

Edward Hasted
The history and topographical survey of the
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1798

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THE
HISTORY
AND
TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY
OF THE
COUNTY OF KENT.

CONTAINING THE
ANTIEN AND PRESENT STATE OF IT,
CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL;
COLLECTED FROM PUBLIC RECORDS,
AND OTHER AUTHORITIES:
ILLUSTRATED WITH MAPS, VIEWS, ANTIQUITIES, &c.

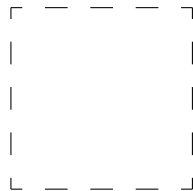
THE SECOND EDITION,
IMPROVED, CORRECTED, AND CONTINUED TO
THE PRESENT TIME.

By EDWARD HASTED, Esq F. R. S. and S. A.
LATE OF CANTERBURY.

Ex his omnibus, longe sunt humanissimi qui Cantium incolunt.

*Fortes creantur fortibus et bonis,
Nec imbellem feroces progenerant.*

VOLUME VII.

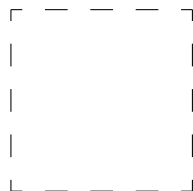


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TO
JOSEPH MUSGRAVE, Esq.
OF
KYPPIER,
IN THE
BISHOPRIC OF DURHAM.

SIR,

BE pleased to accept this tribute of grateful respect for the friendship you have honored me with, a friendship begun in our early days, when we first imbibed the rudiments of our education at the same seminary of learning in the county of Kent, whilst we were under our respective paternal roofs in the

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same neighbourhood. Your property in the county, your encouragement of learning, and of this History in particular in the earliest publication of it, joined with your well-known liberality of sentiment, will, I am certain, induce you to continue your patronage to this Edition, and the Author of it, which will add to those favors you have already conferred on him, who is, with much respect,

SIR,

Your most faithful
and obliged humble Servant,

EDWARD HASTED.

LONDON,
Dec. 10, 1798.

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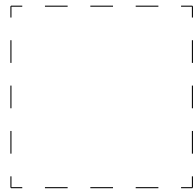
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York, Richard, duke of, 284;
Cicele, duchess of, *ibid.*

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The Binder is desired to leave GUARDS for the following MAPS, be=
longing to this Volume, which will be given in the course of the work.

TENTERDEN, &c. HUNDREDS, at p. 200.
FELBOROUGH, &c. HUNDREDS, at p. 262.
CALEHILL, &c. HUNDREDS, at p. 412.

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THE
HUNDRED
OF
BOUGHTON UNDER BLEAN.

THE HUNDRED OF BOUGHTON lies next adjoining to that of Faversham eastward. It is written in the book of Domesday Boltone, in the 7th year of king Edward I. Boctune, and soon afterwards Boughton, the archbishop being then lord of it.

There is a court leet held for this hundred, of which the archbishop is lord, at which two constables are chosen, one for the upper, and the other for the Lower Half Hundred, who have jurisdiction over the whole of it.

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THIS HUNDRED CONTAINS WITHIN ITS BOUNDS THE PARISHES OF

1. BOUGHTON under Blean.
2. HERNEHILL.
3. GRAVENEY, and
4. SELLING in part.

And the churches of those parishes.

BOUGHTON UNDER THE BLEAN.

THE next parish eastward from Faversham is Boughton under the Blean, in Latin deeds, Bocton subtus le Blen, so called, not only to distinguish it from other parishes of the same name, but from its situation under the forest of Blean, which lies above the hill at the eastern bounds of it.

THIS PARISH lies on the high London road, which runs along the northern bounds of it, the 50th milestone standing within the street of it.

The rill of water on the common, at the bottom of Boughton-hill, bounds it eastward, whence it stretches itself a considerable length southward, leaving Rhodes farm without its bounds, and so westward to Gushborne, an estate belonging to the Ismays, thence making a circle north-west, it includes Colking-house, and a small part only of the farm, and crossing the London road northward, it encircles Fairbrook, formerly belonging to the Best's, and thence taking in Nash, it goes on eastward to the north side of Boughton-street, and the rill first mentioned above. A part of this parish is entirely separated from the rest of it, by those of Hernehill and Graveney intervening, and includes in it the marsh called Graveney, alias Cleve marsh, on the north side of those parishes, being part of the demesnes of Boughton manor, of which Mr. Lade is lessee

It is not very healthy, yet it is exceedingly pleasant, the greatest part of it in a fine open fertile country, close at the bottom of Boughton hill, which

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with the woods along the summit of that high range of hills, form a fine picturesque view from it. The soil of the parish is various; near the high road, and a small distance southward, where the country is level, and the fields large, the lands are a fine rich loam, bordering in many places on the chalk, exceedingly fertile in corn, fruit and hops, of both which there are considerable plantations. About the street it is sandy, and more northward a stiff clay; as it rises southward to the hilly country it becomes very chalky, a stony light soil. In the eastern parts the soil is a clay, very stiff, wet and miry, where there is much poor ruffit land and coppice wood, which join those of the Blean, in the Ville of Dunkirk eastward.

The principal village, called Boughton-street, stands on a rise, being built on each side of the London road, at the 50th mile-stone. It is situated exceedingly pleasant, mostly surrounded by hop plantations and orchard grounds, about a quarter of a mile from the foot of Boughton-hill, some open common lying between, a great part of which has been lately cultivated. This street is of late years become the principal village; the houses in it are most of them modern and neatly built, and the whole has a remarkable pleasing and chearful appearance. In the midst of it is a neat modern house, late the property and residence of Terry Marsh, esq. built on the demesnes of Scarbut's manor, as mentioned before. He died in 1789, and his widow and infant children are now entitled to it.

Below the little hill, at the west end of the street, are two streamlets, the westernmost of which is a nail-bourne, the one rising in Herst wood, and the other at Gore, they cross the London road, flowing very plentifully, and having supplied the ponds belonging to Nash, they continue their course from thence northward to the Swale.

The mansion of Nash, the paddock of which adjoins the north side of the London road, near the above

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streamlets, is situated on the knole of a hill; it is a large handsome building, having a fine prospect eastward over the adjoining country, terminated by the Boughton hills. It has been sitted up within these few years with much taste in the modern stile, and with the foliage of the paddock, is a conspicuous ornament to this part of the country. On the opposite side of the road, about a mile southward, is the parsonage-house, which Mr. Lade some years ago greatly improved, and made it a very desirable residence; about a quarter of a mile from hence stands the church, on the knole of a hill, having the court-lodge close to the west side of the church-yard, and the vicarage on the north side of it, a pretty neat dwelling. A little further is a hamlet called South-street, which report says was once the only one in this parish, the London road having gone through it, instead of the

present way, on which the present street of Boughton has been since built. It is remarkable that the above road, leading from Ospringe through this parish, is called in an antient perambulation of the town and parish of Faversham, so early as king Edward the 1st.'s reign Key-street, most probably like Key-street beyond Sittingborne, on the same road, from Caius Julius Cæsar, quasi Caii stratum.

In 1518 there was an alms-house in Boughton-street, as appears by a will in the Prerogative-office, Canterbury. There is now one, consisting of two dwellings, near the church, belonging to the parish, but whether that mentioned above, is uncertain.

There are two schools in Boughton-street, in which upwards of one hundred boys and girls are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic. A fair is held in this street on the Monday after St. Peter's day yearly, for toys and pedlary.

In the year 1716 there was dug up, in a hedge by the highway side, over against the head of the par-

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sonage-barn, a man's skull and bones, with an hanger or back-sword, which, through length of time, was crumbled into bits of about a finger's length; and there was with it a brass coin of the emperor Antoninus Pius./a

An ample account of the Blean forest, and the ville of Dunkirk, will be given in the description of the hundred of Westgate, within the bounds of which it all lies.

AGAINST THE PARK PALES of Nash, adjoining to the London road, there grows plenty of a lathyrus, not the major latifolius Ger. emac. 1229, as Mr. Bate=man conjectured, but the lathyrus sylvestris major, C. B. Pin. 344; nor doth linum silvestre ceruleum pe=renne, &c. Raii Synop. 111, 362, grow on Beacon-hill, as he affirmed, but the linum silvestre sextum an=gustifolium, this being annual, and having seeds of the colour of those of common flax; whereas the seeds of the former are black. Campanula rotunda folia, the lesser round-leaved bell flower, grows all along by the sides of the same road; besides which there have been several more scarce, plants observed in this parish by Mr. Jacob, which are enumerated in his Plantæ Favershamienses.

THE MANOR OF BOUGHTON was part of the an=ient possessions of the see of Canterbury; accordingly in the record of Domesday it is thus described, under the general title of the archbishop's lands:

In Boltun hundred. The archbishop himself holds Bol=tune. It was taxed at five sulings and an half. The arable land is . . . In demesne there are two carucates, and thirty-one villeins, with thirty one borderers having fifteen carucates. There are four acres of meadow, and a fishery of ten-pence value, a salt-pit of sixteen-pence, wood for the pannage of forty-five hogs. In the whole value, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards,

/a Lewis's Hist. Fav. p. 86.

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it was worth fifteen pounds and sixteen shillings and three

pence and one halfpenny. Now it is worth thirty pounds and sixteen shillings and three pence and one halfpenny.

The archbishop continues at this time lord of this manor and hundred, the court leet of which he retains in his own possession, /b BUT the scite and demesnes of it have been for a great length of time demised for a term of years, as will be further mentioned below.

Archbishop Lanfranc, by his charter of foundation, granted to the hospitals of St. Nicholas, Harbledown, and St. John, Canterbury, one hundred and forty pounds per annum, out of his manors of Bocton and Reculver; which still continues to be paid out of the rents of these manors.

THE DEMESNES of the manor of Boughton have been demised from time to time on a beneficial lease.

The family of Diggs, of Chilham-castle, was for several generations lessees of it. Thomas Diggs, esq. held it in 1643, at the yearly rent of 40l. 13s. 4d. In whose descendants it remained till Thomas Diggs, esq. of Chilham-castle, alienated his term in it in 1723, to Mr. James Colebrooke, whose eldest son Robert Colebrooke, esq. in 1774, an act having passed that year for the purpose, vested his interest in it in trustees, and they the next year sold it to Thomas Heron, esq. of Newark upon Trent, who in 1776 passed his term in it away to John Lade, esq. of this parish, the present lessee of it.

THIS MANOR OF BUTLERS, alias BRENLEY, was formerly accounted as two separate ones, but they have been consolidated for many years. The court-lodge, called Brenley, but formerly spelt Brinley, is an eminent mansion in this parish, situated about a mile westward from the church. This seat once gave name

/b Somn. Cant. p. 43, pt. ii, p. 169, appendix, p. 61. In an antient taxation Boughton manor was valued at 52l. 13s. 4d. per annum.

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to a family, which was possessed of it; one of whom, Sir Laurence de Brinley, flourished here in the reign of king Edward I. and in his descendants it continued down till one of them sold it to John Roper, esq. of St. Dunstan's, who died in 1489 possessed of the manors of Brenle and Botelar, /c which he devised to his second son Thomas Roper, who resided at Brenley, as did his son John Roper, esq. He died in 1527, leaving an only daughter and heir Elizabeth, to whom by his will, in which he stiles himself John Rooper, gent. dwelling in St. John's hospital, without the walls of Canterbury, he gave this estate among others. She afterwards carried it in marriage to Robert Eyre, of Derbyshire, /d who repaired the house of Brenley, with such additions, that he may be said to be the rebuilder of it. This he did, in order to entertain queen Elizabeth in her progress through this county in 1573, but he neither lived to finish his designs here, or to see the queen in her progress. The Eyres bore for their arms, On a chevron, three quaterfoils, a crescent for difference; which coat, quartered with one of three barnacles, is carved on an antient stone, over a hollow, in the south wall of the high chancel of Boughton church, under which is a flat stone, seemingly for a tomb, undoubtedly

for one of this name and family. In the descendants of Robert Eyre this estate continued till by a female heir it went in like manner to Rowth, whose descendant Sir John Rowth, possessed this manor of Butlers, alias Brenley, (for it then seems to have been accounted but as one manor, and to have been so called) and the mansion of Brenley, which he rebuilt, as it now remains, and resided at it till his death in 1657. He was descended of the family of this name, seated at Romley, in Derbyshire, who bore for their arms, Argent, on

/c See more of the Ropers, vol. i. p. 472. vol. vi. p. 229.

/d She survived him, as appears by her will in the Prerog. off. Cant. proved 1579.

