mark of dependence on Frendsbury; for the right of sepulture was one of the chief parochial privileges, and was generally the last granted to any subordinate district. It is uncertain at what time this chapel was erected; and very little information can be obtained from ancient writings concerning the changes it has undergone. There appears however, to have been in it a chancel, dedicated to the Trinity, and another chancel, or altar, to St. Mary; which last was, A. D. 1512 ordered at the bishop's visitation to be repaired by the parish. About the year 1446, Jane Mayhew having charged her executors, out of the produce of her

/1 See Regist. Roffen. p. 118. It appears from the page of the Registrum, here referred to, that Paulinus, the sacrist, built this church; but **by others**, that work was attributed to bishop John: the truth seems to be, that Paulinus built the church with the approbation and countenance of John.

/2 See Regist. Roff. p. 632 There appears to have been in or near this town a parochial church, dedicated to St. Martin; for in some of the instruments of Glanvill's donation to his hospital, he settles on it "Ecclesiam beati Nicholia de Strodes, cum parochial quæ consuevit esse sancti Martini." Regist. Roff. p. 105.

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effects, to glaze the window in the belfry, they were presented in the consistory court, for not having fulfilled her will. And William Rye bequeathed not long after, a legacy for erecting a battlement on the south isle of the church. In 1298, the master of Newerk hospital gave a piece of land, called La Sandpete, for

enlarging the cemetery; and about the middle of the 17th century, the church-wardens of this parish were tenants of the manor of Boncakes for a spot of ground styled Le Sandpete, and Le Playing place adjoining to church-yard, on which some cottages had been built for the use of the inhabitants.^{/1} When bishop Glanvill separated this parochial district from Frendsbury he granted to the master and brethren of his new hospital, for their own use, all the oblations, and profits of it, except the tythe of grain;^{/2} and they were to present to the ordinary a priest, either out of their own society or a stranger, who was to officiate in the church.^{/3} The cure seems generally to have been supplied by one of the brethren; but if they appointed a chaplain, who was not of their fraternity, he had only a fixed stipend for his support. In the consistorial acts, instances occur of the master of the hospital suing not only for tythes, but for mortuaries, a kind of oblation which was most usually paid to the officiating clerk. The vicarial dues of this parish, as having been a part of the revenue of Newerk hospital, were settled by king Henry VIII. on the dean and chapter of Rochester; and they have ever since nominated a curate, who is licensed by the bishop. This reverend body have,

^{/1} This appears to be that valley to the north of the church-yard, on part of which the poor-house is built.

^{/2} Mr. Phillipot conjectures that the tythe of grass only was excepted; he was however, not well versed in vicarial endowments not to be apprised that "Bladum" usually signifies in these writings all sorts of corn. See Vill. Cant. p. 328.

^{/3} See Regist. Roffens. p. 632.

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however, acted more generously towards the curates of Strood, than did the old proprietors of this living; for they have constantly demised to the minister a lease of all the emoluments of the benefice, on paying an annual rent of one penny.

The old church was a spacious building, consisting of a nave and two aisles, extending from east to west upwards of one hundred feet, and in width fifty feet. In the chancel at the east end was a handsome altar piece of the Corinthian order, which is now placed in the chancel of Frindsbury church, to which it was presented by the parishioners of Strood, in consideration of their having been indulged with the privilege of attending divine service there once every Sunday, during the time of taking down and rebuilding their own church. On the south side of the altar were some recesses, consisting of arches supported by pillars of Petworth marble; there were also some appearances of an ancient altar having been formerly erected here. On the north side of the chancel was the vestry room; and under this part of the fabric were the remains of an ancient charnel house. In the south aisle was a small stone chapel built in 1607, which belonged to the Gother family formerly of this town;^{/1} in the pavement of this chapel were some fragments of Mosaic work. The principal entrance into the old church was at the south door, through a large gothic arch of Caen stone; this door and the walls of the chancel appeared to be by much the most ancient part of the

fabric. The tower at the west end still remains entire; and was thoroughly repaired and beautified when the church was rebuilt, with the additional ornament of a turret of Portland stone, eighteen feet high. In it are six bells; five of which were re-cast, and a sixth bell added, at the expence of the inhabitants A. D. 1765.

/1 The Coal wharf next to Strood change, is charged with an annuity of five shillings, to be paid to the churchwardens of this parish, for the vault under this chapel.

