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WRIGHT'S TOPOGRAPHY
OF
ROCHESTER, CHATHAM,
STROOD, BROMPTON, &c.

AND
DIRECTORY
OF
THE CLERGY, GENTRY, TRADESMEN, &c.

<vignette>

Embellished with Two Engravings.

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WILLIAM HENRY COX,
5, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS.

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WRIGHT'S TOPOGRAPHY,
&c. &c.

THE CITY OF ROCHESTER

BOASTS of such remote antiquity, that the precise period
of its foundation is buried in considerable obscurity. The

learned antiquaries, whose arduous task is to enlighten the present generation by a recital of the glories of the darker ages, and the skill and cunning of our ancient progenitors, acquaint us that, this far-famed city was, by the Britons, called Dwr-brif, signifying a "swift stream," in allusion to the Medway. The Romans afterwards termed it Durobrovis, by which name it is recognized in the Itinerary of Antoninus. We next see it under the Saxon denomination of Hroffe-ceaster, or Hroffe's Castle, probably from the name of its possessor: Ceaster appears to be derived from Castrum, a castle; and when thus used, generally implies that the Romans had a military station on the spot, which there are good grounds to believe was the case here. Since this period, Hroffe-ceaster has been gradually softened into Rochester.

From ancient records, no question exists that this city was walled previous to the conquest. In the time of Ethelbert I., King of Kent, about A.D. 600, mention is made both of a wall and gate, which are subsequently, and antecedent to this period, frequently alluded to in a variety of grants made. Portions of the walls still remain; they were built according to the four cardinal points, extending from east to west about a mile, and from north to south only a quarter of a mile; from which we may conclude that the city was originally located in a small compass. A part of the wall forming the north-east angle is still entire, retaining its ancient form, height, and em-

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brasures; in general, it is about four feet in thickness, and on the east side it is about thirty feet in height. Time appears to have made but little impression on the interior of the small tower situated in this angle, which has a fire-place, and several loop-holes.

Anciently the city had several gates, which are now no more; some of these were Broadgate, afterwards Eastgate, which stood in the High Street, in the immediate vicinage of the Free School, part of the portal of which was standing in the memory of several persons now living. Southgate, near Boley Hill, the arch of which was removed in 1770, was about nine feet wide; and Cheldegate, which appears to have been in the north wall of the city leading to the marshes by the side of the river.

CIVIL HISTORY.

Rochester, alike under the Ancient British, Roman, Friesic, Danish, and Norman sway, appears to have been

a place of high appreciation and importance. Since the years 568 to 616, when Ethelbert V. reigned King of Kent, to the period of James's abdication in 1688, who embarked from hence to France, Rochester has been from time to time the theatre of a succession of important historical events. A few of these we shall proceed to narrate.

About the year 676, Lotharius, ninth king of Kent, having usurped the throne, plundered the city, drove Bishop Putta from his see, and laid the country waste. In the time of Ethelwolf, 840, the Danes, who in the year previously effected a landing at Romney, ravaged the country, when Canterbury and Rochester felt the effects of their barbarity and hatred of the Christian religion. In 884, a numerous body of these ferocious and merciless invaders, under Hasting, sailing up the Medway, besieged Rochester; but the intrepid Alfred soon forced them to raise the siege, and drove them from the country with great loss.

For more than a century, Rochester seems to have enjoyed some repose, when, in 986, Ethelred, king of

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England (son of the fair but cruel Elfrida), finding a pretext to quarrel with the bishop, laid siege to the city, and pressed it with great vigour, pillaging the church of St. Andrew, and laying waste the cathedral lands; and it was not until a pecuniary temptation was offered and paid to him by Dunstan, then Archbishop of Canterbury, that Ethelred desisted from his enterprize. Twelve years after this event, viz. in A. D. 999, the Danes sailed up the Medway as far as Rochester, with a fleet of ships. The terror they struck into the hearts of the people, by their unheard-of barbarities, exercised in various parts of England at this time, induced the inhabitants to leave the city, so that the Danes met with little resistance; and having plundered Rochester, they departed into East Kent. The successes which attended the arms of these marauders throughout England since this period, obliged Rochester to open its gates to them in 1011, and tamely to submit to the ravages of the enemy.

In this state Rochester continued until the Norman Conquest by William I., when the city once more surrendered upon honourable terms. Odo, bishop of Bayeux, in Normandy, and bastard brother to the Conqueror, was now created Earl of Kent, and soon seized on divers lordships of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and likewise of the see of Rochester, for his private advantage.

On the 7th of May, 1130, the city became the scene of a dreadful conflagration, which reduced it to ashes, and the new church of St. Andrew was considerably damaged. Two other fires, in 1137 and 1177, again laid this city in ruins, from which it did not totally recover for some centuries afterwards.

Robert, Earl of Gloucester, natural son of Henry I., who was general and counsellor to Matilda, in her opposition to King Stephen, was, in 1141, confined a close prisoner in Rochester Castle. In 1215, we find King John, of Magna Charta celebrity, successful in introducing a body of foreign troops into England, with the view of re-establishing his despotic sway. The bishops resisted the bull from Pope Innocent which accompanied these hostile manifestations, and appointed meetings to reconcile the

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barons with the king; but their efforts proving unavailing, the barons seized Rochester Castle. The monarch now sought to possess himself of this strong hold, and accordingly proceeded to invest it in a formal manner, and conducted the siege with vigour; he additionally fortified himself by breaking down the bridge, and securing the passes, so that Robert Fitzwalter, who had marched from the barons with an army to relieve the castle, had no alternative but to retrace his steps after having got as far as Dartford. De Albinet, to whom the custody of the castle had been committed, obstinately sustained the siege for three months, during which the city suffered much, until, pressed by the extremities to which he was reduced, he surrendered at discretion.

We have now to present this interesting spot in a new light of view: -- The third Henry, who it appears had the honour of Rochester much at heart, on the 8th of December, 1251, held here a "solemn tournament, which, it may be conjectured, was in the fields to the south-east of the city. 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.

In 1264, when the negotiations which were being conducted in France, between the barons and Henry III., proved unsuccessful, recourse was immediately had to arms. Simon Montford, Earl of Leicester, proceeded to Kent for the purpose of besieging Rochester, which was

then in the King's hands. "Having arrived on the west bank of the Medway, with a great force, he found an army ready to dispute the passage of the bridge, and a pallisade, or breast-work, thrown up on the opposite side, well lined with a strong body of the inhabitants. He determined, however, to engage them; and having sent Gilbert de Clare to attack the town on the south side, by means of vessels filled with combustibles, he set on fire the bridge and tower which was upon it, (both being made

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of wood) and, in the hurry and confusion occasioned by this stratagem, passed the river, and attacked the enemy with such success, that he entered the city on the evening of Good Friday, and spoiled the church, and what was left of the priory. He next made 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." Leicester, however, was compelled to draw off his forces to defend London, or he must eventually have succeeded, -- finally, the treaty called the "Agreement of Lewes," put an end to the contest for the present.

Rochester was honored by a royal visit from Henry the Eighth, in December 1540, on the occasion of his meeting his intended consort, Anne of Cleves. Fired with impatience to behold this princess, who had been much extolled for her graces of person, he had come thus far, when his disappointment getting the better of his delicacy, he vehemently exclaimed that "they had brought him a Flanders mare."

But a scene of a more solemn nature transpired here not many years after: -- The fanatical excesses which blackened the reign of Queen Mary I., were perpetuated in Rochester on the bodies of John Harpole, of St. Nicholas parish, and Joan Beach, of Tonbridge, who were publicly burnt alive, as heretics, in April 1556.

On September the 18th, 1573, England's illustrious queen, Elizabeth, "of glorious memory," graced Rochester for five days with the light of her presence. This sovereign was on her return from one of her usual "progresses;" for four days she continued at the Crown Inn, and the last day, Mr. Watts, who holds so conspicuous a station in the charitable records of this city, had the happiness of entertaining the royal guest at his mansion on Boley-Hill, to which, tradition reports, she gave the title

of "Satis," in token, it is said, of her sense of the amplitude of its accommodations.

On the restoration of Charles II., this monarch was

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received at Rochester, on the 28th of May, 1660, when he was presented with a silver basin and ewer by the Mayor and Corporation; and having received the Royal Sovereign man-of-war at Chatham, he rested that night at the house of Colonel Gibbons, in Rochester. On this occasion he conferred the honour of knighthood on Mr. Francis Clarke and Mr. W. Swan, both gentlemen of this county.

James II., having abdicated the throne, begged that he might be allowed to remove to Rochester; which being granted, he arrived here in December 1688, under the protection of a Dutch escort; he was entertained by Sir Richard Head, in his house in the High-street, where he continued for a week; but his prospects appearing hopeless, and stimulated by his fears for his personal safety, he privately left the city on the 31st of December, and, with his suite, was landed, by a tender in the Medway, at Ambleteuse, in Picardy.