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a bend, between two cotizes, sable, three martlets pierced of the field. He left an only surviving son Francis Rowth, esq. who resided at Brenley, where he died in 1677, s. p. and was succeeded in it, as his coheirs, by his only surviving sister Margaret, then the widow of John Boys, esq. and John Farewell, esq. his nephew, son of his sister Dorothy deceased, by her husband John Farewell, esq. of the Inner Temple, the son of Sir George Farewell, of Somersetshire. They bore for their arms, Sable, a chevron between three escallops, argent. Margaret Boys died in 1710, s. p. and by her will devised her interest in it to her kinsman George Farewell, esq. of Brenley, son of her nephew John before-mentioned, who had deceased in 1666, and he thereby became possessed of the entire fee of this manor and estate.

He resided at Brenley, and dying in 1741, was succeeded by his son and sole surviving child of the same name, who was of Brenley, esq. and married Sarah Nethersole, and dying in 1750, s. p. was buried near his father in this church. He left his widow surviving, who possessed this estate in jointure for her life, and she remarrying again with Nathaniel Marsh, esq. and afterwards again with the Rev. Samuel Fremoult, entitled each of them in succession to her interest in it. Afterwards, upon her decease, it came, by the entail made of it by the will of George Farewell the father, to the issue of his sister Mrs. Anne Wyersdale, deceased, viz. her four daughters, Anne and Margaret Wyersdale, Sarah, relict of John Jarman, esq. of Bishopshull, in Somersetshire, and Elizabeth Wyersdale, in equal proportions. Anne, Margaret, and Elizabeth Wyersdale, afterwards died unmarried, and Mrs. Jarman died in 1773, leaving a son, Nath. Jarman, esq. and a daughter Mary, who afterwards became jointly possessed of this manor and seat, with the estates belonging to it. Mr. Jarman married the eldest daughter of James Huthwaite, esq. of Nottingham, who died in

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1792, and he still continues owner of this estate. A court baron is held for this manor, under an oak, in a field called Butlers, about half a mile beyond Boughton church, near Selling parish.

THERE WAS A MANOR in this parish, which had in early times a seat belonging to it, called BOUGHTON-COURT, by which name the manor itself was then

known, and it then gave name to a family who were the possessors of it. Elias de Bocton held it by knight's service, as of the honor of Bologne, in the reigns of king Henry III. and Edward I. and it appeared by deeds of the reigns of king Edward II. and III. that John de Bocton, his descendant, then held them. In later times, as appeared by Sir John Rowth's evidences, it had acquired the name of Boughton-gate, alias Swaffer's tenement, which latter name it took from a family of the name of Swafford, who were the next possessors of it, after the Boctons. After the Swaffords, the Bingers, afterwards called Bengers, from whom those of Hougham, near Dover, were descended, succeeded to it, and they continued owners of it from the beginning of king Henry the Vth.'s reign, to that of Henry VII. when it became the property of the Hales's, from whom it went by sale to Wood, and from that name, sometime about the beginning of the last century, to Sir John Rowth, owner likewise of Brenley, since which it has passed in like manner as that estate, and as such, is now in the possession of Nathaniel Jarman, esq.

The house of it is a large antient timbered building, with a malthouse adjoining to it, situated at the east end of Boughton-street, on the south side of it.

NASH is a mansion of account here, for having been the seat of the family of Hawkins, as is apparent, as well from records as from their own private evidences, for some centuries past, and where they still reside in their original gentility. The first of them that I find mention of, is Andrew Hawkins, who had a good

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estate in the liberty of Holderness, in Yorkshire, as appears by an inquisition taken anno 17 Edward III. and left by his wife Joane de Nash, by whom he inherited this seat of Nash, two sons, Richard and John, the latter of whom purchased lands in Boughton in the beginning of the reign of king Richard II. His son John Hawkins, esq. was of Nash, which continued in his descendants down to Thomas Hawkins, esq. of Nash, who dying in 1588, æt. 101, was buried with his wife in the north chancel of this church, under a tomb of Bethersden marble, on which is his figure in brass, and an inscription, which says he served king Henry VIII. which won him fame, who was a gracious prince to him, and made well to spend his aged days; that he was high of stature, his body long and strong, excelling all that lived in his age. His only son Sir Thomas Hawkins, likewise resided at Nash, whose eldest son Sir Thomas Hawkins, of Nash, was a person of fine accomplishments and learning, and among other works translated Causinus's Holy Court, and died in 1640. In whose descendants resident at Nash, who lie all of them buried in the north chancel of this church, this seat at length continued down to Thomas Hawkins, esq. of Nash, who rebuilt this seat, of which he died possessed in 1766, æt. 92. In whose time, anno 1715, during the ferment the nation was thrown into on account of the rebellion in Scotland, this family being of the Roman Catholic persuasion, the seat of Nash was plundered by some of the neighbourhood. Every part of the furniture, family pictures, writings of the estate

and family, &c. were burnt by them, with an excellent library of books; and the family plate was carried off, and never heard of afterwards. Of his sons, John the eldest became his heir, and Edward-Thomas possessed the Gower estate, at Colmans, in Worcestershire, and took the name of Gower. John Hawkins, esq. the eldest

/e See Wood's Ath. Ox. vol. ii. col. 261.

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son, on his father's death, became possessed of Nash, and married Susan, daughter of Robert Constantine, esq. of Dorsetshire, by whom he had two sons, to the eldest of whom, Thomas, he in his life-time gave up this seat, together with his other estates in this county. Thomas Hawkins, esq. married Mary, the daughter of John Bradshaw, esq. of London, descended from those of Stretton, in Cheshire, by whom he has four daughters. He resides at Nash, to which, with the grounds belonging to it, he has made great additions and improvements. The house is a large handsome building, pleasantly situated on the summit of the hill, having a fine prospect over the adjoining country, and has been fitted up within these few years with much taste in the modern stile. He bears for his arms, first and fourth, Hawkins, argent, on a saltire, sable, five fleurs de lis, or; second and third, Hames, azure, a chevron between three demi lions, rampant, or./f

COLKINS is a seat situated about a quarter of a mile westward from that of Brenley. It was first built by John Colkin, originally a citizen of Canterbury, who died possessed of it in the 10th year of Edward III. and there are several of his posterity who lie buried in this church. Their arms, A griffin, segreant, being figured in brass on their gravestones, though long since destroyed. These arms too are on the roof of Canterbury cloysters. There was a family of the name of Colkyn likewise at Nonington, but they bore a different coat of arms from these of Boughton. From this name it was about king Henry the VIth's reign alienated to Petit, whose descendant Cyriak Petit, gent. resided here, and dying possessed of it in 1591 lies buried in this church. These Petits were a younger branch of those of Chilham, and bore for their arms, Gules, a chevron, between three leopards heads, argent, a crescent for difference. Cyriak Petit was foedary of

/f See pedigree in Heralds Office, C. 16. D. 18. fol. 27.

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Kent, an office of trust and eminence, and drew up a survey of all the manors in Kent, held of the king by knight's service anno 28 Henry VIII. a valuable book, often made use of in the course of this history./g From him Colkins descended down to Mr. William Petit, who in king George I.'s reign alienated it to Mr. Richard Stacey, master-builder of the king's yard at Deptford, who built the present seat of Colkins, and he, partly by sale and partly by marriage with his daughter Mary, transferred his property in it to Mr. Peter Rawlins, of Sheerness, who bore for his arms, Sable, three swords in pale, the middlemost point in base, or, who left two daughters his coheirs, the eldest of whom, Mary, since married Mr. Bisby Lambart, and

Caroline, the youngest, John Carter, esq. of Deal, soon after which they made a partition of his estates, and on the division, this of Colkins became the sole property of Mr. Lambart, in right of his wife. He died at Minorca a few years ago, upon which it became the property of his widow, and she now resides in it.

DANE-COURT is a manor in the southern part of this parish, which in antient time had owners of the same name, which they assumed from it. Sir Allan de Dane resided here in the reign of king Edward III. bearing for his arms, Gules, four fleurs de lis, or, and it continued the mansion of his descendants for divers years after; but in the reign of Henry IV. the Fogge's were become proprietors of it, the last of whom who held it was Sir John Fogge, who died possessed of it, as appears by his will, in the 6th year of Henry VII. and left it to his son Sir John Fogge, from which name it was not many years after sold to Petit, of Colkins, in which family it continued, till with that it was alienated, about the reign of king George I. to Mr. Richard Stacey, of Deptford, who passed it away, partly by

His will is in Prerog. off. Canterbury. There is a pedigree of them in Vistn. co. Kent. anno. 1574.

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marriage with his daughter and partly by sale, to Mr. Peter Rawlins, of Sheerness, whose two daughters and coheirs transferred their right in it to their respective husbands, Mr. Lambart, and John Carter, esq. and they having made a partition of their wives estates, this manor of Dane-court became the sole property of John Carter, esq. of Deal, being the son of the Rev. Nicholas Carter, D. D. and married first Frances, only daughter and heir of John Underdown, esq. who died s. p. and secondly Charlotte, youngest daughter of Peter Rawlins, esq. before-mentioned, who died in 1777, likewise s. p. His eldest sister Elizabeth, yet unmarried, is well known for her learned publications. Mr. Carter bears for his arms, Ermine, two lions rampant, combatant, gules; he is the present owner of this estate. A court baron is held for this manor.

SCARBUTS is a small manor, the house of which was situated on the south side of Boughton-street, near the middle of it. It was but mean, and the whole of it was pulled down, with some cottages adjoining to it, some years since, to make an opening before Mr. Marsh's house, which was built on part of the demesnes of this manor, sold to him for that purpose.

This manor is in antient deeds called Starbuts, but has long since been known by its present name. It was some years passed owned by Mr. Richard Goatley, gent. of Boughton Blean, who by his will in 1707 gave it to Anne, wife of Thomas Hulse, for life, remainder to her son Isaac Hulse, who became possessed of it; after which it came to Mr. Peter Holness, in right of his wife, and from them to John and Stephen Gillam, who sold it in 1757 to the trustees of Terry Marsh, esq. of this parish, the son of Nathaniel Marsh, esq. who married first Olive Terrey, by whom he had Terry Marsh, esq. above-mentioned; and secondly, Mary, widow of George Farewell, esq. who survived him. Terry Marsh, esq. married Roberta Catherine Pierce,

of Canterbury, who survived him, and is the present possessor of this manor.

CHARITIES.

TWENTY-EIGHT ACRES and an half, one rood, three deys werks and one perch of land, were given to the poor of this parish and of Hernehill; which land is vested in feoffees, who let the same at a corn-rent of 19 bushels of wheat, and 62 bushels of barley, (of which the poor of Hernehill have twenty bushels) which they are to distribute to the poor between the feasts of Pentecost and Midsummer, taking for their pains the sum of six shillings only.

AN ANNUAL corn rent of 16 bushels of wheat, is paid for the use of the poor, out of the manor of Scarbuts in this parish.

FIFTEEN GROATS in money, and eight gallons of wheat, are paid yearly out of the lands called the St. Margaret's gafel, or acre, to be paid yearly to the vicar and church wardens, to be by them distributed at Easter to the poor widows of this parish.

ARTHUR WHATMAN, ESQ. late of Ospringe, by his will in 1674, gave to this parish five pounds per annum, to be paid out of two farms in Ospringe, called Cades and Cokes, on the 5th of November, to be distributed as follows: To the vicar, for a sermon on that day, 15 shillings; to the parish clerk five shillings; to the poor three pounds; and one pound to be spent on a collation for the vicar, churchwardens, overseers, and constables of the parish.

JOHN CHILLENDEEN, yeoman, late of this parish, by his will in 1708, gave 40 shillings per annum, to be paid out of the rents of certain lands and tenements, called Hickmans, every Christmas day, for the relief of the poor widows of this parish.

The poor annually relieved are about forty; casually 100.

BOUGHTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Ospringe.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, consists of a body and two isles, a high chancel belonging to the parsonage, and two side chancels or chapels. The north one, formerly St. James's chapel, belongs to the seat of Nash, and is filled with the monuments of the Hawkins family; and the south to Brenley and Colkins, being formerly called the chapel of St. John, in which are monuments of the families of Rowth, Farewell and Petit. In the body are several

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gravestones of the Colkins's, the only brass remaining is for John Colkins, obt. 1405. In the south isle a brass plate for John Best and Johne his wife, 1508./h

Under the high chancel is a vault, in which lie buried several of the family of Lade, lessees of the parsonage, and among others Michael Lade, 1778, Elizabeth his wife, and Hester, wife of John Lade, esq. 1778. It is an handsome well kept church, having a tower steeple at the west end beacon corner, in which hang six bells. There was formerly a spire steeple on it, but it fell down in the beginning of this century.

In 1784 there was an handsome gallery built at the west end of it.