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This ancient and venerable edifice having stood about six hundred and eighty years was become in many parts so decayed, and in such a ruinous condition, that it became necessary to take it down entirely. Accordingly, in 1812, an Act of Parliament^{/1} was obtained for pulling down and rebuilding the church, and for other purposes therein recited. For the purpose of carrying this act into effect twenty-four trustees were appointed. The perpetual curate of Strood, the churchwardens and overseers for the time being, and their successors, are trustees by virtue of their situation and office: the rest under certain restrictions, and with certain qualifications, are to be elected by the inhabitants, "occupying houses respectively assessed to, and paying the king's taxes and poor-rates, at the rent or value of ten pounds a year, and upwards." Under this act the trustees were invested with full power "to pull down and rebuild the whole or any part of the church in such a manner as they shall think proper;" and it is enacted that "it shall be lawful for any seven of the trustees or more of them, to make a rate not exceeding two shillings in the pound, for the purpose of repairing and rebuilding the church, and for the payment of the several sums, annuities, and interest charged, or to be charged, on such rate and assessment." It is enacted also, that "the trustees, or any thirteen and more of them, shall have power to borrow any sum, or sums of money, not exceeding seven thousand pounds, upon credit of the rates and assessments for repairing or rebuilding, completing and finishing the church, tower and cemetery; and by writing under their hands and seals,

/1 This act is intituled – "An Act for enlarging the present or providing a new work-house for the use of the parish of Strood, in the county of Kent; for better governing, maintaining, and employing the poor of the said parish; and also for repairing or rebuilding the church and tower of the same parish, and for other purposes relating thereto."

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to assign all, or any part, of the said rates and assessments to such person or persons as shall advance any money thereon, as a security for the principal monies to be advanced with lawful interest." In case the trustees should think it advisable to raise all, or any part, of the money for the purposes of this act, by granting annuities for lives, instead of assignments as aforesaid; it is further enacted, that "it shall be lawful for any thirteen or more of them to grant an annuity or annuities for one or two lives, and not exceeding ten pounds per cent. per ann. to any person or per-

sons who shall advance money for the absolute purchase of any annuity or annuities."

In pursuance of this act, the old church, with the exception of the tower, was wholly taken down, and the present edifice erected on the site which it originally occupied. Its form is that of an oblong square, in length within seventy-nine feet, and in breadth fifty-six feet; the height to the ceiling is thirty-one feet. The entrance is on the south side through a handsome porch ascended by a flight of steps; at the east end is a semicircular recess for the altar. There were a few monuments in the old church; but as they exhibited nothing either remarkable or curious, they have not been replaced in the new one, but are deposited in the tower where they are carefully preserved. Many of the grave-stones in the floor were also broken: even those which escaped damage were afterwards so capriciously removed by the workmen, that scarcely one of them can be said to cover the remains of the person whom it was intended to commemorate.

The expence of rebuilding completing and finishing the church, tower, and cemetery, exceeded eight thousand five hundred pounds, and was defrayed partly by borrowing three thousand four hundred pounds on annuities, and by giving securities on the rates to the amount of four thousand two hundred pounds, and partly, by a public subscription which produced one

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thousand two hundred and fifty-four pounds. Towards this subscription the inhabitants of Strood, to their honour be it recorded, contributed three hundred and twenty-five pounds; and the remaining part of it, viz. nine hundred and twenty-nine pounds, was raised by voluntary contributions from divers benevolent and well-disposed persons residing in the neighbouring parishes, who by the assistance thus seasonably afforded to a parish of small extent and greatly burdened with poor, to enable them to rebuild their church, evinced a spirit of liberality, which can never be sufficiently commended, and a zeal for the support of the established religion highly deserving of imitation on similar occasions.

In this church is preserved a book containing a regular detail of the churchwardens accounts, from 1555, to 1763, (an omission for a very short period excepted,) on a careful inspection of this book it is evident that every part of the ancient fabric was erected prior to the former of these periods. For shingling the steeple, repairing the bells, and keeping up the fence of the church yard are the principal charges which occur in the first four hundred years.

In a garden opposite to the church-yard was found, some years since, an ancient bell metal seal of an oval form, about an inch and an half in length; the basket or cradle wrought figures, represent our Saviour extended on the cross, and an half length figure of a monk, or saint placed underneath in a nich; on the verge was this inscription, in ancient character "Sigillum decani decanatus de Burcester," as this seal undoubtedly belonged to the priory of Burcester, now Bisseter, in Oxfordshire, it is rather extraordinary it should be found at this place.