Rochester has given the title of Earl to several noble-men who have figured in the annals of our country; among whom may be named the greatest wit of his days, and, at the same time, the licentious and inseparable associate of "The Merry Monarch." The last of this name was Henry, son of the great Earl of Clarendon, who died without issue, in 1753, by which the title of Earl of Rochester became a second time extinct, and has not since been revived.

Rochester is situate in the lathe of Aylesford, and at the present time, in conjunction with Chatham, is a place of great interest, as well from its singularly beautiful locality, as its being a place of considerable traffic, consequent on the fertility of the surrounding country, its thoroughfare on the high road to Canterbury, Dover, Margate, Ramsgate, &c., and its vicinity to the Dock-yard and other public works at Chatham; which prove a continual source of profit and employment to the inhabitants, many of whom are induced on these accounts to reside there. Its dis-

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tance from London is twenty-nine miles, and from Maidstone eight miles and a half. The approach to it from the bridge is peculiarly grand and imposing. On either hand the view of the Medway, with its graceful meanderings, presents a scene of interest; somewhat on the right the eye is arrested by the venerable tower, "hoary with age," of the old castle: and the floating-baths beneath, with their gilded pinnacles; the spire of the cathedral a little to the left; the extended lines of the public works at Chatham to the north; and the whole of the beautiful valley of this noble river, with its numerous mansions, villas, farms and cottages, combine to make up a spectacle truly picturesque and effective.

It is built on the east shore of the Medway, on an angle formed by that river, which, coming from the south, runs northward, past the city, and then turning, takes a south-easterly course.

Rochester is divided into the two parishes of St. Nicholas and St. Margaret, and is itself included in the "Medway Union:" -- This union comprises seven parishes, viz., those of St. Nicholas and St. Margaret, in Rochester, already alluded to, the Cathedral precinct, the parishes of Chatham and Gillingham, with the hamlet of Grange, or Grench, and the Ville of Lidsing; the estimated population of which is now about 35,000. In 1801, this was returned at 22,457, and in 1831, at 33,068, of whom males, twenty years of age, and upwards, forty-five were returned as occupiers of land, employing 499 agricultural labourers, and twenty occupiers not employing labourers; 3,500 as engaged in retail trade and handicraft, 398 professionally; 1,590 labourers not agricultural; 692 as not engaged in any occupation; and 121 as domestic servants; and females, as domestic servants, 1,154. This union contains together 10,460 acres, assessed to the property-tax in 1815 at £59,106. The sum yearly expended for maintaining the poor is £12,646, and the annual income of the beneficed clergy £1,647. There are fourteen elected guardians, and four ex officio guardians in this union.

The City of Rochester, it is considered, is larger now than it ever was; it consequently was never very exten-

sive, and consists, principally, of one well-paved street of considerable length, called the High-street, intersected by several bye-lanes on either side. In the High-street are a number of good shops, in almost every branch of trade. 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 plaister; and, according to the practice prevalent in former ages, with <>stones projecting over each other.

Towards the north-west of the Canterbury road, is Troy Town, a large cluster of neat and substantially built houses, occupying about four principal streets, and erected within the last thirty years. It is included in the parish of St. Margaret, and owes its name to a late eminent wine-merchant of Chatham, who being possessed of the ground in the locality, let it on building leases.

Boley-Hill, to the south of the city, is a point of some attraction. From the great number of sepulchral urns and lachrymatories found here at different times, it is conjectured to be the ancient site of a Roman cemetery: a portion of the hill, however, is supposed to have been thrown up by the Danes when they laid siege to the city, A.D. 885. On this hill stands that elegant seat styled Satis in the reign of Elizabeth, formerly occupied by Mr. Watts, of whom honourable mention is made elsewhere in this work, but now the property of Captain Baker.

St. Margaret's Bank is situated between Rochester and Chatham, and stands prominently forward on the south side of the High-street, several feet above the carriage-road. It takes its name from the parish of St. Margaret, in which it lies, and a very fine view is obtained of the Medway from that portion of it called the higher bank, with the ordinary ships, the docks at Chatham, and the surrounding country.

This city, on the whole, is well paved and lighted with gas; water is conveyed to the houses in pipes from an excellent spring near the Vines field, and the supply of provisions of every kind, and fish from the Medway, is plentiful.

THE CORPORATION.

The first charter of incorporation was granted to this city by Henry II., in 1165, since which time, up to the reign of Charles I., it enjoyed the privileges thus conferred with extensions under the successive monarchs. The charter renewed by this sovereign was, until the passing of the Municipal Reform Act, vested in a mayor, eleven aldermen, and twelve common-councilmen, assisted by a recorder, town-clerk, two chamberlains, a water-bailiff, a principal sergeant-at-mace, and two under-sergeants, with

subordinate officers. The mayor was annually elected by the citizens, from among the aldermen, who, with the councilmen, filled up vacancies in their bodies as they occurred; the recorder was appointed by the mayor and aldermen.

Under the provisions of the Act 1, Victoria I., intituled "An Act to amend an Act for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations in England and Wales, passed in July last, (1837) the corporation now consists of a mayor, aldermen, eighteen councillors, a town clerk, a treasurer, a principal sergeant-at-mace, a water-bailiff, a collector of the city dues, and other subordinate officers. These are elected from among the burgesses annually, on the first day of November, with the exception of the aldermen, who are chosen by the councillors. The borough consists of three wards, viz., St. Nicholas, which sends six members to the council board; St. Margaret, nine; and Strood, which returns three. The jurisdiction of this corporate body extends over Strood, nearly the whole of which has recently been included in the liberties, that part of Chatham denominated Chatham intra, and a small portion of Frindsbury.

The Court of Requests for the recovery of debts not exceeding £5, is held in the Court-hall. The amended act, which was passed in the year 1808, provides for the appointment of sixty-four commissioners for this purpose; the mayor, recorder, aldermen, and assistants of the city for the time being, were to be constituted commissioners, and the rest to be inhabitant householders residing in six

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different parishes, viz., five in St. Nicholas, five in St. Margaret, five in Strood, four in Frindsbury, twelve in Chatham, and eight in Gillingham. The jurisdiction of this court extends over the parishes of Strood, Frindsbury, Cobham, Shorne, Higham, Cliff, Cooling, High Halstow, Chalk, Hoo, Burham, Wouldham, Halling, Cuxton, Chatham, Gillingham, and the ville of Sheerness. The court sits the second Friday in every month, between the hours of eleven in the forenoon and four in the afternoon, and eight commissioners are summoned to attend. The commissioners hold four special meetings in every year at the Townhall of the city, upon the first Wednesday after Midsummer-day, the first Tuesday after Michaelmas-day, the first Tuesday after Christmas-day, and the first Tuesday after Lady-day.

A Court of Admiralty is held once a year by the mayor and Aldermen, assisted by a jury of free dredgers, when

regulations are made for the opening, stocking, and shutting of the oyster beds in the several creeks and branches in the Medway; the free dredgers are governed by an act passed in the reign of George II., by which no person can be free of this body who has not served a regular apprenticeship of seven years.

A Court of Pie-poudre is likewise held here, under the mayor and two discreet citizens.

The Magistrates for the city and borough are seven in number, five of whom are appointed by Government for life, the remaining two being temporary offices held by the mayor for the time being and the ex-mayor.

Two Members of Parliament have been returned by this city even since it first exercised the elective franchise, in the twenty-third year of the reign of Edward I. Formerly, the right of election was vested in the free-men generally "not receiving alms," whether they were resident or non-resident, in number about 1,200; but the latter class, except those residing within seven miles from the borough, have been disfranchised by the 2d William IV.; the suffrage being extended to the £10 householders of an enlarged district. The number of qualifying tenements is 1,124, which are not all at present

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rated in proportion to their value. Under the act for the better return of members to parliament, the privilege was extended to parts of the parishes of Strood extra, and Frindsbury. The mayor is the returning officer.

The population of the city, exclusive of that part of Strood which is included in the parochial union of North Aylesford was, in 1831, estimated at 8,075 inhabitants.

The day and night watch consists of a superintendent, two inspectors, and twenty-one policemen recently organized.