The church of Boughton was parcel of the antient possessions of the see of Canterbury, and remained so till archbishop Stratford, in the 14th year of king

Edward III. exchanged it, together with that of Preston, with the abbot and convent of Faversham, for the manor of Tring, in Hertfordshire. After which the archbishop appropriated the church of Boughton to that abbey, with a reservation of the advowson of the vicarage, reserving a pension from the parsonage of five marcs sterling yearly, to be paid to the infirmary of Christ-church, Canterbury, for the support of the sick monks there;ⁱ the whole of which was confirmed soon afterwards by a bull of pope Boniface I.

Before the appropriation of the church of Boughton, it had the chapel of Hernhill annexed to it, where upon this occasion a vicarage was instituted, as well as at the mother church of Boughton, and they were made two distinct presentative churches; the advowson of Boughton remaining with the archbishop, and that of Hernhill with the abbot and convent of Faversham. In the 8th year of king Richard II. this parsonage was valued,

^{/h} His will is in the Prerogative-office, Canterbury.

^{/i} The instrument is dated anno 1340. See Lewis's History of Faversham, p. 13.

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among the temporalities belonging to the abbey of Faversham, at sixty pounds.

It appears by the leiger book of that abbey, that anno 14 Henry VIII. this parsonage was then demised to farm, at the yearly rent of thirty-six pounds. Soon after which it was taken into the hands of the religious themselves.

In which state this church remained till the dissolution of the abbey, in the 30th year of Henry VIII. when it came, with the rest of the revenues of it, into the king's hands, where it remained but a short time; for that prince, in his 33d year, settled it, by his donation charter, on his new-erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, with whom the inheritance of it now remains.

Sir Humphry Tufon was lessee of it in the reign of king Charles I. and resided here. In 1645 Thomas Osborne, esq. was lessee at the yearly rent of thirty-six pounds. Afterwards the Kenricks held it, who bore for their arms, Ermine, a lion rampant, sable; one of whom, William Kenrick, esq. the sixth son of Robert Kenrick, esq. of King's Sutton, in Northamptonshire, by Elizabeth his wife, eldest daughter of Sir Edward Hales, bart. of Tunstall,^k died here in 1681, possessed of it. Afterwards the Spencers were lessees of it, and resided here. These Spencers seem to have been settled here in queen Elizabeth's reign, as appears by their wills in the Prerogative-office, Canterbury, one of whom, John Spencer, (the eldest son of Adam, who died in 1638) was, if I mistake not, that very learned man, who was educated at Canterbury school, was afterwards scholar of C. C. C. Cambridge, and then master of it, afterwards archdeacon of Sudbury, and dean of Ely, who was born in 1630, and dying at his college in 1693, was buried in the chapel there, having

^{/k} See Herald's off. D. 18. fol. 12. His will is in the Prerog. off. Canterbury.

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been the author of several learned books and treatises. The hatchment of his arms, in the antichapel of the college, are Azure, a chevron, or, between three eagles displayed, argent; which is erroneous, for it ought to have been Argent, a chevron, between three griffins heads erased, sable, as in a hatchment in this church. Dr. Spencer mentions in his will, his uncle's son, William Spencer, esq. then of Boughton, and his kinsman William Spencer, A. M. Fellow of his own college; /l the last of them, Edward Spencer, esq. died in 1729, and lies buried in the high chancel of this church, leaving Elizabeth his widow surviving, who becoming possessed of his interest in it, afterwards alienated it to Mr. Michael Lade, of Faversham, whose eldest son John Lade, esq. of this parish, and of Canterbury, is now lessee of it, and till lately resided in it. /m

The advowson of the vicarage, according to the reservation of archbishop Stratford, as before-mentioned, remained part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, and does so at this time, his grace the archbishop being the present patron of it.

This church is exempt from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon. The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 9l. 4s. 9½d. and the yearly tenths at 18s. 5¾d.

In 1640 it was valued at sixty pounds. Communicants four hundred. Recusants thirty. In 1695 here were houses 122, inhabitants 472, communicants 220. In 1782, houses 158, inhabitants 774, recusants 30.

There was a sentence given in the court of delegates, in a cause of the tithes arising from Clyve-marsh, in this parish, between the dean and chapter of Canterbury and others, appellants, and Robert Thompson, vicar here, respondent, in 1567.

The parsonage has only thirteen acres of globe land belonging to it; the vicarage has only the garden and scite of the house.

/l See his life, Biog. Brit. vol. vi. p. 3793.

/m See more of the Lade's under Goodnestone, vol. vi.

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There were two chapels antiently in this parish, one of them, near the west end of Boughton-street, dedicated to the Holy Trinity. It was here before 1489, as appears by the will of William Collkynne. It was pulled down within memory to mend the highways. The poor-house now stands on the scite of it; the other in South-street, where there is now a house called chapel-house.

In the 8th year of king Richard II. there was an hospital here, for the use of lazars, or poor leproous people, with a chapel belonging to it, dedicated to St. Nicholas, founded by one Thomas at Herst, the ruins of which are supposed to be at the watering-place at the west end of Boughton-street, close to which the London high road went, having been turned at a small distance from it within these few years.

CHURCH OF BOUGHTON.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Archbishops of Canterbury. William Place, A. B. inducted
in 1590, obt. 1637. /n

Percival Radcliffe, A. M. ind.
in 1663.
Robert Skene, obt. 1676./o
Thomas Allen, obt. 1687./p
John Johnson, A. M. collated
July 1687, resigned 1697./q
John Connold, A. B. inducted
June 1697, obt. 1704./r
William Plees, A. M. inducted
Dec. 1704, obt. October 12,
1752./s
Henry Heaton, B. D. Dec. 1752,
obt. July 7, 1777./t

/n He lies buried in the middle cha=
ncel of this church.

/n /o /p Vicars also of Hernehill.

/q Vicar also of Hernehill. See his
life, Biog. Brit. vol. vii. appendix, p.
111.

/r /s /t Vicars also of Hernehill.

/s He lies buried in the north isle,
having resided in the vicarage-house
for fifty years, which house he re=
built.

/t He was likewise rector of Ivy=
church, prebendary of Ely, and master
of Eastbridge hospital. He lies buried
in the north isle.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Archbishops of Canterbury. Stanhope Ellison, A. M. induct.
August 1777, obt. Jan. 6,
1778./u
Charles More. A. M. ind. Feb.
1778, the present vicar./w

/u He lies buried in the porch of this
church. He was likewise rector of
Wittersham.

/w And rector of Cookstone by dis=
pensation. He had been before vicar
of Sellinge.

- - -

HERNEHILL.

The next adjoining parish northward is Hernehill,
over which the paramount manor of the hundred of
Boughton, belonging to the archbishop, claims juris=
diction.

THIS PARISH lies near the London road, close at
the back of the north side of Boughton-street, at the
50th mile-stone, from which the church is a conspicuous
object, in a most unpleasant and unhealthy country. It
lies, the greatest part of it especially, northward of the
church, very low and flat, the soil exceedings wet and
miry, being a stiff unfertile clay, and is of a forlorn and
dreary aspect; the inclosures small, with much ruffit
ground; the hedge-rows broad, with continued shaves
and coppice wood, mostly of oak, which join those of
the Bleau eastward of it, and it continues so till it comes
to the marshes at the northern boundary of it.

In this part of the parish there are several small greens or forstals, on one of which, called Downe's forstal, which lies on higher ground than the others, there is a new-built sashed house, built by Mr. Thomas Squire, on a farm belonging to Joseph Brooke, esq. and now the property of his devisee the Rev. John Kenward Shaw Brooke, of Town Malling. The estate formerly belonged to Sir William Stourton, who purchased it of John Norton, gent. This green seems

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formerly to have been called Downing-green, on which was a house called Downing-house, belonging to George Vallance, as appears by his will in 1686. In the hamlet of Way-street, in the western part of the parish, there is a good old family-house, formerly the residence of the Clinches, descended from those of Easing, several of whom lie buried in this church, one of whom Edward Clinch, dying unmarried in 1722, Elizabeth, his aunt, widow of Thomas Cumberland, gent. succeeded to it, and at her death in 1768, gave it by will to Mrs. Margaret Squire, widow, the present owner who resides in it. Southward the ground rises to a more open and drier country, where on a little hill stands the church, with the village of Church-street round it, from which situation this parish most probably took its name of Herne-hill; still further southward the soil becomes very dry and sandy, and the ground again rises to a hilly country of poor land with broom and furze in it. In this part, near the boundary of the parish, is the hamlet of Staple-street, near which on the side of a hill, having a good prospect southward, is a modern sashed house, called Mount Ephraim, which has been for some time the residence of the family of Dawes. The present house was built by Major William Dawes, on whose death in 1754 it came to his brother Bethel Dawes, esq. who in 1777 dying s. p. devised it by will to his cousin Mr. Thomas Dawes, the present owner, who resides in it.

MR. JACOB has enumerated in his *Plantæ Faverhamienses*, several scarce plants found by him in this parish.

DARGATE is a manor in this parish, situated at some distance northward from the church, at a place called Dargate-stroud, for so it is called in old writings. This manor was, as early as can be traced back, the property of the family of Martyn, whose seat was at Graveney-court, in the adjoining parish. John Martyn, judge of the common pleas, died possessed of it in 1436, leaving

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Anne his wife, daughter and heir of John Boteler, of Graveney, surviving, who became then possessed of this manor, which she again carried in marriage to her second husband Thomas Burgeys, esq. whom she likewise survived, and died possessed of it in 1458, and by her will gave it to her eldest son by her first husband, John Martyn, of Graveney, whose eldest son of the same name died possessed of it in 1480, and devised it to his eldest son Edmund Martyn, who resided at Graveney in the reign of Henry VII. In his descendants it continued down to Mathew Martyn, who appears to have been owner of it in the 30th year of king

Henry VIII. In which reign, anno 1539, one of this family, Thomas Martyn, as appears by his will, was buried in this church. The arms of Martyn, Argent, on a chevron, three talbot hounds, sable, and the same impaled with Petit, were, within these few years remaining in the windows of it. Mathew Martyn above-mentioned, left a sole daughter and heir Margaret, who carried this manor in marriage to William Norton, of Faversham, younger brother of John Norton, of Northwood, in Milton, and ancestor of the Nortons, of Fordwich. His son Thomas Norton, of that place, alienated it in the reign of king James I. to Sir John Wilde, of Canterbury, who about the same time purchased of Sir Roger Nevinson another estate adjoining to it here, called Epes-court, alias Yocklets, whose ancestors had resided here before they removed to Eastry, which has continued in the same track of ownership, with the above manor ever since.

Sir John Wilde was grandson of John Wilde, esq. of a gentleman's family in Cheshire, who removed into Kent, and resided at St. Martin's hill, in Canterbury. They bore for their arms, Argent, a chevron, sable, on a chief, argent, two martlets, sable; quartered with

See Jacob's Hist. Fav. p. 86, and more of the Martyns hereafter, under Graveney, p. 32.

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Norden, Stowting, Omer, Exhurst, Twitham, and Clitherow. Sir John Wilde died possessed of this manor of Dargate with Yocklets, in 1635, and was buried in Canterbury cathedral, being succeeded in it by his eldest surviving son Colonel Dudley Wilde, who died in 1653, and was buried in that cathedral likewise. He died s. p. leaving Mary his wife surviving, daughter of Sir Ferdinand Carey, who then became possessed of this manor, which she carried in marriage to her second husband Sir Alexander Frazer, knight and bart. in whose name it continued till the end of the last century, when, by the failure of his heirs, it became the property of Sir Thomas Willys, bart. who had married Anne, eldest daughter of Sir John Wilde, and on the death of her brother Colonel Dudley Wilde, s. p. one of his heirs general. He was of Fen Ditton, in Cambridgeshire, and had been created a baronet 17 king Charles I. He lived with Anne his wife married fifty-five years, and had by her thirteen children, and died possessed of it in 1701, æt. 90. By his will he gave it to his fourth son William Willys, esq. of London, and he held a court for this manor in 1706, and died soon afterwards, leaving two sons Thomas and William, and six daughters, of whom Anne married Mr. Mitchell; Mary married William Gore, esq. Jane married Henry Hall; Frances married Humphry Pudner; Hester married James Spilman, and Dorothy married Samuel Enys. He was succeeded in this manor and estate by his eldest son Thomas Willys, esq. who was of Nackington, and by the death of Sir Thomas Willys, of Fen Ditton, in Cambridgeshire, in 1726, s. p. succeeded to that title and estate, which he enjoyed but a short time, for he died the next year s. p. likewise; upon which his brother, then Sir William Willys, bart. became his heir, and possessed this manor among his other estates.

But dying in 1732, s. p. his sisters became his coheirs./y

/y See more of this family under Nackington.