In the month of May 1772, some pieces of ancient

English coin were found in an old hedge row, a very little south of the ascent to Strood hill; and from under the root of a decayed elm, a larger quantity of the same treasure was discovered; all the pieces which

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the compiler of the **larger** edition of this work saw, were coined in the reigns of Elizabeth, James, and Charles I. nor can we learn there were any of a later date; it is therefore most probable that this money was secreted here during the civil wars.

Some account will probably be expected of the ancient hospital in this parish, which has been frequently mentioned in the foregoing pages; but as it has been dissolved for upwards of two hundred years, a summary detail of the principal matters and occurrences relating to it will be sufficient. The building^{/1} was placed on the north side of the street, towards the west end, and the scite of it still retains the name of Newerk; a word compounded of new work, the appellation given it on its first erection, and by which it was long after distinguished. Agreeably to the spirit of the age when Glanvill lived, it was inscribed conjointly to the honor of God, and of the glorious virgin Mary, and dedicated to what were then esteemed pious as well as charitable uses. Masses were to be said in it for the salvation of the soul of the founder, and the souls of his predecessors and successors, and of all benefactors to the end of time; and the same antichristian service

^{/1} The scite of the hospital is so covered with modern buildings, that very little of the ancient fabric is to be seen. Behind the houses which now occupy this spot, are two arches of the Caen stone, one of which appears to have led from the hospital to the chapel; some thick walls of that part of the building, which it may be conjectured was appropriated to this use, are still remaining; there is also a low arched door way, which leads from the hospital into the orchard behind it. This orchard is the highest piece of ground belonging to the Newerk estate, and still retains the name of an orchard, although there are no trees remaining in it, except one old elm. Near the garden fence which bounds this orchard to the north west, is a well at about one hundred yards distant from the hospital, which unquestionably supplied it with water, as leaden pipes of a very ancient construction have been dug up, lying in a direct line from the well to the hospital. This well, now affords a constant supply of fine water to **an adjoining** garden, and several houses in the neighbourhood.

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was to be also celebrated for the reformation of christianity in the holy land, and for the redemption of king Richard I. who had been taken prisoner in his return from the crusade. This was the superstitious and exceptionable part of the institution; the other branch of it reflects a lasting honour on the memory of the founder, and shews him to have possessed an humane and charitable disposition. To the instrument of endowment he prefixed that passage in St. Matthew's gospel ch. xxv. v. 35, 36, "I was an hungred and ye gave me meat," &c. and he signified his earnest desire to have a constant attention paid to this merciful rule, in directing, that, after a sufficient allowance made for the support of the ministers and servants of the hospital,

the residue of the profits of the estates settled upon it should be applied in relieving the sick, the impotent and the necessitous, whether they were neighbours or travellers. In none of the old deeds relative to this hospital is the date specified when they were executed by the founder, but certainly not before the king's imprisonment; and several of the donations were confirmed by his majesty at Worms, and there attested August 14th, in the 4th year of his reign, A. D. 1193, by William Longchampe, bishop of Ely, his chancellor.^{/1} The society was composed originally of a master, two priests, two deacons, two subdeacons, and necessary servants; and the impropriations of the churches of Aylesford, St. Margaret, and Halling, and of the small tythes of Strood, made, at first, the principal part of their revenues. Several other benefactions to this hospital are mentioned in the *Regist. Roff.* p. 641, &c. Glanvill reserved to himself, and his successors in the see of Rochester, the right of nominating the masters; and exempting all the members of the hospital from archideaconal and decanal/jurisdiction, he subjected

/1 Vid. *Regist. Roff.* p. 640, 641. /2 Of the rural deans.

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them solely to the authority of the popes, the archbishops of Canterbury, and the bishops of the diocese. In the reign of Edward I. the bailiffs and citizens of Rochester demanded certain tolls and customs from the master for the hospital and lands adjoining; but upon application to the king, a writ was issued in favour of this charity, and six of the citizens were summoned to Westminster, and ordered to restore to the hospital the money they had illegally distrained. The point in dispute was, whether the land was in the manor of Frendsbury, in the hundred of Shamel, or within the liberty of the city.