THE RIVER MEDWAY

Was by the ancient Britons called Vaga, to which the Saxons added the syllable med, implying mid, or middle, derived from the circumstance of its traversing the midst of the kingdom of Kent, which was thus called, in their tongue, Medweg, since modernized into Medway. This river, the great ornament to the county, has four principal sources; one in the county of Kent, two in Sussex, and the third in Surrey, which may be thus more particularly described: the river, which has its source in several springs in Tandridge Hundred, Surrey, and in the parishes

of Hartfield and Withyham, in Sussex; the several streams uniting near Penshurst; from whence the river runs past Tonbridge to Yalding, where it is joined by a copious tributary, the Beult, from the lathe of Scray, past Smarden, and Headcorn: from Yalding, the united stream proceeds by a very sinuous course through the great hop-garden of Kent to Maidstone, and from thence to Rochester and Chatham. The principal channel of the Medway, from Sheerness to Tonbridge, runs forty-four miles, without taking into account its circular meanderings, while the rivers and brooks which feed it, occupy a surface of nearly thirty miles wide, in the midst of the county, and in the weald; thus increasing fertility, convenience, and pleasure with their translucent waters. The tide of the Medway flows as high as the lock above Maidstone Bridge, where it is stopped; formerly, however, it used to flow up to a place called Farleigh Bridge, and sometimes as high as Barming. Between Sheerness and Rochester Bridge,

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a distance of twenty miles, the channel is so deep, the bed of the river so soft, and the reaches so short, that it is the only safe harbour in England, for the first-rates of the royal navy to lie in. The Medway is navigable for barges up to Tonbridge. On its magnificent estuary might be seen twenty first-rate ships of war, and numerous other vessels. The number of registered vessels belonging to this stream are 250, 100 averaging about 75 tons each, and 150 averaging 30 tons each, employed chiefly in the fishing and coasting trade, which, considering the capabilities of this river for navigation, and its relative situation with other maritime ports of the kingdom, affords a very inadequate notion of what might be effected by capital and enterprize. In a picturesque point of view, the Medway presents many interesting specimens of landscape scenery, generally of the rural and quiet description; the valley which it washes is peculiarly fertile and beautiful, abounding in verdure, sloping banks, umbrageous trees, villas and farms scattered about in every direction. It is plentifully stored with fish of various species; and was, in former times, much celebrated for its salmon and sturgeon. The latter, in particular, were so abundant, that a considerable part of the revenues of the bishops of Rochester were derived from a duty levied on their sale, and several manors belonging to the priory of Rochester, were compelled to furnish one salmon, or more, annually, for the table of the monks. These delicious fish have, however, in a great measure, left the river./* On the Medway, and

in the several creeks and waters belonging to it, within the jurisdiction of the corporation of Rochester, is an Oyster Fishery, and the mayor and citizens hold a court once a year, called the Admiralty Court, for regulating and preventing abuses in the same.

The entrance to the city is over a handsome stone

BRIDGE,

thrown across the Medway, issuing out of the leading

/* Hasted mentions a sturgeon that was caught in July 1774, near Maidstone, weighing 160 lbs., its full length being seven feet four inches.

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thoroughfare from Strood. From the vicinity of Rochester to the great Watling-street road, which extends from Shooter's Hill to Dover, there is reason to believe that the Romans pursued this course in their journies from the sea-coast to London. A ferry, probably, was their mode of conveyance; or, at least, there is no authentic evidence of there having been a bridge at Rochester for many centuries after they retired from Britain. It is, however, certain that there was a bridge here before the Norman conquest, as there are very ancient manuscripts still extant, which mark the portions of land in that neighbourhood, the proprietors of which were subjected to its support. According to Stow, the first mention of a bridge in this place, is in the year 1215. Previous to the building of the present stone bridge, there was one of wood, but not in the same place, it being situated, as Lambarde expresses it, "over against Strood Hospital," in the line of the principal streets of Rochester and Strood,/* which site is, moreover, justly considered as more desirable than that of the present bridge; as the turn and return of carriages, before and after passing it, is liable to objection, on the score of inconvenience. When the wooden bridge was first erected, cannot accurately be ascertained; but it appears to have been very ancient, and constructed a considerable time before the reign of King John; but owing to the depth of the water, the rapidity of its current, the occasional roughness of the tides, and the frequent shocks sustained in winter by the bodies of ice borne down against the bridge, the necessity for reparation was so frequent, that the heavy expenditure became a serious burthen to those who were called upon to contribute to its support. It therefore appears, that early in the fourteenth century, the fabric was represented as being "dangerous for passengers,

and nearly destroyed;" when, under such circumstances, Sir Robert Knolles, assisted by Sir John de Cobham, better known as the "good Lord Cobham," erected the existing stone bridge, which was completed about the year

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

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1392. Sir Robert had been a soldier and acquired great wealth and honours in several successful campaigns in France, during the reign of Edward III., and Lambarde emphatically says of him, that he built this structure "with the spoils of towns, castles, churches, monasteries and cities, which he burnt and destroyed; so that the ruins of houses, &c., were called Knolles's mitres."

This bridge, for height and strength, is admitted to be superior to any in England, excepting the metropolitan bridges. It is 560 feet in length, and fifteen feet in breadth. It is formed of eleven arches supported by piers, the largest of these arches is above forty feet wide, and most of the others above thirty feet. Considerable alterations and enlargements have been introduced within the last fifty years. At one of the spaces was formerly a drawbridge; three of the arches were rebuilt a few years since; the entrance on both sides has been much improved of late years, and the street, at Rochester, in particular, has been widened by the removal of several houses. The repairs and improvements have for many years been effected by the revenues arising out of estates held in trust for those purposes, which have proved sufficient, in exoneration of lands in adjoining parishes, which otherwise, under a local act still in force, would be liable to contribute. The control over these revenues is in the hands of two wardens, and twelve assistants, chosen annually from the commonalty by the residents of those districts and parishes liable to the repairs of the Bridge.

THE BRIDGE CHAMBER,

which is also known as the Record Room, is a building formed of Portland stone, neat in its exterior, and occupies the site of the western porch of the chapel, or chantry of Alle-solven, or All-souls, founded by John de Cobham, at the erection of the bridge. The chapel has been converted into a dwelling-house. Above this portico is an apartment wherein the archives and muniments of the bridge are deposited. The audit-chamber, in which the wardens and assistants hold their periodical meetings, is over the

gateway of the Crown Inn. A considerable portion of the stone mouldings of the gothic door of this chapel is in good preservation, and on each side of the door are mouldings of the west windows, which had also pointed arches. In the yard of the inn are still discernible some traces of the old windows in the east and south walls. The chantry was designed and endowed principally for the use of travellers. A special collect was to be given at each of the three daily masses, 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." Over the centre window of the record room, are to be seen the arms of Sir Robert Knolles and John de Cobham. Below, on a kind of band, which is continued along the middle of the building, are seven small shields cut in stone. On these are represented the arms of Richard II., and those of his uncles, John of Gaunt, Edmund of Langley, and Thomas of Woodstock, &c., in whose time the chapel was built.

Our attention is next directed to the venerable remains of that stupendous pile,

ROCHESTER CASTLE,

the shadow of things and times gone by, which forcibly carries the mind back into the very bosom of antiquity, enabling us, by surveying the now peaceful valley over which it lours, to draw a pleasing line of contrast between the turbulence of past ages, when War was the vital element of our fore-fathers, and Desolation marked their footprints, and the present era, when Peace waves her olive o'er the land, fertilizing its hills and vales, and showering, in the noiseless and even tenor of her way, unnumbered blessings on the sons of industry: -- thus much for sentiment; proceed we now to conduct the reader to this wreck of feudal greatness.

The origin of this once strong fortification is a subject of some uncertainty. Kilburne says, "That Julius Caesar commanded it to be built, to awe the Britons, and called it the castle of Medway;" but time and tempests bring-

ing 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 castle."

How far this assertion of the historian is entitled to credit, will be apparent when it is stated, that, after Julius Caesar invaded this island, his sojourn was so brief, and harrassed and perplexed as he was, it is very improbable he should engage in any enterprise of such importance; and it does not occur that any immediate successor of his was left behind to enter into such a project in his absence. Probability, however, favors the assumption that after the Romans had evacuated the island, the Britons might erect some fortification to secure the place against any similar future interruptions, and gradually improve it to a regular fort or castle. That the Romans afterwards had a military station here is beyond a doubt, since a great variety of coins of the different emperors have from time to time been discovered in the ruins of the castle. Mention of the existence of a castle is made at different periods of our early history, viz. in 480, 765, and 855; but nothing definitive occurs to establish the fact that the castle on which we are speculating, was built before the Conquest. The belief then is, that the present castle was the work of the Norman conqueror, who erected many such fortifications in England; and that Odo, bishop of Bayeux, in Normandy, bastard brother to William, who was created Earl of Kent, and appointed chief justice of England, contributed greatly to the work while he resided in this city. The conclusion, therefore, is, that 700 years have elapsed since the present castle was built.

The castle is situated on a considerable eminence, abruptly rising near the banks of the Medway, at a short distance from the bridge. It is nearly of a quadrangular form, about 300 feet square within its walls, which were seven feet in thickness and twenty feet high above the present ground, with embrasures. It was surrounded on three sides with a deep broad ditch, now filled up, while the Medway answered the same purpose on the other. At

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the sides and angles above the walls were raised several square towers (some of which are still remaining); these contained lower and upper apartments, with embrasures on their tops. The principal entrance was on the north-east, and was defended by a tower gateway, with outworks at the sides.