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By his will he devised this manor to his executors in trust for the performance of his will, of which Robert Mitchell, esq. became at length, after some intermediate ones, the only surviving trustee. He died in 1779, and by his will divided his share in this estate among his nephews and nieces therein mentioned, who, with the other sisters of Sir William Willys, and their respective heirs, became entitled to this manor, with the estate of Yocklets, and other lands in this parish; but the whole was so split into separate claims among their several heirs, that the distinct property of each of them in it became too minute to ascertain; therefore it is sufficient here to say, that they all joined in the sale of their respective shares in this estate in 1788, to John Jackson, esq. of Canterbury, who died possessed of it in 1795, without surviving issue, and left it by will to William Jackson Hooker, esq. of Norwich, who is the present possessor of it. A court baron is held for this manor.

LAMBERTS LAND is a small manor, situated at a little distance northward from that last mentioned, so near the eastern bounds of this parish, that although the house is within it, yet part of the lands lie in that of Bleane. This manor seems to have been part of the revenue of the abbey of Faversham, from or at least very soon after its foundation, in the year 1147, and it continued with it till its final dissolution. By a rental anno 14 Henry VIII. it appears then to have been let to farm for eleven pounds per annum rent.

The abbey of Faversham being suppressed in the 30th year of that reign, anno 1538, this manor came, with the rest of the revenues of it, into the king's hands, where it appears to have continued in the 34th year of it; but in his 36th year the king granted it, among other premises in this parish, to Thomas Arden, of Faversham, to hold in tail male, in capite, by knight's service.

On his death, without heirs male, being murdered in his own house, by the contrivance of his wife and

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others, anno 4 king Edward VI. this manor reverted to the crown, whence it was soon after granted to Sir Henry Crispe, of Quekes, to hold by the like service, and he passed it away to his brother William Crispe, lieutenant of Dover castle, who died possessed of it about the 18th year of queen Elizabeth, leaving John Crispe, esq. his son and heir. He sold this manor to Sir John Wilde, who again passed it away to John Hewet, esq. who was created a baronet in 1621, and died in 1657, and in his descendants it continued down to his grandson Sir John Hewet, bart. who in 1700 alienated it to Christopher Curd, of St. Stephen's, alias Hackington, and he sold it in 1715 to Thomas Willys, esq. afterwards Sir Thomas Willys, bart. who died in 1726, s. p. and devised it to his brother and heir-at-law Sir William Willys, bart. who likewise died s. p. By his will in 1732 he devised it to his three executors,

mentioned in it, in trust for the performance of it. Since which it has passed in like manner as the adjoining manor of Dargate last described, under the description of which a further account of it may be seen.

This manor, with its demesnes, is charged with a pension of twelve shillings yearly to the vicar of Hernehill, in lieu of tithes.

CHARITIES.

WILLIAM ROLFE, of Hernehill, by will in 1559, gave one quarter of wheat, to be paid out of his house and nine acres of land, to the churchwardens, on every 15th of December, to be distributed to the poor on the Christmas day following; and another quarter of wheat out of his lands called Langden, to be paid to the churchwardens on every 18th of March, to be distributed to the poor at Easter, these estates are now vested in Mr. Brooke and Mr. Hawkins.

JOHN COLBRANNE, by will in 1604, gave one quarter of wheat out of certain lands called Knowles, or Knowles piece, to be paid to the churchwardens, and to be distributed to the poor on St. John's day, in Christmas week.

MR. RICHARD MEOPHAM, parson of Boughton, and others, gave certain lands there to the poor of that parish and this of Hernehill; which lands were vested in feoffees in trust, who demise them at a corn rent, whereof the poor of this parish have

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yearly twenty bushels of barley, to be distributed to them on St. John Baptist's day.

RICHARD HEELER, of Hernehill, by will in 1578, gave 20s. a year out of his lands near the church, to be paid to the churchwardens, and to be distributed to the poor, one half at Christmas, and the other half at Easter, yearly.

ONE BRICKENDEN, by his will, gave one marc a year out of his land near Waterham Cross, in this parish, to be distributed to the poor on every Christmas day.

BETHEL DAWES, ESQ. by will in 1777, ordered 30s. being the interest of 50l. vested in Old South Sea Annuities, to be given in bread yearly to the poor, by the churchwardens.

The poor constantly relieved are about thirty, casually 12.

HERNEHILL is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Ospringe.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Michael, consists of two isles and a chancel. At the north-west end is a tower steeple, with a beacon turret. In it are five bells. The two isles are ceiled, the chancel has only the eastern part of it ceiled, to the doing of which with wainscot, or with the best boards that could be gotten, William Baldock, of Hernehill, dwelling at Dargate, devised by his will in 1547, twenty-six shillings and eight-pence. In the high chancel are several memorials of the Clinches, and in the window of it were within these few years, the arms of the see of Canterbury impaling Bouchier. The pillars between the two isles are very elegant, being in clusters of four together, of Bethersden marble. It is a handsome building, and kept very neat.

The church of Hernehill was antiently accounted only as a chapel to the adjoining church of Boughton, and as such, with that, was parcel of the antient possessions of the see of Canterbury, and when archbishop

Stratford, in the 14th year of Edward III. exchanged that rectory with this chapel appendant, with the abbot and convent of Faversham, and had appropriated the church of Boughton with this chapel to that abbey, he instituted a vicarage here, as well as at the mother

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church of Boughton, and made them two distinct presentative churches. The advowson of the mother church remaining with the archbishop, and that of Hernehill being passed away to the abbot and convent of Faversham, as part of the above mentioned exchange.

The parsonage, together with the advowson of the vicarage of this church, remained after this among the revenues of that abbey, till the final dissolution of it, in the 30th year of Henry VIII. when they both came, among its other possessions, into the king's hands, who in that year granted the parsonage to Sir Thomas Cromwell, lord Cromwell, who was the next year created Earl of Essex; but the year after, being attainted, and executed, all his possessions and estates, and this rectory among them, became forfeited to the crown, where it remained till queen Elizabeth, in her 3d year, exchanged it, among other premises, with archbishop Parker; at which time it was valued, with the tenths of Denge-marsh and Aumere, at the yearly sum of 9l. 13s. 4d. Pension out of it to the vicar of Hernehill 1l. 3s. Yearly procurations, &c. 1l. 6s. 8d. Since which it has continued parcel of the possessions of the see of Canterbury to this time.

In 1643 Susan Delauney was lessee of it at the yearly rent of 9l. 13s. 4d. The present lessee is Mrs. Margaret Squire, of Waystreet.

The advowson of the vicarage remained in the hands of the crown, from the dissolution of the abbey of Faversham till the year 1558, when it was granted, among others, to the archbishop; and his grace the archbishop is the present patron of it.

This vicarage is exempted from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon. It is valued in the king's books at fifteen pounds, and the yearly tenths at 1l. 10s. and is now of the yearly certified value of fifty-eight pounds. In 1640 it was valued at forty pounds. Communicants

/z Wilkins's Councils, vol. iv. p. 177.

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one hundred. In 1695 there were houses sixty, inhabitants one hundred and eighty-four, recusants none.

There were several pensions due to the vicar, as appears by different records: from the parsonage an annual pension of 13s. 4d. In the 14th year of king Henry VIII. a pension of 4s. 8d. paid by the abbot's lands of Cocham and Mentylham, in this parish, and of 13s. 4d. from their marsh here, called Gore-marsh. The farm of Lamberts-land pays twelve shillings yearly pension to the vicar, in lieu of tithes.

Two examinations of witnesses relating to the bounds of the parishes of Seasalter and Hernehill, in 1481, are in the Lambeth library.

A very few years ago Mr. Lade, tenant to the archbishop, for grass lands, part of Boughton demesnes, then in his own occupation, in this parish, claimed an

exemption of tithes for them, which the vicar denied, and commenced a suit, which, however, he soon gave up, acknowledged the exemption, and paid Mr. Lade's costs; on this ground, as I am informed; that an archbishop, or ecclesiastical person, may claim such exemption for grass land by prescription for his lessee, the same as if in his own occupation, which a lay person cannot do.

CHURCH OF HERNEHILL.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Archbishop of Canterbury. William Hull, S. T. P. resigned
1605.

Basil Beacon, 1605./a

Thomas Paine, Jan. 6, 1612, ob.
1629.

Thomas Hieron, A. M. June,
1629.

Robert Skneene, obt. 1676./b

/a He resigned for the vicarage
of Silkeston, in co. Ebor.

/b Also vicar of Boughton Blean.

He was a Scot by birth, and conformed
to the church, as he himself said, for
the sake of his wife and children.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Archbishop of Canterbury. John Gamlyn, inducted 1676,
resigned 1681./c

Thomas Allen, A. M. inducted
Jan. 1681. obt. May 1687./d

John Johnson, A. M. inducted
Nov. 1689, resigned 1697./e

Dean and Chapter of Canterbury. John Conold, A. M. inducted
May 1698. obt. October 31,
1704./e

William Plees, A. M. April
1705, obt. Oct 12, 1752./f

Henry Heaton, B. D. Dec. 1752,
resigned 1754./g

Samuel Phipps, A. B. Dec. 28,
1754, resigned 1758.

Charles Hall, D. D. Feb. 18,
1758, resigned 1760.

Thomas Hebbes, A. M. 1760, ob.
Dec. 30, 1766./h

Henry Poole, A. M. Feb. 1777,
the present vicar.

/c Afterwards vicar of Preston and
of Faversham.

/d /e /f /g Vicars of Boughton Blean,
under which more of them may be
seen.

/h He lies buried in the south isle of
this church.

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GRAVENEY

LIES the next parish north-westward from Herne=hill. It was called in the time of the Saxons, Graven=ea, and afterwards, by corruption of language, Gravenel, in like manner as Oxney, Pevensey, and Rumeney, were corruptly called Oxenel, Pevensel, and Rumenel;/i the name of it denoting its low and watery situation, and it is now, by contraction, usually called Graineey.

IT LIES about two miles from the high London road, on the north side of it, at the 48th mile-stone, the pa=rish of Goodnestone intervening, in a low country ad=

/i See Somn. Roman Ports, p. 62.

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joining the marshes, of which there is a large quantity, both fresh and salt within it, Faversham creek and the Swale being the western and northern boundaries of it. The soil of it various, there being in the level part some rich tillage land, and on the rises or small hills in it, a light soil of both sand and gravel. The church stands in the eastern part of the parish, having Graveney=court, with an antient gateway, and numerous offices, singularly built round it, well worth observation, as de=noting its former respectable state. In the western part is Nagdon, adjoining to Faversham creek, having a decoy for wild fowl, and a large quantity of marsh land belonging to it. There is but little thoroughfare here, and no village, the houses being interspersed straggling throughout it. Upon the whole, though unhealthy, it has not an unpleasant aspect, being well clothed with trees, especially elm, which are very thriving here, and in great plenty; the roads are re=markably well taken care of, as are the poor, and the whole parish seems to thrive well under the care of the inhabitants of Graveney-court. There are some parts of this parish separated from the rest by those of Faver=sham and Goodneston intervening.

There are several scarce plants observed by Mr. Ja=cob in this parish, and enumerated in his *Plantæ Fa=vershamienses*.

THE ARCHBISHOP'S paramount manor of Boughton claims over the whole of this parish, as being within that hundred, subordinate to which is the manor of Graveney.

In the year 811, Wlfrid, archbishop of Canterbury, purchased this place of Cenulph, king of Mercia, who had made the kingdom of Kent tributary to him, for the use of Christ-church, Canterbury, as appears by the leiger book of that priory, and that it was given L. S. A. that is, *Libere Sicut Adisham*, with the same liberties, immunities, and privileges that Adisham was. Soon after which, one Werhard, a powerful priest, and kins=

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man to the archbishop, found means to gain possession of it, and kept it till that prelate's death in 830, when Feogild succeeding to the see of Canterbury, though he sat in it but three months, yet in that time he com=pelled Werhard to restore Gravene then computed at thirty-two hides of land, to the church; and it was af=terwards confirmed to it in anno 941, by king Ed=mund, Eadred his brother, and Edwyn son of the lat=ter;/k and it remained part of the revenues of Christ=

church at the coming of archbishop Lanfranc to that see in 1070, when on his division of them, between himself and the monks of his church, this manor fell to his share, of whom it was afterwards held by knight's service. In which state it continued at the time of taking the survey of Domesday, anno 1080, in which it is thus entered, under the general title of Terra Militum Archiepi, that is, land held of the archbishop by knight's service.