From the first establishment of this house of charity, a perpetual jealousy subsisted between the governing members of it, and the monks of St. Andrew; for these could never forget that their priory had been, in their judgment, arbitrarily despoiled of a part of their revenues towards the endowment of it. Differences and altercations were therefore very frequent, and on one occasion the dispute was not terminated without blows. Mr. Lambard has given an account of this affray, interspersed as usual with many embellishments^{/1}. The story is briefly as follows. A. D. 1291, there having been in this part of the kingdom a very long drought, the whole convent made a religious procession to Frendsbury, about the beginning of June, in hopes by that ceremony, and offering a mass in that church, of obtaining from heaven a more favorable season for the fruits of the earth. The wind being adverse to them as they went, and withal very tempestuous, the monks were extremely incommoded in their walk, and all the ensigns of their pageantry discomposed. With a view therefore of shortening the way, and of avoiding many of the inconveniences to which they had been exposed, they in their return desired leave of the master to pass through his orchard, which he readily granted. Two

/1 *Perambulation of Kent*, p. 365, &c.

of the brethren were much offended with their governor for consenting to this request, aware probably of the encroaching temper of the regulars, and apprehensive of their hereafter claiming as a right what they now asked as a favour. They therefore secured the postern which opened into the street, and determined, with the help of some persons whom they had called to their assistance, to obstruct by force the progress of the monks, if they persisted in coming forward. A smart encounter was soon the result of this opposition, in which, according to Lambard, the disciples of Benedict were worsted: but Edmund de Haddenham rather supposes the monks to have been victorious; he admits however, that they never again attempted to pass in procession the same way. It must be almost needless to intimate to many of our readers, that this historical relation exhibits a curious specimen of the craftiness of the monks of St. Andrew, and of their assiduity to inculcate on the minds of the ignorant multitude a belief of the superior excellence and prevalency of their prayers. They had probably learnt from observation and experience, that about the solstice there is frequently a very rainy season; and they certainly judged from the appearance of the sky, and from the winds blowing with so much violence from the west and north west quarter, that there would be a change of weather very speedily. This then was the critical time for them to offer up their powerful intercession for a blessing from heaven.

When Haymo, not long after his promotion to this bishopric visited this hospital, he complained heavily of the irregularities of some of the former masters, and of their having dissipated a considerable part of its revenues. As the state of it was, according to his representation, so bad, as to threaten immediate ruin to the society, it is rather extraordinary that he should postpone for ten years the publishing of his regulations for the better government of it. By these, he made a

material alteration in the plan fixed by Glanvill; for he ordered that the community should consist of a master and four brethren, who were all of them to be in priests orders, and he enjoined them strictly to observe the rules of St. Austin; whereas it appears to have been the intention of the founder to allow the members of this hospital a greater degree of liberty, most probably from the ill opinion he had of the regulars, and his dislike to their mode of discipline. Haymo upon this occasion indicated another token of his partiality to the monks over whom he had formerly presided, since he directed the master and brethren of the hospital to wear the cross of St. Andrew on their outward garment: and his reason for requiring them to bear this mark of distinction, interpreted without doubt by the monks to be a sign of their dependence upon their convent, was that this house of charity had been endowed out of the revenues of the church of Rochester.

The act of parliament for granting to the king all chantries, hospitals, &c. did not pass till the year 1545; but according to bishop Burnet, a method had been

taken sometime before of obtaining a resignation of several of these fraternities. Newerk hospital was yielded up in this manner; and the dependance of it on the priory of St. Andrew seems to have furnished a plausible pretence to the king's commissioners for encouraging a resignation of the former into the hands of the latter that the estates belonging to both of them might be invested in the crown by one deed. For about nine months before the dissolution of the convent was completed, John Wylbor the master and one of the brethren at the request, as the instrument expresses it, of Edward Northe esquire and by a licence from the king, surrendered to the prior and convent the scite of the hospital, with all its appurtenances. The estates of this community were, at the time of the suppression, valued at fifty-two pounds nine shillings and ten-pence, and it is generally imagined that the whole of them

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were settled by Henry VIII. on the dean and chapter of Rochester.

Exclusive of the share of Mr. Watts's charity, the following benefactions have been made to this parish. In 1632, Anthony Young and Jacob Pemble assigned to several parishioners of this parish, in trust for the use of the poor thereof; four several parcels of land, three of which, containing six acres, are contiguous to each other, in the parishes of Hoo and Frendsbury, and now lets for the yearly rent of **ten** pounds.