But that which, by the bold prominence of its situation, at once attracts the beholder with admiration, is the noble keep, or tower, better known as Gundulph's Tower,

so lofty as to be distinctly seen at the distance of twenty miles. It rises to the height of 104 feet, and the walls, which form a square of about seventy feet, vary from eleven to thirteen feet in thickness, and are strengthened at the angles by smaller towers. It is entirely roofless, but, considering its antiquity, it is matter of astonishment that it retains so much of its pristine condition. The view from the summit of this elevation is superb and extensive; from hence the Medway is seen to great advantage, quietly threading its mazy course, and below bridge it may be traced even to its confluence with the Thames, and down into the <>Swin.

The tower attached to the east angle of this pile is about two-thirds its height, and about twenty-eight feet square, and was entered by a noble flight of steps eight feet wide, through an arched gateway, about six feet by ten; the arch is adorned with curious fret-work. A draw-bridge secured this entrance, under which was the common entrance into the two lower apartments of the great tower, which must have been dark and gloomy. These are divided by a partition wall, five feet thick, continued to the top, so that the rooms were twenty-one by forty-six feet on each of the four floors. There is a communication between the rooms, by means of arches in the partition wall. In the centre of the building is a well, two feet nine inches in diameter, neatly wrought in the partition walls, which well ascends through all the stories to the top of the tower, and communicates with every floor.

Within the tower, on the north-east side, is a small arched door-way, which leads to a descent by steps into a

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vault under the small tower, evidently intended for a prison for state criminals, consigned to this fortress.

A winding stair-case in the east angle ascends to the top of the tower from the ground-floor, and has a communication with the other floors; it is about five feet five inches wide, but the stairs are much dilapidated.

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 the floors. These timbers, it appears, were taken down and sold to one Gimmet, who bought them for the purpose of building a brew-house on Rochester Common. In the west angle is also a staircase, ascending from this floor to the top of the tower, and communicating with every room.

The rooms on the first story were about twenty feet high, and were probably intended 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 with the large rooms in the great tower, through an arch about six feet by ten, secured by a portcullis; there being a groove well worked in the main wall, quite through to the next story. There are many holes in the outward walls on every side for the admission of light, as well as for the annoyance of the enemy. In the north angle is a small neat room, with a fire-place, and was doubtless the apartment of some of the officers. In the south-east side is a small door, the wall within which is peculiarly constructed for security.

The apartments of state were in the second story, or third floor, on which the architect has lavished his greatest skill. These were about thirty-two feet in height, separated by three columns of about eighteen feet high and fourteen in diameter, forming four grand arches curiously ornamented.

From the upper floor the staircase rises ten feet higher, to the top of the great tower, which is about 93 feet from

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the ground, round which is a 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.

In the south-east and south-west sides of the great tower, are several fissures from top to near the bottom. The facing and groin stones of the arches, in the south or round tower, are not of the Caen-stone brought from Normandy, used in all the other arches of this fabric, but are of the fire-stone, the produce of this kingdom. From these and other appearances, it is evident that this portion of the building is of lesser antiquity than the rest, and rebuilt, probably, after the damages the castle had sustained by sieges in the reign of King John.

All the walls of this castle are composed of the common Kentish rag-stone, cemented by a strong grout or mortar; in the composition of which immense quantities of sea-shells were used, and which has acquired, from age, a consistency equal, if not superior, to the stone itself; and the whole affords a very interesting specimen of the military architecture of the Normans now remaining in England.

A worse than goth-like attempt was made a little better than a century ago, to destroy entirely this relique of ancient grandeur -- worse, because the perpetrators of the design were actuated by mercenary views, and were only prevailed upon to desist by the resistance they met with, from the solidity and strength of the walls.

Several estates in this county are held by the ancient tenure of castle-guard. On St. Andrew's day, O. S., a banner is displayed on the castle, and those tenants who do not attend to discharge their arrears are liable to have their rent doubled on every return of the tide, until payment is made. The castle is now the property of the Earl of Jersey.

But the defence of this ancient place, which, in times past, was the victim of so many adverse fates, is now committed to a most formidable line of fortifications, more suited to the exigencies of our times, and better adapted

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to modern tactics, extending along the whole line of river and surrounding heights, from the mouth of the Medway at Sheerness, to the right bank of that stream above Rochester Bridge, and are called Sheerness Fort, Hooness Fort, Gillingham Fort, Upnor Castle, that extensive array of works styled "Chatham Lines," Fort Pitt, and Fort Clarence, chiefly erected since the peace of Amiens; -- of the two latter it is our business at present to notice in brief:

FORT PITT

is a strong fortress, occupying the summit of a height contiguous to the New Road on the south, and jointly in the parishes of St. Margaret Rochester and Chatham. It was erected at the breaking-out of the late war in 1803, and originally intended as a military hospital. From this hill may be obtained a very interesting panoramic prospect of the towns of Rochester and Chatham beneath, the river and shipping, the docks, &c.

FORT CLARENCE,

which is situate on a rising ground a little to the westward of St. Margaret's Church, was constructed in 1812. It is secured by 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. It has been for some years appropriated as a Naval Lunatic Asylum.

This city contains two churches, besides that ancient and magnificent structure to which our attention is now directed, viz.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL.

This sacred fane ranks as one of the earliest erected in this kingdom, after the Saxons had embraced Christianity. In the reign of Ethelbert, king of Kent, Augustine, the monk, having preached the gospel at Canterbury, and the county becoming ripe to espouse his doctrines, a

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bishoprick, with a monastery for secular priests, was founded at Rochester. In 604, the first church, dedicated to God and St. Andrew, was completed; this fabric suffered much by time, as well as the ravages of foreign enemies, and appears to have remained in this dilapidated state until the year 1080, when Bishop Gundulph (the same who commenced the great tower of the castle which still bears his name) began the re-construction of the Cathedral upon an extensive and magnificent scale.

The present edifice is built in the real form of the cross of Christ, with a massive square tower arising from the junction of the nave and western cross aisle, and exhibits, like the greater number of these early ecclesiastical edifices in this kingdom, various specimens of architecture.

It consists of a body and two aisles; its extent, from the west door to the steps ascending to the choir, is 150 feet, and from thence to the east windows at the upper extremity of the altar, 156 feet more; in all, 306 feet. At the entrance of the choir is a great cross aisle, the length of which is 122 feet from north to south. At the upper extremity of the choir, between the bishop's throne and the high altar, is another cross aisle, extending ninety feet from north to south.

The west front is 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 displaying a curious device; its remaining beauties being sufficient to attest its original magnificence. Several columns support it on either side, two of which are carved into statues representing Gundulph's royal patrons, Henry I., and Matilda, his queen; the capitals, as well as the entire arch, are cut into the figures of various animals and flowers. The key-stone of the arch appears to have been designed to represent our Saviour, sitting in a niche, with a book open in one hand, while the other is raised in the

act of benediction; but the head is broken off: on either side is an angel inclining towards him, and beneath the first figure, are twelve others, supposed to be those of the twelve apostles, few of which are perfect.

On each side of the west door is a square tower; that on the north side has recently been built, and has, in the

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centre niche, on the west front, a very antique figure, presumed to be the statue of Bishop Gundulph.

After passing through the great west door, the descent is by steps 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, which is judged to be of his construction, from the variety and dimensions of the pillars, and from the circular arches, the formation and ornaments of which correspond exactly 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 visible within two pillars of the great cross aisles, are works of a style of architecture which came into use after the holy war.

The roof of the nave appears to have been since raised, and all its windows, which are of stained glass, renewed and enlarged at different periods, particularly the large one in the west front; on each of which, in the interior, may be seen the remnants of the arches destroyed at the enlargement of the window. Over the centre of the great cross aisle stands the steeple, or gothic tower, surmounted at each angle by a pinnacle. In height it is 136 feet, contains six bells, and a new clock, which was put up in 1821.

St. Mary's Chapel is on the west side of the south end of this aisle, and was anciently the chapel of the infirmary, the altar of which was dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The Consistory Court of the Bishop is now held here, and here, somewhere, also lie buried Thomas Trilleck, Thomas Brinton, and Richard Young, formerly bishops of this see.

St. Edmund's Chapel is on the east side of this aisle, and south of the choir leading to the chapter room, in the south wall of which are evident signs of a door which probably opened into an apartment adjoining the dormitory of the priory, where the porter's business was to keep watch, and summon the monks to their nocturnal devotions. In the wall behind the choir is a stone chest, bearing the effigy of a bishop, recumbent, supposed to be that of John de Bradfield, who was interred here in 1283. It is much defaced and decayed.