In Boltune hundred the same Richard (who owed fealty to the archbishop) held of the archbishop Gravenel. It was taxed for one suling. The arable land is In demesne there is one carucate, and eight villeins, with ten borderers having two carucates. There are five servants, and ten acres of meadow, and four saltpits of four shillings. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth one hundred shillings, now six pounds, of these the monks of Canterbury have twenty shillings.

Who this Richard was I do not find, though Somner calls him Ricardus Constabularius; however, it is not improbable, but he might afterwards adopt the surname of Gravene, from his having the possession of this place; certain it is, that it was afterwards held by a family who took their name from it. William de Gravene held it in the reign of king Henry III. of the archbishop, as one knight's fee. John de Gravene died pos-

/k Kilburne's Survey, p. 112. Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 20.

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sessed of it in the 56th year of the same reign, after which it became the property of the family of Feversham.

Thomas de Feversham died possessed of it in the beginning of the reign of king Edward III. leaving Joane his wife surviving, and in the window of the north chancel were formerly the arms of Feversham, A fess chequy, or, and gules, between six crosses, bottony, or; and underneath, Thomas Feversham, Justiciar, & Johanna Uxor. ejus; on the pavement is a stone with two half-figures in brass for them, with an inscription round it in old French, part of which is gone; probably that which Weever mentions. She afterwards entitled her second husband Sir Roger de Northwood to this manor, during her life; accordingly he paid aid for it in the 20th year of that reign, as one knight's fee, which he held in right of his wife, of the archbishop, which was formerly held by Richard de Gravene. After her death her son Richard de Feversham succeeded to this manor, of which he died possessed in 1381, and was buried in this church, having married the daughter of Robert Dodde. His tomb, of Bethersden marble, remains against the south wall. In the south chancel, on the top, were two figures, and four coats of arms, the brasses gone; round the edge is this inscription, in brass, Ora pro aibs Roberti Dodde & Rici de Feuersham filii sui quonda dni de Gravene obiit, &c. Above the tomb, is a recess in the wall, with an antient carved arch above it. He had a daughter Joane, who became his heir, and married John Botiller, esq. and in her right became entitled to this manor, she died in

1408, and was buried in the south chancel here, her figure in brass on her gravestone is gone, but the inscription still remains. By her he had a son of his own name. Either he or his father was sheriff anno 22 king Richard II. John Botiller, esq. the son, was

/l See Weever, p. 283. Lewis's Hist. Fav. p. 76.

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knight of the shire in the 1st year of king Henry V's reign. They bore for their arms, Sable, three covered cups, or, within a bordure, argent; and John Botiller, probably the father, was esquire to archbishop Courtney, and mentioned in his will, proved anno 1396, being the 20th of Richard II.

There is a gravestone in the south chancel here, which most probably was for John Botiller the son; on it was his figure in brass, now gone, and four coats of arms; the two first are gone, the third Botiller, the fourth Feversham, a fess chequy, between six crosses, bottony, or. The inscription was remaining in Weever's time. This stone, I am informed, was some years ago removed out of the north chancel hither, and in the window of this chancel is this coat of arms, quarterly, first, Botiller, as above; second and third, a fess chequy, or, and gules, in chief three crosses, bottony, or; the bottom part being broken, the fourth is likewise broken. Underneath are these words remaining, Johannes . . . er, & Jonna ux ejus. Joane his wife was daughter and heir of William de Frogenhall, by whom he had a daughter and sole heir Anne, who carried it in marriage to John Martyn, judge of the common pleas, the son of Richard Martyn, of Stonebridge, who built much at his seat of Graveney-court, where he partly resided. He died in 1436, leaving his widow surviving, who then became again possessed of this manor in her own right. She afterwards married Thomas Burgeys, esq. whom she likewise survived, and dying in 1458 was buried beside her first husband in the north chancel of this church. His gravestone is of a very large size, and is most richly inlaid with brass, which is well preserved, having the figures of him and his wife, and other ornaments over the whole of it. There were four coats of arms, only the second of which, that of Boteler, is remaining. He bore for his

/m See Cotton's Records, p. 553.

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arms, Argent, on a chevron, gules, three talbot hounds, passant, or. Her second husband Thomas Burgeys died in 1452, and was buried in the same chancel, where his gravestone remained till within these few years. At the upper end of the stone are two coats in brass, first Boteler impaling Frogenhall; second, a fess chequy impaling the like. Another coat, at the bottom, is gone, as is his figure.

In the descendants of Judge Martyn, residents at Graveney-court, this manor continued down to Robert Martyn, who likewise resided here, and died in the first year of Edward VI. leaving his two daughters, Joane, married to Richard Argall, and Elizabeth to Stephen Reames, of Faversham, his coheirs. From them this manor was passed away by sale to John Pordage, of

Rodmersham, in whose name it continued till it was at length sold to Daniel Whyte, esq. of Vinters, in Boxley, whose descendant of the same name, about the beginning of king George II.'s reign, alienated it to Mr. Edward Blaxland, who afterwards resided here, and bore for his arms, on a fess, three falcous volant, jessed and belled. He died in 1739. This occasioned this manor to be separated in several divisions and again afterwards in further subdivisions, among his descendants, in which state it now remains; but those of the male line of the name of Blaxland, still continue to reside at it. From the beginning of the last century to the middle of it, the Napletons, a family of good account in these parts of the county, were lessees of Graveney-court, and resided at it; and from that time to the latter end of it, the Houghhams were occupiers of it, and resided here. Many of both families lie buried in this church, as do all the Blaxlands, since their coming to the possession of this estate.

/n Vistn. co. Kent, 1574. pedigree Martyn. See several of their wills in Prerog. off. Canterbury.

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NAGDEN, formerly spelt Negdon, is a noted estate in the north-west part of this parish, consisting mostly of marsh land, which was once part of the endowment of the abbey of Faversham, and continued amongst the revenues of it till its final dissolution in the 30th year of Henry VIII. at which time it was valued at eight pounds per annum.

This estate thus coming into the hands of the crown, was granted by the king next year to Sir Thomas Cheney, lord warden, to hold in capite, who alienated it, in the 36th year of that reign, to Robert Martyn, of Graveney-court, who died in the first year of king Edward VI./o leaving his two daughters his coheirs, Joane, married to Richard Argall, and Elizabeth to Stephen Reames, who jointly possessed this estate. After which both these moieties seem to have been conveyed to Ciriack Petit, of Colkins, in this neighbourhood, who died possessed of the entire fee of it in 1591, and in his descendants it continued down to Mr. William Petit, who in 1709 conveyed it by sale to dame Sarah Barrett, of Lee, widow, who died in 1711, upon which this estate came to her only son by her first husband, Sir Francis Head, bart. who died possessed of it in 1716./p He left four sons, who became entitled to this estate on their father's death, as coheirs in gavelkind. On the death of the eldest Sir Richard Head, bart. in 1721, his share devolved to his three brothers. James Head, esq. died afterwards intestate in 1727, and unmarried, on which Sir Francis Head, bart. and John Head, D. D. became possessed of it in undivided moieties, and the latter that same year conveyed his moiety of it to the former, who in 1745 sold the entire fee of it to John Smith, esq. of Faversham, who has since conveyed it to his son, John Smith, junior, esq. of

/o Rot. Esch. ejus an. See before, p. 29.

/p See more of the Heads, in vol. iii. of this history, p. 489.

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Ospringe, the present possessor of it. The estate of Nag=

den pays nine shillings per annum, on Lammas day, to the vicar of Graveney, in lieu of tithes.

CHARITIES.

ON a tablet in the church, the benefactions of several pieces of land are recorded, amounting in the whole to upwards of four acres. These are put up as benefactions to the church; but by the information of the clerk, they belonged to the poor, to whom the yearly produce of them was distributed till of late. It is now applied to the repairs of the church.

The poor constantly relieved are about ten, casually 25.

GRAVENEY is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Ospringe.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and consists of three isles and a high chancel, and two side ones formerly called chapels, the south one being dedicated to St. John, and the north one to the Virgin Mary. The steeple, which is a tower, stands at the north-west corner. In it are three bells. The antient gravestones in this church have been removed from where they originally laid, to make room for the present ones. Thus that of John Martyn, as I am informed, has been removed out of the north into the south chancel. In this north chancel they have been likewise still further displaced; there are now two rows of gravestones in it, lying three and three. In the west row are now, the first southward, Judge Martyn's; the second, Mr. Edward Blaxland's, who died in 1739; and the third, Thomas Burgeys, esq. For the making room for Mr. E. Blaxland's, Judge Martyn's stone was removed from the middle or second place to the first, where before his son's lay, till removed to the south chancel. This practice, of disturbing the ashes of the dead, as is but too frequent in churches of late, calls loudly for some authority to prevent it in future.

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The church of Graveney, with the advowson of the vicarage, was in very early times part of the possessions of the priory of St. Mary Overies, in Southwark, with which it continued till the final dissolution of it in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. when it came into the hands of the crown, together with all the revenues and estates belonging to it.

The parsonage remained in the crown some years longer than the advowson of the vicarage, as will be mentioned hereafter, that is, till the 3d year of queen Elizabeth, when the queen granted this rectory, being then valued at 7l. 6s. 8d. yearly rent, to archbishop Parker and his successors, in exchange for other premises. Since which it has continued part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury to this time.

This parsonage has been from time to time demised on a beneficial lease, at the above yearly rent. In 1643 Mrs. Elizabeth Robinson, widow, was tenant of it. John Baker, esq. of St. Stephen's, near Canterbury, is the present lessee of it.

But the advowson of the vicarage did not continue so long in the crown, for it was granted, among others, in 1558, to the archbishop and his successors, with whom it now continues, his grace the archbishop being

now patron of it.

This vicarage is valued in the king's books at fifty pounds, and the yearly tenths at 1l. 4s. per annum. In 1578 there were communicants here ninety. In 1640 the communicants were sixty-five, and it was valued at sixty pounds per annum.

In the year 1244 archbishop Boniface, on the presentation of the prior and convent of St. Mary Overies, as appears by an antient book belonging to it, instituted Ralph, the curate of Gravene, to the perpetual vicarage of this parish, so that he should receive and take in the name of it, all fruits and oblations, with

/q Inrolments, Augtn. off. /r Rym. Fœd. vol. iv. p. 177.

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all other things belonging to the church, excepting two sheaves of the tithe, and should take the same to his own use.

In the same manuscript, on a dispute between the prior and convent, rectors of this church, and Richard, lord of Gravenel, concerning tithes in this parish, it was decreed in 1283, before the rural dean of Ospringe, that the vicar should receive, in the name of the religious, as well as in his own right, all tithes arising in future from the feedings and pastures in his own marshes, called North-marsh and Leved-marsh, which should be paid to him without any cavil or exception./s

The vicar has a house and two acres of glebe land. The vicarage is worth about fifty pounds per annum. He is entitled, by the above composition, to all tithes, excepting the two sheaves mentioned in it, and by prescription likewise; which third part of the corn tithes is now usually known by the name of the vicar's third sheaf. But the impropiator's lease being for all the tithes of the parish, without any such exception, has occasioned many quarrels and disputes about this third sheaf, which are now entirely subsided, and the vicar is accustomed to take one shock out of every thirty shocks of corn, in right of his vicarage.

CHURCH OF GRAVENEY.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

The Archbishop. William Clovell, S. T. P. resig.
1609.

David Platt, Feb. 9, 1609, re=
signed . . .

Edward Platt, A. M. June 9,
1641.

Michael Bilson, clerk, Nov. 10,
1660.

/s Lewis's MSS. Lambeth-libr. See also Ducarel's Rep. 2d edit. p. 52.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

The Archbishop. Francis Worrall, A. M. Jan. 20,
1667, obt. Oct. 1671./t

Thomas Lees, A. M. March 2,
1679, obt. Nov. 25, 1724./u

Francis Inman, clerk, Jan. 18,
1724, resigned 1725.

Edward Brown, A. B. Oct. 2,
1725, resigned 1727.
William Henry Giraud, A. B.
July 12, 1727, obt. March 18,
1769.
Athelstan Stevens, A. B. May
30, 1769, the present vicar./w

/t He had been before vicar of Faversham and curate of Davington, and afterwards held this rectory with the vicarage of Preston.

/u /w And rectors of Goodneston.

- - -

SELLING.

ADJOINING to Boughton southward lies the parish of Selling, on the south or opposite side of the London road to Graveney, last described.

It is written in Domesday, Selinge, and Sellinges, and in some antient records, Sellinge subtus Bleane./x A small part of it, that is, so much as is within the borough of Rode, is within the hundred of Faversham.

Besides the manor of Selling, those of Rhodes-court, Shillingheld, and Tenham, claim over different parts of this parish.