William Furner, by will dated May 13, 1721, charged his messuage, situated opposite the Angel in Strood, with the annual payment of forty shillings, to the minister of Strood for the time being, to be by him distributed in bread to twenty of the most necessitous poor widows in this parish; he afterwards released this messuage from the charge, and fixed it on three other messuages, situate in Cage Lane, in this parish. Sarah Phillips, by will bearing date the 24th of June, 1740, bequeathed fifty pounds to the minister, church wardens, and overseers of Strood, in trust, to be by them put to interest, the profits arising from which, to be laid out in bread, and distributed on the eighth of November, yearly, in the parish church of Strood, to the most industrious poor people not taking alms of the said parish.

In 1721 the parishioners of this parish appropriated the fifty pounds per annum, which they then received from Mr. Watts's charity, for six years towards the erecting a house for the reception of the poor of this parish: in 1724 fifty pounds was allotted towards the completing this building, out of seven hundred and fifty given by Sir Thomas Colby and Sir John Jennings: a very handsome and spacious brick building was erected on part of the land belonging to the parish, called Le Sand Pete.

About half a mile south of Strood church, on the banks of the Medway, is situated an ancient building

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called the temple/1. The manor on which this farm house stands, derives its name of temple manor from having been possessed by the monks and brethren of the militia of the temple of Solomon, called the knights

templars of the teutonic order, who had a noble mansion on this spot in the reign of Henry II. This gift was confirmed to them by king John. King Henry III. A. D. 1227, gave this house with the manor and lands thereto belonging, to the masters and brethren of this order, in whose possession it continued not quite a century: for in the reign of Edward II. these unfortunate templars under pretence of their leading a vicious course of life, were seized and imprisoned, and their land and goods confiscated; but as it is well known that they had amassed much wealth and furniture not to be met with in the coffers of the dissipated and profligate, there is too much reason to suppose, that if it was for any sin, it was for that of avarice that they were thus visited by the hand of rapine. Be this as it may, in the sixth year of that reign, anno 1312, the order was dissolved. Pope Clement V. granted the whole of their lands and goods, to another religious order, called the knights hospitallers. Those lands although confirmed to them by the king, were yet at least the greatest portion of them, dealt out to his friends and favourites among the laity. This abuse induced the succeeding pope John to thunder out his bulls, curses, and excommunications, in no gentle decree against earls, barons, knights, and such other laymen as became possessed of them; and in the next year the sovereign relenting, they were devoted to their former pious uses, and became again the sole property of the knights hospitallers of Jerusalem. From those knights, the king (Edward the second), by some means or other obtained a grant of the fee-simple of their lands, in the eighteenth year of his reign; and in

/1 It is now a farm house in the occupation of Mr. Buck.

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consequence directed the sheriff of Kent to take the same into his hands, and account for them in the exchequer. In the reign of King Henry VIII. it became the property of that prince, by whom it was granted to Edward Eglington, esq. who the same year sold it to lord Cobham; in whose family it continued until his unfortunate grandson forfeited it to king James I. who gave it to Cecil earl of Salisbury; since which time it has been transferred to different gentlemen and is now the property of **Charles Gustavus Whitaker, Esq.** of this county. Only a small part of the mansion remains, which is converted into a farm house, where one large room, upstairs, which overlooks the river, appears to be of the time of Elizabeth, and has, since that period, undergone little alteration. Beneath this building is a spacious vault of stone and chalk, in which the knights templars occasionally assembled; and though of very ancient date, is yet in a very perfect state of preservation. Its walls are of great thickness, and the groined arches have suffered little from the depredations of time.

The liberties of the city of Rochester extend over part of this parish; the remainder is in the north division of justices of the lathe of Aylesford, and in the hundred of Shamwell. A considerable fair is annually held here on the 26th of August, by grant from the dean and chapter of Rochester, it continues three

days. Adjoining to the turnpike gate in this parish, is the Angel inn; and there is ground to believe, that on the same spot there has been a house of public entertainment with the same sign, for upwards of three hundred years.

THE END.

Printed by W. Wildash, Rochester.

<This is basically just a shortened version of Wildash's edition (1817) of Fisher's 'History' (1772). Passages retained from that edition are printed grey. New passages are printed black if they are (apparently) original. Passages printed blue are copied from Hasted (pp. 14–16, 19–21), or from the 'Gentleman's Magazine', Sep. 1825, pp. 225–6, which has two descriptions (by E. J. Carlos and A. J. Kempe respectively) of bishop Sheppey's monument, just recently discovered (pp. 50–1). There are four new illustrations in this book.>