The undercroft is spacious, and vaulted with stone, in

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which were altars to St. Mary, St. Catherine, and St. Edmund, the latter erected and endowed by Geoffrey de Haddenham, which appears to have been held in considerable veneration, and was most probably fixed in the east wall, where very evident marks of a large altar are still visible, the basin for the holy water remaining entire.

The Chapter-Room leads out of St. Edmund's chapel; near the entrance, beneath the south windows, were two very old stone chests (one of which still remains) raised about a foot from the ground, with figures of antique crosses on the top; these were undoubtedly the repositories of ancient bishops. The Chapter-Room contains a small library of useful books. A regulation was made several years since, that every new dean and prebendary should contribute towards its increase, in lieu of entertainments they were formerly called upon to give on their admission. A curious and valuable MS., entitled, *Textus Roffensis*, completed in the 12th century, chiefly by Bishop Ernulphus, and part published by Hearne, in 1720, is among the collection. This learned body is likewise possessed of another very curious MS., entitled *Customale Roffense*, the principal part of which was published by the son of that eminent antiquary, Dr. Thorpe, in his *Registrum Roffense*, and adjudged to be of greater antiquity than the *Textus*.

The ancient apartment for the capitular meetings of the monks, was south of the altar, as is also what is now applied to a similar use by the dean and prebendaries. The former communicated with the church, by the door which leads into the present chapter-room; the arch of the door is richly carved and ornamented with a variety of figures, and has recently been perfectly restored, and the door itself exchanged for one in unison with the surrounding stone-work. This door-way is considered to be one of the finest specimens of art in the kingdom, and was executed in the reign of Edward III.

The removal of the old altar-piece in 1825, has exposed to view the whole of the original composition of the east end of the choir, which consists of three pointed arches, resting in relief on clustered columns attached to the wall

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and supporting a gallery even with the sill of the east

window, which is fronted with a parapet of pierced quatrefoils. In the intercolumniations are windows, and the walls are now restored to their original appearance; these windows are re-glazed, after the design of the mosaic pavement of an altar in St. William's chapel. The columns which sustained the groined roof and their carved corbels, are now seen to perfection, by the removal of the old panelling in the choir. On the walls of the choir is a series of pointed niches, with columns and entablature, in the taste of the seventeenth century, which are now brought to light by the removal of the wainscot.

On the north side of the altar, within the rails, are two very ancient tombs of bishops. The one nearest the communion table is supposed to be that of Laurence de St. Martin, interred in 1274. The other, which is open at the ends, is presumed to have been erected for Gilbert de Glanville, interred 1214.

On the south side, near the communion table, is a tomb thought to have been erected for Bishop Gundulph, who was interred A.D. 1107. Another tomb, near this, has a very perfect bishop's effigy, recumbent, with a canopy on the top of the stone coffin, intended, it is supposed, for Thomas de Inglethorpe, interred A.D. 1291. Adjoining this last tomb, is what is thought to have been either the confessional, or a place where mass was celebrated.

Under the elliptical arch in the north wall, which separates St. William's chapel from the choir, lies the effigy of Bishop <>Shippy, in a recumbent posture, who died A.D. 1360. This tomb was discovered by Mr. Cottingham, the architect, employed in 1825 to restore the cathedral. An extremely beautiful band, adorned with an imitation of precious stones, attached to, and part of the mitre, encircles the forehead. The head reposes on two superb cushions with tassels, the face painted a flesh colour, the hair of the eyebrows distinctly marked, and the pupils of the eyes coloured. The hands are closed in the act of prayer, the feet rest on two dogs. On the robe are figures of a diamond within a square, the collar being most beautifully ornamented. Underneath is the stola, but the elegantly figured border only, at the bottom, is

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visible. Under the left arm is the staff of the crozier, the head of which is gone. Round it is a napkin beautifully bordered, and the mantle, which is adorned with jewels, hangs from the left wrist. This effigy is somewhat mutilated.

The Choir, which is ascended from the nave by a flight of ten steps, leading through a plain arch in an unorna-

mented stone screen, on which rest the organ gallery, and the organ, is nearly 550 years old. The roof of the choir, and other parts of this building, are curiously vaulted with stone, the columns of which are of Sussex marble.

The Organ, which, for fineness of tone, has few equals, was erected in 1791, by Mr. Green, and opened by Mr. Banks, the present organist.

The Bishop's throne is opposite the pulpit, and the stalls for the dean and prebendaries are under the organ.

St. William's Chapel, originally called St. Mary's, is near the pulpit, at the north end of the upper cross aisle. His tomb is also situated here. Bishop Walter de Merton, founder of Merton College, Oxford, 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. The figure is recumbent, having the mitre on the head, which rests on an ornamented pillow; on the wall behind are his arms and purse, as Lord Chancellor. He died A.D. 1277. Adjoining the monument of this prelate, is a larger stone chest, much defaced, now all that remains of St. William's shrine, which was the source of considerable emoluments to the monks of the ancient priory. Opposite to this is an altar-tomb to Bishop Lowe, interred here A.D. 1467. 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 aisle is a beautiful tomb of black and white marble, and alabaster, erected to the memory of Bishop Warner, interred here in 1666. On the south side of this aisle, is likewise a tomb of the same materials, erected for Archdeacon John Lee Warner, of this diocese, who died 12th June, 1679, and between the two east windows is another marble monument, in memory of Lee Warner, Esq.

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From this chapel is a descent into the great north aisle, by a flight of steps, which bear evident marks of antiquity. On one of the great pillars in this aisle is a compartment for William Streaton, who was nine times mayor of Rochester, and died in A. D. 1609. Near Streaton's monument are the remains of an ancient tomb under an arch; Bishop Hamo de Hethe was interred on the north side of this church, but whether beneath this tomb, or not, cannot be ascertained.

Besides the monuments already described, there are several others, venerable for their antiquity, and curious for their workmanship, which would greatly exceed our

limits to describe. Two, however, of modern date, which stand against the wall of the south aisle, we must not pass over: -- the one, erected to the memory of Lord Henniker, who died in 1803, is pyramidal, and about sixteen feet in height. It exhibits a sarcophagus, at the sides of which are full-length figures of Honour and Benevolence in alto-relievo. At the side is a medallion, with a coronet and unfolded patent of peerage; against the base, which supports the sarcophagus, are the arms of the deceased. The other monument is in memory of Lady Henniker, who died in 1792, and is wrought in Coade's artificial stone, and corresponds in size and general figure with that of her lord, exhibiting a sarcophagus of white marble between the figures of Time and Eternity.

In the east side of the great north aisle, is a large recess, in which there is the appearance of an altar. The receptacle for holy water is still entire.

On the north side of the Cathedral, between the two cross aisles, is an ancient tower, generally allowed to be the project of Gundulph. This was in later times called the Five-bell tower; but a late antiquary has hinted that the bishop designed this structure, not for a belfry, but as a treasury, or depository for records. The original entrance appears to have been at the top of the tower, and is worthy of particular notice. At about 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 springs an arch, which extends to the summit of the tower; the entrance,

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therefore, into the tower, is presumed to have been over the arch, by a narrow flight of stone steps, still remaining. It is much to be lamented that part of this interesting monument of ancient architecture has been demolished, with the sordid pretext of finding a supply of materials for the repairs of the Cathedral.

The exterior of this fabric has, however, recently undergone substantial repair, under the able and judicious direction of Mr. Cottingham.

The see of Rochester has been considered the smallest and poorest in England, its jurisdiction extending over 91 parishes only, situate in the lathes of Aylesford and Sutton-at-Stone, west of the Medway. In 1834, when a return was made to Parliament of ecclesiastical revenues, the income of the Bishop of Rochester was stated to amount to only £1523 annually; but this is evidently erroneous, for reasons which will be obvious when we state, that the united rectory of Bishopsbourne and Barham, east of Canter-

bury, is held in commendam with the see, which alone was returned as producing a gross income annually of £1549; the duties being supplied by curates with stipends of £250 per annum; besides this, the present Bishop of Rochester is Dean of Worcester, which is supposed to produce an income superior to that derived from the see; and these, without taking into account the palaces, parks, gardens, &c. which the bishops hold in fee simple, added to the patronage and privileges which they enjoy.

The same return reports the gross annual income of the dean and chapter to amount to £7178 annually, which however, is charged with yearly payments to the extent of £2072, leaving a net income of £5106. It was further stated, that the expences of repairs contributed to the cathedral, from 1827 to 1834, exceeded £14,000, (which was £7500 in addition to the amount reserved annually for this purpose), and was supplied out of the funds usually divided among this body.

For the names of the present dignitaries and others attached to this establishment, vide Directory.