The archbishop's paramount manor of Boughton claims over so much of this parish as is within that hundred, to the court leet of which the occupiers of the houses and lands in this, as well as the other parishes above-mentioned, within it, are amenable, by reason of their resciancy; notwithstanding which, the lands and houses themselves, throughout them, hold of other

/x Leland, in his Itin. vol. vi. p. 7, spells this parish Celling.

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manors, which claim over them, by heriot, relief, rent, &c. which is the general case, where there is a manor paramount, and inferior manors under it, the one claiming a civil, the other a military jurisdiction over the same district of country.

SELLING is situated about two miles southward of the high London road, and the 49th mile-stone on it. It lies on rising ground towards the south, in a dry and healthy country. It is not a large parish, the rents in it are about 1900l. per annum, and the houses about sixty-two. The middle part of it, in which is the church and village, is far from being unpleasant, the soil inclining about the church to gravel, and the hill and dale very gentle. The branch of the turnpike road from Faversham over Old Wives lees to Chillingham, where it joins the Ashford road, runs along the northern part of the parish; on this road, about a mile eastward of the church, is a neat villa, built by Collet Manhood, esq. who resided for some time in it, since which it has been usually inhabited by persons in a genteel line of life, it is now the property of Mr. Mapleton, who resides in it; on the same road, still more eastward, is the borough of Rhode, almost adjoining to the Boughton woods.

At a small distance westward of the church is the court-lodge, now a farm-house, near which in the vale, is an old mansion, but lately modernized, called Marshes, which was at the latter end of the last century the pro-

perty of the Chambers's, several of whom lie buried in this church, who bore for their arms, Sable, a chevron, between three cinquefoils, or. From an elder son was descended the late Abraham Chambers, esq. of Tunstall, and by a daughter and coheir of a younger son, this estate came partly by marriage, and partly by sale, to Mr. Robert Hilton, gent. of this parish, whose son Mr. Thomas Gibbs Hilton now resides in it; further westward from hence is the hamlet of Hanville-green, with the estates of Harefield, in a poor rough

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hilly country, the soil chalky, and covered with flints. In the southern part of the parish is a very high and conspicuous hill, called Shottenton hill, commanding on all sides of it as extensive a prospect as any in this county; the North Foreland cliff, the county of Essex, and an uninterrupted view into the north sea are seen towards the east and north-east, and the channel again over an extensive view of the county, towards the south-east. The top is a flat, which seems levelled by art, and is near a furlong in length; the lower and middle parts of the hill, excepting the southern, are covered with rich coppice wood, and the upper and southern parts with broom, heath, and low beach, straggling thinly over it. The soil is gravel on the surface, and under it sand, the pits in which, by the digging of it, reach near a quarter of a mile under-ground.

Upon the level of it, upon which the windmill stands, are the plain remains of an antient camp, the intrenchments of which inclose about an acre and three-quarters of ground, more than half of which seems to lie on the declivity towards the south-east.

The form of the intrenchments vary according to the rounding of the hill; the north-east, north-west, and south-east angles are pretty near right angles, but that to the south-west is rounding. There are two ports, the principal one of which is very fair towards the south, the other eastward. This has been thought by some, to have been a Roman camp, whilst others have conjectured it to be Danish. But from the very large remains of strong fortification and entrenchments thrown up in Shellingham wood, about two miles south-eastward from hence, which seems to have been one of the castra stativa of the Romans, for by that name they called their more lasting encampments, according to Vegetius, I conjecture this on Shottenton-hill, from its nearness to that, to have been one of the castra æstiva, or smaller summer encampments, as well as an exploratory fort for the use of that larger one.

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This certainly was an excellent situation for their purpose; for, besides the command of the country from it on all sides, it is well supplied with water, there being numbers of pits or wells of water in places over different parts of this hill, which are supplied plentifully, frequently overflowing, but never dry; many of them are of a mineral quality, as appears by the ochreous substance in them. They seem mostly to have been formed by nature.

About half a mile north from Shottenton-hill is a very large barrow, or tumulus, on which is now planted

a toll of beech trees.

There is a fair now held in the village of Selling on Whit Tuesday, which, by report, was formerly held of old custom in November.

This parish has the reputation of having been the birth-place of William Tylle, alias Selling, a man as noted as any of his time, for learning and wisdom, prior of Christ-church, in Canterbury, where he died in 1494; but it appears by several wills of his family, in the Pre-rogative-office, Canterbury, (contrary to the uncontradicted opinion from that of Leland down to the present time) that he was born at Sellinge, by Hythe, in the description of which parish a further account of him will be given.

MR. JACOB has observed several scarce plants in this parish, inserted in his *Plantæ Favershamienses*, to which the reader is referred.

SELLING was given, about the year 1045, to St. Augustine's monastery, in Canterbury, and it is accordingly thus entered in the general survey of Domesday, taken about the year 1080, under the title of the lands of that abbey.

In Boltone hundred, the abbot himself holds Sellinges manor, without a court (or halimote) which was taxed at six sulings. The arable land is eleven carucates. There is nothing in demesne. There are thirty villeins, having ten carucates. There is a church. In the time of king

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Edward the Confessor, it was worth fifteen pounds, when he received it eight pounds, now thirteen pounds and five shillings.

In the latter end of king Henry I.'s reign, about the year 1130, this manor, together with the rectory, was assigned by the abbot of St. Augustine's, to the cloathing of the monks there.

The manor, with the rectory, remained part of the possessions of the monastery till its final dissolution, in the 30th year of Henry VIII. when this great abbey, with all its revenues, was surrendered into the king's hands, where both manor and rectory remained till the 36th year of that reign, when the king granted it to Sir Anthony St. Leger, in tail male, to hold in capite by knight's service, and he obtained a new grant of them anno 4 king Edward VI. to him and his heirs, by the like tenure, at the yearly rent of 16l. 5s. 5½d./y His son Sir Warham St. Leger passed it away by sale to Sir Michael Sondes, of Throwley, who died in 1617, and his descendant Sir George Sondes, earl of Faversham, leaving only two daughters his coheirs, Mary, married to Lewis, lord Daras, afterwards earl of Faversham, and Katherine to Lewis Watson, earl of Rockingham, each of them successively, in right of their wives, became possessed of this manor and rectory; and the latter of them died possessed of them in 1724, and his grandsons, Lewis and Thomas, both successively dying s. p. the latter devised them among his other estates, to the hon. Lewis Monson, who afterwards took the name of Watson, and in 1766 was created Lord Sondes, whose son the right hon. Lewis-Thomas, lord Sondes, is the present possessor of them. A court baron is held for this manor.

PERRYWOOD and HARESFIELD are two manors in the south-west part of this parish, the former of which

/y Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 7. Rolls of fee-farm rents, temp. in=terregni, Roll 6, No. 11.

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is called Perie in the general survey of Domesday, being then part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Baieux, under the general description of whose lands it is entered in it; but as there are two estates called by this name described in it, which of them belongs in particular to this above-mentioned, cannot now be ascertained./z

After the confiscation of the bishop's estates, in 1084, this estate seems to have come into the possession of owners, who assumed their surname from it. One of these, Randal de Pirie, held this manor in the reign of king John, as did his descendant William de Pirie in that of king Edward II. but in the 20th year of king Edward III. this family was extinct here, and it seems then to have been in the hands of different coparceners. The Darells afterwards held it, and after them the Finch's, and the Martyn's of Graveney. John Martyn, judge of the common pleas, died possessed of it in 1436, leaving his widow possessed of it, who afterwards married Thomas Burgeys, esq. whom she likewise survived, and died possessed of it in 1458, having by her will given the manor of Perrywode to her second son Robert Martyn, who was afterwards of Perrywood. How long it continued in that name I do not know; but both that and Haresfield afterwards became part of the possessions of Corpus Christi college, in Oxford, where they remain at this time, the present lessee of them being the right honorable Lewis-Thomas, lord Sondes.

OVENS-COURT is a manor in this parish, though it has lost the reputation of having been so for many years. It is corruptly so called for Owens court, having been in antient time the seat and estate of the family of Owen, extracted from those of the principality of Wales. They were possessors of it in the reign of Henry III. as appeared by old rentals and other evidences. After

/z A transcript of both may be seen in vol. vi. under Perry Court in Ospringe.

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them the Drylands, of Cooksditch, in Faversham, became owners of it, and continued so till the beginning of king Edward IV's reign, when it was sold by one of them to Sir John Fogge, of Repton, comptroller of the household and privy counsellor, on whose attainder anno 1 Richard III. this manor came to the crown, and by another act, passed the same year, the king being enabled to make grants of the possessions of persons attainted, this manor of Olde Oven, alias Owene, with other lands in this county, was given to Gloucester Herald, to hold by knight's service, who however, held it but a short time, for an act having passed in the 1st year of Henry VII. for the restitution of several persons attainted by king Richard III. this manor came again into the hands of its former owner, Sir John Fogge, who died in the 6th year of that reign, and by his will

gave this manor to his second son Thomas Fogge, esq. one of whose descendants passed it away in the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign to Crouch, and Giles Crouch alienated it in 1588 to Michael Sondes, esq. afterwards of Throwley, whose son Sir Richard Sondes, about the beginning of the reign of king Charles I conveyed it by sale to Franklyn, from which name it was sold to Lambe; in later time, after some intermediate owners, it came by marriage, about the 2d year of king George I. to Henry Cartwright, from whence it was sold to Tempest, of Durham, whose descendant John Tempest, esq. of Wynyard, in the said county, some few years ago passed it away by sale to Thomas Hawkins, esq. of Nash, who sold it to the right hon. Lewis Thomas Lord Sondes, the present possessor of it.

RHODES-COURT is a manor situated in the south-east extremity of this parish, in the borough of the same name, which borough, though within the parish of Sel-ling, is yet within the hundred of Faversham, the court leet of which claims over it. It was antiently written Rode, and la Rode, and was part of the possessions of the wealthy family of Badlesmere, one of whom, Bar-

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tholomew de Badlesmere, in the 9th year of king Edward II. obtained a grant of free-warren for all his demesne lands within this manor. His son Giles de Badlesmere dying in the 12th year of Edward III. s. p. leaving his four sisters his coheirs,^{/a} upon the division of their inheritance, this manor was, among others, allotted to Margaret, whose husband Sir John Tibetot, or Tiptoft, as the name was usually called, became possessed of it in her right; his son Robert died without male issue, and this manor went into the colateral branch of that family, in which it continued down to John Tiptoft, earl of Worcester, who, for his adherence to the house of York, was attained and beheaded in 1471, anno 10 Edward IV. king Henry being then restored to the crown, through the successful services of Richard, earl of Warwick. He left by his second wife only one son Edward, then an infant, who, though he was afterwards restored in blood by Edward IV. I do not find that he was ever reinstated in the possession of this manor, which seems to have remained in the crown till the reign of Henry VIII. In the 26th year of which, anno 1534, Thomas Bealde, of Godmersham, died possessed of it, leaving two daughters, to whom he devised this manor.

After this it came into the possession of Christopher Tilghman, gent of this parish, who owned it in 1621, and he sold it to Thomas Carter, of Crundal, in whose family it remained till it was alienated by Thomas Carter, esq. of Crundal, in 1714, to Mr. George Smith, of Faversham, who died in 1763, and his son, of the same name, within these few years, sold it to John Sawbridge, esq. of Ollantigh, whose son Samuel-Elias Sawbridge, esq. is the present possessor of it.

THE TITHES of this borough were formerly accounted as part of the rectory of Faversham, to which they were accordingly paid; and in the year 1274 an

^{/a} See Badlesmere, vol. vi. of this history, p. 470.

inquisition was made in the church of Selling, concerning the payment of one hundred sheaves of corn, due to that church from this land of Rode, for the burial of the tenants of it, and it was decreed by the official of the archdeacon, that the tenants should in future pay the same to the church of Sellyng from their own corn, and not from the tenth belonging to the church of Faversham; and that they should make sufficient recompence to the church of Sellyng for all arrears then due on account of the same.

The great tithes of this borough now belong to the right hon. lord Sondes, as part of his rectory of Selling, as do the above-mentioned one hundred sheaves in part of the same rectory. But the small tithes of such part of this borough as is within the parish of Boughton, are claimed by the vicar of that parish, and are accordingly paid to him.