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THE ANCIENT PRIORY

of Rochester, as well as the Church, was founded A.D. 600. A chapter of secular priests was first established here, which Ethelbert endowed with a portion of land, called Priestfield, situate south of the city, together with other similar grants within and without the city. It appears that the estates of this community were frequently subjected to plunder by the Danes, and never in a condition to support more than six priests. In this state they continued until the beginning of the eleventh century, when Gundulph, compelling them to quit the church, established in 1089 a community of twenty Benedictine monks on the foundation. These, from the colour of their outward habit, were generally designated the Black monks, and before the death of this celebrated prelate, their numbers were increased to upwards of sixty.

In 1540, the monks, after having for more than four <>years and a half enjoyed undisturbed possession, were, in their turn, dispossessed of a settlement in this church. This religious house was, in April in that year, surrendered by the prior and brethren at the command of Henry VIII. to the archbishop of Canterbury.

After the suppression of this monastery, upwards of two years were suffered to elapse ere the establishment of the dean and chapter took place. The letters patent for this

purpose bear date June 20, 1542, by virtue of which a dean and six canons, or prebendaries, with other ministers for due administration of divine service 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 first statute, the different members of which the new establishment was to be composed, are thus enumerated, "a dean and six prebendaries, six minor canons, one deacon, one sub-deacon, six lay clerks, one master of the choristers, eight choristers, 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." These persons, except a deacon,

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sub-deacon, a butler, cook, and under-cook, are now supported out of the revenues of the church: the two first have been disused since the Reformation, and the latter three dispensed with, as no common table is now kept, as was formerly the case. The prebendaries take in turn the duties of vice-dean, receiver and treasurer; and the minor canons those of praecentor and sacrist; besides these there are a chapter-clerk, auditor, collector of the quit-rents, and a steward of their courts, who is likewise their counsellor. The dean, who must be doctor, or, at least, bachelor in divinity, or doctor of laws, is nominated by the king. The prebendaries, who must have taken the degree of master of <>art, or bachelor of laws, are thus appointed: four are in the gift of the lord-chancellor, one was by letters patent of Anne, A. D. 1713, annexed to the provostship of Oriel College, Oxford, and the sixth stall is appended to the archdeaconry of Rochester. The six poor men, or, as they are commonly termed, bedesmen, are admitted to this day by warrants under the crown. The minor canons, and certain other officers, are elected by the dean and chapter, and the inferior servants of the cathedral are appointed by the dean.

There were three gates belonging to the precincts of this priory, viz. the Cemetery Gate, which appears to be that which is now called College-yard Gate; St. William's Gate, on the north side of the cathedral, which led from the High-street to the north door of the church, and stood where at present is a passage, called Black-boy-alley; and the Prior's Gate, where the Grammar School now stands.

ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH

stands on the north side of the cemetery of the ancient priory. This edifice was first built in 1421, but becoming so dilapidated, it was rebuilt in 1624, as will be seen by an inscription over the west door. It is now a very substantial building, having thick stone walls, which are supported on all sides by buttresses. It is 100 feet in length, from east to west, and 60 feet in width, from north to south; consisting of a nave and two aisles, the latter di-

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vided from the former by two ranges of lofty stone columns, surmounted by Gothic arches, supporting the roof. The chancel contains a very handsome wainscot altar-piece of the Corinthian order. In three of the north windows are painted the arms of several families. A very ancient stone font, near the west door, has inscribed round it in ancient capitals the word CHRISTIAN. The organ, by Bishop, was erected by subscription among the inhabitants, when the gallery was extended, and the pews throughout the church made uniform. At the north-west angle is a square embattled tower, containing two bells. Among the monumental inscriptions, the most curious is one on a marble monument, on the south wall, in Latin, interspersed with Greek quotations from Scripture, in memory of Philip Bartholomew, Gent. and Sarah, his wife, both of whom died in 1696. The benefice was returned in 1834 as a vicarage, of the yearly value of £147, in the patronage of the bishop.

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

appears to have existed at a much earlier period than that of St. Nicholas, but when it was built and rebuilt is uncertain, but the names of its benefactors are on record, from the year 1361 to 1450. The church was in a very dilapidated condition in 1440, in which state it appears to have continued for several years. At the commencement of the present century it consisted of a nave, forty-four feet by twenty-six, with a low and incommodious gallery at the west-end. The chancel (which is still remaining) is about thirty-three feet by twenty-three, is the property of the Dean and Chapter of Rochester, and leased with the great tithes. Two smaller chancels, which were erected at a later period than the body of the church, are on the south side: the one towards the eastern extremity has become the property of the parishioners, and is the present vestry-room; a small gallery built above it, is appropriated to the use of the girls of the Sunday-school. At the west

end is a tower which contains five bells. The whole of this edifice, and the chancel, were new pewed in 1803,

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when a more commodious gallery was constructed at the west end. In 1824, it being found that the church was too small for the rapidly increasing population of this parish, it was taken down, together with one of the chancels, on the south side, and rebuilt with capacious galleries on the north, west, and south sides. The present width extends sixty feet, and the expense attached to the undertaking was more than £3,000, out of which £600 were contributed by the society for enlarging churches, and upwards of £800 raised by subscription. The benefice was returned in 1834, as a vicarage of the annual value of £417, in the patronage and impropriation of the dean and chapter.

Besides these, there are places of public worship for the following dissenting bodies:

BETHEL CHAPEL,

Belonging to the Wesleyan Methodists, is situated in St. Margaret's parish, near that part of the High-street contiguous to St. Margaret's Bank, and was erected in 1810 by subscriptions, at a cost of nearly £7,000, including the house for the superintendent minister, which is behind the chapel, and are vested in trustees who receive and pay moneys without fee or reward. The edifice stands in a prominent situation, on a rising ground, and is distinguished for the elegant simplicity of its structure; the interior is light and neat in appearance, and measures fifty-two feet in length, by forty-eight feet in width.

Besides this chapel, the Society of Friends have a place of worship in Pump-lane.

THE TOWN HALL

stands on the north side of the High Street, and was first erected in 1687. It is a respectable and appropriate structure of brick, supported on duplicated columns of stone, in the Doric order. The hall is forty-seven feet long and twenty-eight wide; the ceiling is curiously ornamented with trophies of war, fruits and

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flowers, with the city arms, together with those of Sir

Cloudesley Shovel, who represented this city in four different parliaments. Several portraits, among which is one of this great naval commander, adorn the walls, all of which are executed by eminent masters. In this building all the civic business is transacted.

THE CLOCK-HOUSE,

which is situated also on the north side of the High Street, occupies the site of the ancient Guildhall of this city. It is an exceedingly neat edifice with a brick front, and was erected in 1706, by Sir Cloudesley Shovel, at his sole expense, who likewise contributed the clock, and afterwards, by a deed of gift, confirmed both to the mayor and citizens for ever. Within this building the Corn-market is held on Tuesdays, and it is otherwise used for exhibitions, bazaars, &c. It is also known as the City Repository.

THE FREE SCHOOL

stands also on the north side of the High Street, near the spot where the East-gate of the city formerly stood. The exterior is plain, but neat. The foundation of this establishment arose out of a legacy of <>£,5000, bequeathed in 1701, by Sir Joseph Williamson, knight, one of the representatives in Parliament for this city, for the purchase of lands or tenements for the building and perpetual maintaining of a free school in Rochester, for educating the sons of the freemen of that city, "towards the mathematics, and other things that might fit and encourage them to the sea-service, or arts and callings leading or relating thereto." At this school about 100 boys are now instructed. There are two masters to this establishment.

The interior is spacious, and well adapted to the purposes intended, and adjoining is a good substantial house for the head master. The funds of this charity have been materially improved of late years, which are found to be abundantly sufficient to carry out the benevolent design of the donor. Several distinguished naval characters have

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been educated in this establishment, and it is worthy of remark, that the celebrated actor, David Garrick, first showed the early dawnings of his great genius while at this school.

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

adjoins the gate of the church precincts, leading towards St. Margaret's. 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 to be paid to each from the church. It was further endowed by that monarch with four exhibitions of five pounds annually, to be payable from the same source, to each of four scholars, two of whom were to be of Oxford, and two of Cambridge, which exhibitions they enjoy till they have attained 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.

In 1618, another benefaction was added to this school, by Robert Gunsley, clerk, rector of Titsey, in Surrey, who bequeathed £60 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 £15 a year each. This school is at present in a very flourishing condition, and is under the superintendence of the Dean and Chapter.

BAYNARD'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

is situated in St. Margaret-street, near Fort Clarence. It consists of two school-rooms, erected in 1830, by subscription, with the aid of the National Society, and endowed to some extent by John Baynard, Esq. The boys' school was opened April 25th, 1831, and the girls' school on 7th October, 1833. The first consists of 113 boys at present, and the latter, eighty-three girls. The establishment is under the direction of a committee.

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Mr. Baynard left £300 for the support of a Sunday-school in this parish, which is held in these school-rooms.

SIR JOHN HAYWARD'S CHARITY SCHOOLS.

Sir John Hayward, knight, having, in the year 1635, devised property for charitable purposes, the residuary legatee (Francis Barrell, Esq.) in 1718, finding the estates to have improved considerably in value, caused to be purchased out of the increased profits, stock to the amount of £636, (subsequently augmented to £1,100) which sum he transferred to the mayor and citizens of Rochester for the

perpetual support of three charity schools, to be called "Sir John Hayward's Charity Schools." Two of these were to be in the parish of St. Nicholas, and the other in Strood. One of the first two was intended for the instructing of twenty poor boys in reading, writing, &c., and the other for twenty poor girls. The one in Strood was for teaching thirty poor children of that parish and Frindsbury. It does not appear that any buildings have been erected for this purpose, but the children are taught in the respective houses of their masters and mistresses.

THE ROCHESTER AND CHATHAM CLASSICAL AND MATHEMATICAL SCHOOL

was established in March 1824. The building lies on the northern side of the New Road, in the parish of St. Margaret, and occupies a high and very salubrious situation. It is a plain but substantial building, having a neat Grecian elevation, with a handsome and well-proportioned vestibule in the centre. The school-room is capacious, and connected with it is a large room for the meetings of the committee and proprietors, behind which is a dry and spacious play ground. This school is supported by annual payments of £40 from each pupil, and an extra charge of £3 each is made for instruction in drawing or dancing. Each shareholder has the privilege of sending a son, or other relative, within certain limits, on payment of

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£1 1s. entrance, to which is added £2 2s. if the pupil be not such a relative. This school is rising in character and celebrity; all who have left it for the great public schools having been placed in the highest classes there, and those who have gone direct to college have shown themselves not inferior to their competitors educated in the first schools in the kingdom. This establishment is in a prosperous condition.

THE LANCASTRIAN SCHOOL,

situated in King-street, Troy Town, was instituted in the year 1774, and greatly enlarged, upon the plan of Mr. Lancaster, in May 1808. The institution consists of two detached brick buildings for boys and girls. The number of children at present on the books is, boys 105, and girls 70, from the ages of five to fourteen years. The management is in the hands of a committee, treasurer and secretary.

Messrs. John Byers and Joseph Boyden aided this foundation by bequests of £100 each, in addition to which two benefactions are recorded, of £1 10s. and £1 per annum.

ST. CATHERINE'S HOSPITAL

is situate on the north side of the Canterbury road, opposite to King-street, Troy Town. This estimable charity was originally founded by Symond Potyn, master of the Crown Inn, and several times representative in Parliament for this city, so early as the year 1316, who bequeathed a house near the Star, in Eastgate, to be converted into an hospital, to be called the Spital of St. Catherine; "that," as the will of this worthy sets forth, "if it happe anie man or woman of the cittie of Rouchester to be visited with lepre, or other suche diseases that longe to impotence, with unpower of povertie, there sholde be receaved in the same spytell, and there for to abide the almes of all christien people." This house having been rebuilt in 1717, was in 1805 abandoned, and the

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present commodious building erected in its stead. It contains twelve convenient apartments occupied by poor people who have an allowance of coals, candles, and money annually. Though some donations have since been added to this charity, it does not appear that the funds are adequate to its proper support.

THE ALMS-HOUSE FOR POOR TRAVELLERS,

which is likewise styled "Watts's Charity," stands on the north side of the High-street, and is supposed to be the original building. This munificent benefaction, which is coupled with a singular interdiction against rogues and proctors, conspicuously affixed to a tablet in the exterior of the building, was made in the year 1579, by Richard Watts, Esq. who represented this city in the second parliament, in Elizabeth's reign. To carry his benevolent intentions into effect, the testator bequeathed certain landed and other estates to the mayor and citizens of Rochester, to be sold, and the interests and profits thereof to be applied to the perpetual support of an alms-house, "then erected, and standing near the market-cross in Rochester," and to which he directed should be added "six several rooms, with chimneys, for the comfort, placing, and abiding of the poor within the said city; and

also to be made apt and convenient places therein for six good mattresses or flock beds, and other good and sufficient furniture, to harbour and lodge in poor travellers or way-faring men, being no common rogues or proctors, and they, the said wayfaring men, to harbour and lodge therein no longer than one night, unless sickness be the farther cause thereof; and those poor folks there dwelling (the master and matron) should keep the same sweet, and courteously intreat the said poor travellers; and every of the said poor travellers, at their first coming in to have four-pence; and they should warm them at the fire of the residents, within the said house, if need be." And further, towards the support of the said house, and 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 certain other lands,

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tenements and estates for ever. The whole of these estates, at the time of his making his will, yielded £36 16s. 8d., per annum; but they have since been much improved by the judicious management of trustees, and now produce annually about £2,300. The lodgings, entertainment and the groat are continued to this day, while the large surplus which remains is, by a recent decree of the court of chancery, appropriated in aid of the parochial poor. The affairs of this charity have recently been confided to the hands of new trustees, appointed under the municipal act.

The trustees alluded to, and who are styled "the Charitable Trustees of the Borough of Rochester," and were appointed by an order of the lord-chancellor, bearing date the 14th December, 1836, are the following: --

Charles Thompson, Esq.	Mr. William Payne.
Thomas Baker, Esq.	Mr. John Lewis Levy.
Mr. John Foord.	Mr George Jefferys.
Mr. Edward Ross.	Mr. Thomas Hubbard.
Mr. John Saxelby Cobb.	Mr. George Lowrey.
Mr. Wm. Patten Haymen.	Mr. William Boucher.
Mr. James Edwards.	Mr. Thomas Jackson.
Mr. John Fisher.	Mr. Edward Cotton.
Mr. Samuel Newson.	

The clerk and solicitor to the above trustees is Mr. Humphrey Wickham, Stroud.

The exemption of proctors, above alluded to, from the benefits of this charity, is a subject of mere surmise. Some attempt to explain away this anomaly by giving it as an opinion, that, while attacked by severe indisposition on

the continent, Mr. Watts employed one of this body to draw up his will; but having at length recovered, much to the mortification of that baffled member of the spiritual court, he discovered that a villanous attempt had been made to convert his property to the proctor's own advantage; hence, it is concluded, arose the exclusion. We may conclude by adding, that, Mr. Edward Cotton, who is provider, as well as one of the trustees, continues nightly to dispense the bounties of the testator to poor travellers to the best of his judgment and discrimination, being un-

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able to detect any legible traces in the countenances of the wayfarers, palpably indicative of the rogue or proctor.

THE WORKHOUSE OF ST. NICHOLAS

is situated on the Common. It is a large brick building, constructed in 1724, by the united donations of Sir Thomas Colby and Sir John Jennings (both of whom have represented this city in parliament), amounting to £750; of this sum £500 were appropriated to the costs of the erection. In it the poor of the parishes of St. Nicholas, St. Margaret and Strood were to be received, supported, and set to spinning worsted and yarn. This employment of the inmates has been discontinued for some years; the why, is among the many inexplicable questions of the day. This workhouse now contains children under the management of the Guardians of the Medway Union.

THE HOUSE OF INDUSTRY

is situated on the Common, near the workhouse of St. Nicholas, and arose out of a bequest made by Sir John Hayward. By his will he directed that the residue of his personal estate, after paying his debts and legacies, should be applied to the relief of the poor of such parishes as his executors thought proper, of which the parish of St. Nicholas was to be one. In compliance with the testator's wishes, a provision was made by the trustees, in 1651, to settle £50, per annum, on the latter parish, which was to be appropriated to the erection of a workhouse, and setting the poor therein to work, and raising and continuing a stock of money and provisions for that purpose. This sum of £50 per annum, was, until the year 1790, regularly made over to the overseer of the parish for the use of the poor therein, when a bill was filed in Chancery, by one of the then trustees,

with the view of discontinuing the payment, on the ground that the application of the money was not in strict accordance with the will of the testator; this trustee further set

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forth that the whole, with the exception of a trifling yearly allowance to this parish, being at his own disposal, it was his intention to lay it out at Crediton, in Devonshire which was the place of his residence; the consequence was, that a report of the master gave him authority to build a house of industry at that place, and to set apart the remainder of the income towards its support, with the exception of £20, to be annually applied to the apprenticing of two boys in the parish of St. Nicholas, Rochester. The erection of this building cost £2,400. This decision has been since set aside, by an application made to the court, on the part of the parishioners of St. Nicholas, and the result is, that, the suit, having remained for a period of twenty-four years in chancery, the lord-chancellor directed, that, as the occupants of the alms-house at Crediton died off successively, the parishioners of St. Nicholas were to be at liberty to apply for the respective proportions thus accruing. In this state the matter now rests. At present, however, the House of Industry on the Common affords a comfortable asylum for twelve aged persons.