SOUTHHOUSE is an estate in this parish, which had owners of that name in very early times. Valentine Southouse was possessed of lands in Selling in 1449, and his eldest son William gave the south window in this church. Of this branch was Thomas Southouse, esq. author of the *Monasticon Favershamiense*, and other tracts, who died in 1676, and was buried there, whose second son Filmer Southouse, was a man of learning, and studious in his father's line of knowledge.^b They bore for their arms, Argent, on a bend cotized, three martlets, gules. Other branches of it were settled in this neighbourhood, in Sheldwich, and in Faversham; but though they continued in this parish till the beginning of the present century, yet this estate in particular, for there were others belonging to them, called likewise by their name, which were at times alienated to different persons, which had been the antient inheritance of this family, was alienated from them before the reign of queen Elizabeth, when Robert Dodde was

^b See Wood's Ath. vol. ii. p. 788.

possessed of it, and conveyed it in separate parcels, anno 4 Elizabeth, back again to John, George, and Thomas Southouse. That part of it, which consisted of the house, with the land adjoining to it, was in Charles II.'s reign, become the property of Mr. Richard Southouse, who by his will in 1675 devised it to his sister Elizabeth, and the next year conveyed it to James Hardres, esq. whose descendant John Hardres, in 1702, conveyed it to Isaac Denew, esq. who in 1719 passed it away by sale to John Wotton, of Sturry, whose descendant John Wotton, in 1777, conveyed it to Lewis, lord Sondes, whose son the right hon. Lewis-Thomas, lord Sondes, is the present owner of it.

CHARITIES.

AN ALMS-HOUSE in this parish was given to it by Mr. Abraham Chambers of Marshes, for the benefit of two poor persons of this parish, to be nominated by his heirs, on condition, that the parish from time to time should repair it.

The poor constantly relieved are about forty; casually 95.

SELLING is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURIS-

DICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Ospringe

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, consists of three isles, at the upper end of the outer ones are two chancels, of which the southern is the largest, and with the rest of the church seemingly forms a cross; in the middle between these stands the steeple, which is a tower, in which are six bells. Above this is the high chancel, with another on each side of it, and one more small one on the north side, the entrance of which is entirely stopped up. In the east window of the high chancel are remains of good painted glass, being figures of several saints and warriors; under them are several coats of arms. In the high chancel is a memorial for William Norwood, S. T. B. rector of St. Dunstan's in the East, London, and late fellow of All Souls college, Oxford, obt. 1596. Under the upper south chancel is a vault, made by Mr. Thomas Gibbs Hilton, for his

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family. The chancel below that above-mentioned, belonged to the family of Gate, owners of Luton, in this parish, now Sir Harry Oxenden's, to whom this chancel now belongs. Several of the Gates lie interred in it. In the south isle several of the Gyles's, and in the middle isle several of the Greenstreet's, of this parish, lie interred. In the window at the upper side of the north isle, is a fine head of a saint, and these arms, A lion rampant, guardant, double tailed, ermine, over all, a fess.

The church of Selling was in very early times, together with the manor, part of the possessions of the monastery of St. Augustine, as has been already mentioned before, and so early as the latter end of king Henry I.'s reign, about 1130, was assigned by the abbot of it, to the cloathing of the monks there, the appropriation of it being confirmed by pope Urban III. about 1185, and by pope Alexander IV. in 1255, with the four privileges annexed to it. Notwithstanding which, there was no endowment of a vicarage here till the time of archbishop Peckham, when Thomas de Fydone, then abbot of St. Augustine, about the year 1284, on the petition of J. de Badele, then vicar, granted that he should receive, as a perpetual augmentation of his portion, being the oblations and obventions commonly belonging to the altars, the five acres of land, with the garden and all other its appurtenances, lying in this parish, in the place where the parsonage was sometime situated; and he confirmed for him and his successors for ever, the appropriation of the tenement where the vicar then dwelt, near the church. And he granted, that the vicar and his successors should receive of him and his church yearly, by the hand of their chamberlain, ten shillings sterling at Michaelmas and Lady-day, and one seam of peas on Christmas-day; so that being content with the oblations and obventions aforesaid,

/c Decem. Script. col. 2248, 2095, 2267, 1891.

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(not corn or sheaves, unless planted or dug with the foot) belonging in common to the altars, and to these his augmentations, – he should exact nothing, in the

name of tithes of gardens, beasts, tillage, or any other matters existing within the bounds of the manor of their chamber, nor should receive any thing of mills, or nutriments of cattle, belonging to the chamber, but that the same should remain there, safe, free, and quiet to it, without any tithing or exaction as aforesaid, free and exempt as they were elsewhere in their demesnes. But yet, if the premises were let to ferme to others, then the vicar should have of the farmer of them his just tithes; but that the vicar and his successors, should pay to the ordinarie the procurations, by reason of any visitation, and should be liable to all other ordinary burthens of the church for ever: and that, when the above benefit was granted to the vicar, it was so accepted by him, for himself and his successors. The cyrograph of which grant and endowment was confirmed by archbishop Peckham, at the request both of the vicar and the abbot, under his seal at the same time.

The rectory or parsonage, together with the advowson of the vicarage appendant to it, continued part of the possessions of the monastery till its dissolution, anno 30 Henry VIII. when they were, together with the manor, a few years afterwards, passed by grant from the crown to Sir Anthony St. Leger, as has been already fully related before, and from him through the several intermediate owners there mentioned, down to the right hon. Lewis-Thomas, lord Sondes, the present owner of them.

In 1578 here were communicants 133. In 1640, communicants 186. Value sixty pounds. It is now a discharged living, of the clear yearly certified value of thirty-seven pounds, the yearly tenths being 13s. 4d.

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CHURCH OF SELLING.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Richard Sondes, esq. William Daud, A. M. May 8,
1598, obt. 1639.

The King. William Annand, A. M. Nov.
16, 1639./d

Sir G. Sondes, K. B. Onesephorus Paul, Nov. 18, 1669,
resigned 1671.

James Kay, A. M. May 9, 1671,
obt. 1677.

Dame Mary Sondes, countess of
Faversham. John Sidway, A. M. Dec. 13,
1677, deprived 1680.

Lewis Watson, esq. Edward Fisher, clerk, Aug. 1,
1680, obt. 1710.

Edward Watson, esq. Thomas Nicholls, A. M. Oct. 7,
1710, resigned 1714./e

Hon. Edward Watson. George Sykes, A. B. May 5,
1714, resigned 1715./f

James Bernard. A. M. Feb. 6,
1715, resigned 1726./e

Lewis, earl of Rockingham. John Burton. A. M. Feb. 28,
1726, obt. Dec. 1735.

John Arnald, A. B. Dec. 20,
1735, resigned 1762.

Lewis, lord Sondes. William Gurney, A. M. Feb. 2,

1763, resigned 1763./e
Henry Thomson, A. B. June 15,
1763, resigned 1784./e
Richard Halke, A. M. 1784, the
present vicar./g

/d By reason of the lunacy of dame
Catharine Sondes, widow. Rym. Fœd.
vol. xx. p. 383. He resigned on being
presented to the rectories of Badles=
mere and Leveland.

/e He resigned on being presented to
the rectories of Badlesmere and Leve=
land.

/f He resigned this for the vicarage
of Preston.

/g And vicar of Faversham by dis=
pensation.

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THE HUNDRED OF MARDEN.

HAVING described the upper, or northern division
of the lath of Scray, I now proceed to the lower, or
southern division of it, which is wholly in the Weald,
and is entirely separated from the former by a large
district of the lath of Shipway intervening, which is
occasioned by the hundreds of Calehill, Chart and
Longbridge, Felborough and Wye, which antiently
belonged to this lath, being severed from it, and added
to the lath of Shipway, part of which they have been
for a long time accounted.

THE HUNDRED OF MARDEN lies at the north-
west corner of the lower division of the lath of Scray,
adjoining to that of Maidstone north, and to Brench=
ley and Horsemonden west, both which have been
already described in a former volume of this history.

This hundred is not mentioned particularly in the
general survey of Domesday, but seems to be included
in the description of the king's manor of Miltion, to
which it was accounted an appendage./a

IT CONTAINS WITHIN ITS BOUNDS THE PARISHES OF

1. MARDEN.
2. GOUDHURST, and
3. STAPLEHURST.

And the churches of the two first of those parishes.

- - -

MARDEN.

THE next parish north-eastward from Horsemon=
den is Marden, called in antient records, Merdenne,
which lies wholly within the district of the Weald.

That part of this parish, which is within the manor
of Hunton, is in the borough of Hunton, and hun=

/a See vol. vi. of this history, p. 171.

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dred of Twyford; a small part of it belonging to the
estate called Tilden, is in the hundred of Maidstone,
and another small part of it is within the hundred of

Eyhorne.

The manor of East Farleigh and East Peckham claims over the den of Chillenden in this parish, as does the manor of Gillingham over that of Hayd=hurst, alias Haytherst, in it.

THE PARISH OF MARDEN is about five miles long, and not more than one broad. There are about three hundred houses, and fifteen hundred inhabitants in it, the rents amounting to about 3,500l. per annum. The river Teis, being one of the principal heads of the Medway, flows along the western boundaries of it, as another head of it, which rises at Great Chart, does the northern boundary, and having passed Style-bridge, joins the former one, and then take their course together to the main river, which they join at Yalding. The turnpike road, which leads over Cocks=heath to Style-bridge, separates there at the 44th mile-stone from London, the left branch passing to Cranbrook, and the right through this parish towards Goudhurst, the only parts of it which may be said to be above ground, the rest of it being so deep and miry as to be nearly impassable in wet weather. The town of Marden, as it is usually called, is situated on it, nearly in the middle of the parish. It is not paved, and consists of three streets, the houses of which are but meanly built, the church stands at the west end of the town, with the patronage opposite to it, and the vicarage on the entrance to it from Maidstone. The country here is much the same as the lower parts of the adjoining parishes of Hunton and Yalding al=ready described in a former volume of this history./b Near the road from Style-bridge to Goudhurst it is very pleasant, but towards Hunton, and towards Sta=

/b See vol. v. of this history, p. 145, 156.

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plehurst much the contrary, being of a very dreary and forlorn aspect. It lies very low and flat, the soil in general a stiff clay, a very heavy tillage land; in winter the lands are exceeding wet, and much subject to in=undations, and was it not for the manure of their na=ative marle, and the help of chalk and lime brought from the northern hills would be still more unfertile than they were at present, notwithstanding which there are partially dispersed some very rich lands among them, and there were some years ago three hundred acres of hop-ground here, which have of late been les=sened near one hundred acres. The farms are in ge=neral small, the houses of them antient well-timbered buildings, standing dispersed at wide distances, many of them on the different greens or forstals throughout the parish.

A fair is held here yearly on October 10, for toys and pedlary. The profits of which the portreve of the hundred of Milton receives of antient custom, which officer executed within this hundred the office of clerk of the market in all points, whilst the market was held, but it has been disused time out of mind.

THE MANOR AND HUNDRED OF MARDEN has been from the earliest time esteemed as an appendage to the king's manor and hundred of Milton.

King Edward I. settled it in jointure on his queen

Eleanor, who in the 11th year of that reign procured a market and fair to be held at Mereden, parcel of the manor of Middleton. Queen Eleanor died in 1291, anno 20 Edward I. and the king again took possession of this manor, and the next year it was found, upon an inquisition taken for that purpose, that this hundred then belonged to the king, and, together with the hundred of Middleton, was worth 22l. 13s. 8d. per annum./c

/c Pleas of the Crown. See Harris's Hist. Kent, p. 195.

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The inhabitants of this hundred from time to time petitioned the crown, to have this manor separated from the jurisdiction of that of Milton, and to be esteemed as an entire and independent manor of itself; but this appears never to have been attended to; so that it continues in the same dependant state at this time.

Although there was from time to time several grants made by the crown, of the manor of Middleton, with this of Marden appendant to it, yet the fee of it remained parcel of the royal revenue, as may be more particularly seen under the description of that manor, till the 10th year of king Charles I. who then granted it to Sir Edward it Browne and Christopher Favell, in fee, from whence it passed through the several intermediate owners there mentioned, down to the right hon. Philip, viscount Wenman, and Mrs. Anne Herbert, the present possessors of the manor of Middleton, with this of Marden appendant to it.

THE MANOR OF CHEVENEY, and CHEVENEY-HOUSE, are both situated in this parish, and are now distinguished by the names of Great and Little Cheveney. They were antiently the property of a family of that surname: Henry del Chyvene held the manor of Chyvene at his death in the 2d year of Edward II. anno 1308, of the king in capite. His descendant John Chivene died possessed of them in the reign of Edward III. as did his widow Joane in the 32d year of it. After which there is no farther traces of this family, but in the 2d year of the next reign of king Richard II. it appears by the antient court-rolls of this manor, that William At-Weld was proprietor of them, in whose descendants they continued till the beginning of the reign of king Henry VI. and then they passed by sale to Couper, and in the 13th year of it, William Couper discharged several persons from the amerciaments and fines imposed on them, for not performing suit and service to his manor of Cheveney.