THE WORKHOUSE OF ST. MARGARET,

in St. Margaret-street, on the west side, was erected in 1724, for the reception of the needy and indigent poor belonging to this parish; towards the building of which £200 were appropriated out of the £750 given by Sir Thomas Colby and Sir John Jennings. It is now closed, the paupers of St. Margaret's parish being maintained at the Workhouses of St. Nicholas and Chatham, under the controul of the guardians of the Medway Union.

THE ROCHESTER, CHATHAM AND STROOD DISPENSARY

is situated in St. Margaret's Bank, and was established in 1831, by the exertions of a number of public-spirited gentlemen, for affording medical relief to individuals of indigent circumstances. A subscriber to the amount of one guinea annually is entitled to have a patient at all times on the books, while a member subscribing half that

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sum is privileged to recommend two in the year; according to the rules, no patient is allowed to be under treatment for a longer space than two months, unless it is the medical officer's opinion that the case warrants an extension of time. The establishment is under the controul of a patron, vice-patrons, fifteen committee men, treasurer and secretary. Attached are two physicians, two surgeons, and a dispenser.

THE CUSTOM HOUSE

is a building situate on the banks of the Medway, near the bridge. The establishment is under the direction of a collector, comptroller, surveyor, &c. Rochester is one of the five ports of entry in this county. The chief ships which deliver at this outport, are from the east country and America, with various stores for the use of the naval yards; together with other imports, viz. timber and other articles of wood, seed, rags, and rape cake, wines, spirits, &c. these, of course, are to a limited extent; it, therefore, becomes worthy of remark that this city, which possesses one of the finest rivers in Europe, and is, in other respects, so advantageously situated, should be so far behind in commerce, and even manufactures, as almost to call into question the mercantile reputation of the nation.

THE EXCISE OFFICE

is on St. Margaret's Bank. This establishment is under the superintendence of a collector, supervisor, and other inferior assistants. The duties are levied, for the most part, on malt and hops. It is calculated that within this county 300,000 bushels of malt are annually made, and 13,000 acres planted with hops. The hours of business are from nine until two.

THE GAS-WORKS

are situated on the water-side, near the Common, and were erected in 1818, by a joint-stock company. These works supply Rochester, Chatham, Brompton and Strood.

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THE MEDWAY BATHING ESTABLISHMENT

picturesquely stands at the foot of Rochester Bridge, adjoining the pathway leading from thence to Boley Hill. It was erected by a company, at an expence of upwards of

£6,000, from the elegant design of Mr. Sidney Smirke, and opened on the 27th of June, 1836. It occupies a space of about 80 feet square. In the centre there is a splendid saloon, 31 feet by 27, commanding extensive views up and down the Medway. The remainder of the space is appropriated to waiting, dressing, and other rooms, elegantly fitted up for warm salt-water, steam, medicated vapour, cold and tepid, douch and shower baths. The right wing is exclusively appropriated to the ladies, and the left to the gentlemen. A floating vessel, of fanciful and novel construction, is moored in the river, nearly opposite to this building, containing several baths, and a general basin, of great extent, for the accommodation of the expert swimmer, and those desirous of acquiring the art. The whole combines elegance with usefulness, and will accommodate a dozen persons at the same time, though each may require a bath of a different description.

HOTELS AND INNS.

There are some excellent hotels and inns for the accommodation of travellers of every denomination, chiefly in the High-street. Some of these are the Crown, the Bull, the King's Head, the Silver Oar, &c. &c. The parlours of most of these are frequented by the respectable tradesmen of the city. Of these houses of entertainment, the King's Head, the Bull, and the Crown Inns, lay some claim to antiquity: on the site of the two first, it appears there have been houses known by the same names for above 350 years, and nearly on the spot where the last now stands, was an inn distinguished by the same sign for upwards of 500 years, and kept by the worthy founder of St. Catherine's Hospital, Symond Potyn, Esq. in the year 1316.

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THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS

are situated in Free School-lane. They consist chiefly of one large room, well adapted for concerts, exhibitions, &c.; they are now occasionally used for public meetings, fancy fairs, bazaars, &c. &c.

THE THEATRE,

a small neat building, stands on Star-hill, in the Canterbury-road, and was erected in 1791, at the sole expense of the late Mrs. Sarah Baker. The exterior is of a plain and

unassuming appearance. It is now the property of Mr. Dowton, the celebrated comedian, and son-in-law of that lady, and is opened under the superintendence of Mr. J. Sloman, for about three months in the year, for theatrical performances.

MISCELLANEA.

Markets. -- The market-day is Friday for meat, poultry, pigs, butter, vegetables, earthenware, &c., and held before the area of the court-hall of the city. The Corn Market is held every Tuesday within the clock-house. The Cattle Market is held on the first Wednesday of the month on Rochester common, which is situated on the north side of the High-street.

Fairs. -- Formerly two annual fairs were held here; but, gradually declining, they have become obsolete.

Bankers. -- There is a banking establishment in this city, and is of considerable standing. It is situated in the High-street, and belongs to Messrs. D. H. Day and Sons, who draw on Sir R. Carr, Glynn, and Co. of London. The hours of business are from nine to five.

The Post Office is on the north side of the high street. Letters arrive from London at midnight, and are dispatched from hence to London at three in the morning. From Dover, &c. at three in the morning; to Dover, midnight. From Maidstone, half-past eleven at night; to Maidstone at three in the morning. The city delivery takes place in the winter (from the 6th of October to the

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5th of April), at eight in the morning, and for the remaining six months at seven o'clock in the morning. There is also a penny-post to Chatham, Strood, Brompton, and Gillingham.

The Rochester Gazette is a weekly newspaper of some standing in the county, established about seventeen years. It has a fair circulation, and is printed and published at Mr. Caddell's printing office, in High-street, every Tuesday.

Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages. -- The Medway Union is divided into the two districts of Rochester and Gillingham. There is one registrar of births and deaths for each of these districts, but only one registrar of marriages for the union. There are two chapels licenced for marriages at present, viz. the Ebenezer chapel, in Clover-street, Chatham, and the Unitarian chapel on Hamond-hill, Chatham.

Posting Houses. -- There are two posting houses in this city, viz. the Bull and the Crown, where post-horses may be had.

LIST OF COACHES
FROM ROCHESTER TO THE UNDERMENTIONED
PLACES.

Canterbury. -- The Tally Ho, Silver Oar, and Edwards and Chaplin's Coach-office, to London, aftern. six; from London, aftern. six, except Sundays, at half-past eight in the morning.
Chatham. -- Nelson, Edwards and Chaplin's Coach-office, to London, mornings, half-past seven, on Mondays at six; from London, aftern. five (no coaches on Sundays).
Chatham. -- Commodore, Edwards and Chaplin's Coach-office, to London, morning, quarter before ten; from London, aftern. two.
Chatham. -- Hope Omnibus, Eagle Inn, to London, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning, nine; from London, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, aftern. three.
Dover, Deal, Ramsgate, Margate, and Canterbury. -- Eagle Telegraph, Edwards and Chaplin's Coach-office, to London, aftern. one, and twelve, night, from George Inn; from London, morning, twelve, Silver Oar, aftern. two, night twelve, George.

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Dover, &c. -- Express and Defiance, City Coffee House, to London, aftern. one, three, and night twelve; from London, morning twelve, afternoon three, and night twelve.
Dover, &c. -- Union, Sun Inn, Chatham, to London, morning, twelve, aftern. two, and night, twelve from London, morning, twelve, aftern. two, and night twelve.
Dover, &c. -- Royal Mail, George Inn, and Edwards and Chaplin's Coach-office, to London, morning, three, daily; from London, night, twelve.
Faversham. -- Tantivy, George Inn, and Edwards and Chaplin's Coach-office, to London, morning, twelve; from London aftern. four.
Gravesend. -- Omnibus, Edwards and Chaplin's Coach-office, Rochester, Chatham, and Brompton, several times a-day, to suit the seasons and the times of departure of the steamers to London.
Maidstone. -- Edwards and Chaplin's Coach-office, George Inn, and Silver Oar; morning, nine, aftern. two, and evening six.
Maidstone. -- Eagle Inn; morning, nine, Sundays excepted.
Sittingbourne. -- Queen Charlotte, after half-past two, Sundays excepted.

WAGGONS, VANS, &c.

From Rochester to London. -- Stanbury's Dover Vans, Two Brewers, to London every night, twelve; from London every night, twelve.
From Rochester to London. -- Wrake's Chatham Waggon. Two

Brewers, to London daily, Saturday excepted; from London daily, Wednesday excepted.

From Rochester to Canterbury. -- Wrake's Waggon, Two Brewers, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

From Rochester to Dover, Deal, Margate, Ramsgate, Canterbury, &c. -- Stanbury's Van, Two Brewers, every night, eleven.

WATER CONVEYANCE.

To and from London. -- Feeland's Hoy, once a-week.