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In this family they continued till the beginning of queen Mary's reign, when they came into the possession of two brothers, as coheirs in gavelkind, who made a partition of their inheritance; one of them, who had the allotment of the manor, passed it away to Lone, one of whose descendants, a little while before the restoration of king Charles II. alienated it to Thomas Twisden, esq. sergeant-at-law, afterwards knighted, and made one of the judges of the king's bench, and created a baronet. He seated himself at

Bradbourne, and in his descendants this manor, since known by the name of Great Cheveney, was continued down to his great-grandson Sir Roger Twisden, bart. of Bradborne, who died possessed of it, without male issue, in 1779, upon which it came to his widow, lady Rebecca Twisden, who is the present possessor of it./d A court baron is held for it.

But CHEVENE-HOUSE, since called LITTLE CHEVENEY, fell to the lot of the other brother, and was alienated by him to Maplesden, which branch of that family had been seated in this parish for some generations before. Many of them lie buried in this church, where several of the inscriptions on their gravestones are become obliterated, through the dampness of it. Several of their wills are in the Prerogative-office, Canterbury. They bore for their arms, Argent, a cross fermee, fitchee, sable. In which name it continued down to George Maplesden, esq. who resided here, where he died in 1688, leaving two sons, George, who, though married, died s. p. in 1735, and was succeeded in this estate by his brother Edward; and two daughters, Anne, who was married to Booth, and Catherine to Courthope, of Horsemonden. Edward Maplesden, esq. above-mentioned, was of the Middle Temple, and died, unmarried and intestate, in 1755;

/d See more of this family under Bradbourne, in East Malling, vol. iv. p. 512.

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upon which this, among the rest of his estates, descended to Alexander Courthope, esq. of Horsemonden, the son of his sister Catherine, and to Charles Booth, esq. the grandson of his sister Anne, before-mentioned, as his coheirs in gavelkind, and upon a partition of his whole estate, this house became the sole property of the former, who likewise died unmarried in 1779; upon which Chevene-house, with the rest of his estates, came to his nephew and heir-at-law John Cole, esq. (son of his sister Barbara) who now resides at Sprivers, in Horsemonden, and is the present possessor of it.

WIDEHURST is a manor in this parish, which was formerly written in old records Wogherst, and was, as early as the reigns of king John and king Henry III. the patrimony of the family of Corbie, of no small account in this county, in which it continued till it passed by a female heir by marriage into that of Wotton, ennobled by the title of lords Wotton, of Marley, and thence again by a daughter and coheir Catherine, in marriage to Henry, lord Stanhope, son and heir of Philip, earl of Chesterfield, who died in his father's life-time, and she again carried it in marriage to her second husband John Poliander Kirkhoven, lord of Hemfleet, in Holland,/e and they, in 1652, joined in the sale of it to John Boughton, esq. who in 1656 alienated it to Mr. John Godden, and his heirs, in 1683, conveyed it to John Brewer, esq. of West Farleigh, whose descendant of the same name died possessed of it in 1724, leaving an only daughter and heir Jane, who was twice married, first to John Carney, esq. and secondly to John Shrimpton, esq. both of whom she survived, and died in 1726 s. p. She de-

vised this manor, with the rest of her estates, to her kinsman John Davis, D. D. who died in 1766, and

/e See a further account of the owners of this manor, and of the Wottons and Stanhopes under Boughton Malherb, vol. v. p. 400.

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his only son and heir John Davis, esq. alienated it, to John Cole, esq. of Horsemonden, who is now proprietor of it.

SHIPHURST is another manor in the western part of this parish, which was possessed by owners of that name till the latter end of king Edward III, and then it became the property of William Atweld, owner likewise of Cheveney before-mentioned, in whose descendants they continued till the beginning of king Henry VI. and then they were both passed by sale to Couper, from which name this manor was soon afterwards alienated to Field, and his descendant Edward Field held it in the 4th year of queen Elizabeth, and afterwards gave it to his kinsman Thomas Gilbert, whose successor of the same name settled it on his widow Sibil Gilbert, whose second husband Richard Knight, possessed it, in her right, in the year 1656./f After some intermediate owners, it passed into the name of Mitchell, and Charles Mitchell, of London, possessed it in 1734, after whose death it came to his brother-in-law Mr. George Whyvall, of London, from whence it passed to Mr. Peirse, of London, who about the year 1760 alienated it to Mr. Thomas Twort, of Horsemonden, whose two sons Thomas and David Twort afterwards possessed it; the latter of whom devised his moiety of it to his nephew John Coleman, whose son John Coleman, together with the last-mentioned Mr. Thomas Twort, now possess this manor in undivided moieties. A court baron is held for it.

MONKTON is a manor in that part of this parish next to Staplehurst, in which part of the lands belonging to it lie. It formerly belonged to the priory of Leeds,/g and after the suppression of it in the reign of Henry VIII. was granted to Thomas Colepeper, esq.

/f Philipott, p. 233. /g Plac in Banco 27 Edw. Rot. 19, vol. 79, de terris in Meredon ptin priorat de Ledes. See Tan. Mon. p. 212.

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of Bedgebury, who soon afterwards sold it to Thomas Wilsford, esq. and he in the 7th year of queen Elizabeth, alienated it to Edward Herbert, from which name it passed by sale, at the latter end of that reign, to Thomas Stanley, in whose family it remained till the reign of king James I. when it passed by sale to Board, of Sussex, in whose descendants it continued till about 1756, when it was, soon after the death of Mr. William Board, alienated by his heirs to John Henniker, esq. of West Ham, in Essex, since Sir John Henniker, bart. who is the present owner of it.

The family of Henniker, Heneker, or as it was originally called, De Henekin, has been of long continuance in this county. One of them, Peter de Henekin, was lieutenant-governor of Dover castle in the reign of king Edward II. They afterwards, in the reign of Edward IV. wrote themselves Heneker, and

resided in different parishes of this county, where their estates lay, as may be seen in the different volumes of this history. John Henniker, who died at Lenham in 1616, was ancestor to those of Chatham and Rochester, from whom descended Sir John Henniker, bart. now of West Ham, the present possessor of this estate, who in 1758 served the office of sheriff for Essex. He married Anne, the eldest of the two only daughters and coheirs of Sir John Major, bart. of Worlingworth-hall, in Suffolk, (the other daughter Elizabeth marrying Henry, duke of Chandois) by whom he had three sons, John-Henniker-Major, esq. M. P. for Steyning, who married Miss Emely Jones; Major, a merchant in London, who married Miss Mary Phoenix, and died in 1789; and John, colonel in the army; and one daughter Elizabeth, married to Edward Stratford, earl of Aldborough. Lady Henniker lies buried in the south isle of Rochester cathedral, under a most beautiful monument. Sir John Major was created a baronet in 1765, and the title was limited, in default of his issue male, to his son-in-law John Henniker,

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esq. before-mentioned, and his heirs male, at which time a patent also passed for the latter to quarter the arms of Major, viz. Azure, three pillars of the Corinthian order, on the top of each a ball, or, with those of Henniker; Gules, a chevron charged with three estoils, argent, two crescents in chief, and an escallop shell in base, azure. Sir John Major died in 1781, upon which the title of baronet descended to his son-in-law, now Sir John Henniker, bart. the present possessor of this manor, and late member in two successive parliaments for the town and port of Dover.

READ is a manor in this parish, the mansion of which, called Read-court, is situated on the northern side of it. It was once the inheritance of the noted family of Fremingham, one of whom, John, son of Sir Ralph de Fremingham, of Lose, died in the 12th year of Henry IV. possessed of this manor, and leaving no issue, he by his will devised it to feoffees, who by deed, next year, assigned it over accordingly to John, son of Reginald de Pimpe, and his heirs male, with remainder to Roger Isley, as being nearest of blood to him./h

It seems afterwards to have come into the possession of the Isleys, for William Isley, esq. was possessed of it at the time of his attainder, in the 1st year of queen Mary, by which his lands became forfeited to the crown; whence this manor was granted that year to Sir John Baker, attorney-general, to hold in capite, whose son Sir Richard Baker afterwards possessed it, but in the 10th year of queen Elizabeth's reign it was come into the possession of Edward Morriss, who held it of the queen, in manner as before-mentioned. In later times it was become the property of Master, one of which name, Giles Master, held it in 1652, as appears by the survey of Marden manor then taken. In his descendants it continued some time, but at length,

/h See East Farleigh, vol. iv. p. 379.

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after some intermediate owners, it came into the possession of Nicholas Bonfoy, esq. sergeant-at-arms of the house of commons, who at his death in 1775 devised it by his will to Mr. S. H. Babb, one of the officers of that house, and he is the present owner of it.

TILDENS, TUBBINS, and BROOKE, are three small manors in this parish, which had formerly three separate owners of those names; the first were persons of some note in this county, and were possessed of estates both at Kennington, Brenchley, and Tilmanstone likewise, so early as the reign of king Edward III. These three families continued in the possession of these manors till the latter end of Henry IV.'s reign, and then one of the family of Tubbins passed away that manor to Tilden, in which name both Tildens and Tubbins remained till the beginning of king Henry VI.'s reign, and then they were demised by sale to Thomas Stidulfe, esq. who, as appears by his will in 1453, had likewise purchased Brooke manor of Richard Brooke.

His grandson Thomas Stidulfe, esq. of Badsell, left an only daughter and heir Agnes, who carried these three manors in marriage to Richard Fane, esq. of Tudeley, from whom they descended, in like manner as Mereworth, to John Fane, earl of Westmoreland, and from him again, together with the barony of Le Despencer, down to the right hon. T. Stapleton, lord le Despencer, who is the present possessor of them.ⁱ

THE LIBERTY of the corporation of Maidstone claims over the manor of Tildens, which is situated near Style-bridge, where there is likewise an estate called Little Tildens, which in 1675 belonged to Thomas Wall, gent. of London. It lately was the property of Nicholas Haddock, esq. who sold it to John Cole, esq. the present possessor of it.

ⁱ See a full account of the Fane's, earls of Westmoreland, and the Stapleton's, under Mereworth, vol. v. p. 77.

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There was a family of the name of Symons, which resided at Marden for some generations; one of whom Edward Symons, gent. in 1652, held lands here, late Sir John Packington's. In 1662 he had a grant of this coat of arms, Party per fess, sable, and, or, a pale and three cinquefoils, counterchanged.^k He resided here in 1663, and was possessed of much land in this parish.

CHARITIES.

EDWARD MAPLESDEN, gent. by will gave to the poor of this parish 5*l.* per annum for ever, payable out of a house and lands situated near Horsemonden-heath, let at 10*l.* per annum, subject to 20*s.* per annum, to be paid to a learned minister, for the preaching of two charity sermons yearly on Ash Wednesday and Whit Sunday.

CERTAIN LANDS near Apledore-heath, let at 11*l.* 15*s.* per annum, were formerly the property of Mrs. Mary Allen, who by will gave to the poor of this parish 100*l.* payable out of them. After which her son, Mr. John Allen, gave another 100*l.* and charged the said land with it, subject to a decree in chancery, under which the churchwardens and overseers, with the approbation of the parishioners, legally purchased all the whole of those lands for 320*l.* as appears more at large by the said decree and

other writings.

AN OLD COTTAGE, now in three small dwellings, built on the waste has belonged to the parish time out of mind.

There is a work-house here for the poor, those maintained in it are yearly about fifty, out of it about forty-five.

MARDEN is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton.

The church consists of three isles and three chancels, with a low square tower at the west end of it, in which there are six bells. It is situated very low and damp, at the west end of the town. In it was a chapel, dedicated to St. John the Baptist. In 1763 this church was beautified by subscription, at the expence of 96l. 3s. 9d.

/k There is a pedigree of this family in the Heralds office, book marked D. 18, fol. 102.

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Richard de Lucy, chief justice of England, on the foundation and endowment of the abbey at Lesnes, gave the church of Merden to it, in pure and perpetual alms; which gift was confirmed by several kings afterwards; and in the 16th year of the latter reign, there was a vicarage endowed here by archbishop Stratford.

The appropriation of this church, together with the advowson of the vicarage, remained part of the possessions of that abbey till the final dissolution of it in the reign of Henry VIII. when being one of those smaller monasteries, which cardinal Wolsey had obtained of the king in the 17th year of his reign, for the endowment of his colleagues, it was surrendered, with all its possessions, into the cardinal's hands, and afterwards granted by him, by the like letters patent, for the better endowment of his college, called Cardinal's college, in Oxford. But this church staid with that college only four years; when the cardinal being cast in a præmunire, in 1529, all the estates of it were forfeited to the king, and became part of the revenues of the crown, whence it was soon afterwards granted to the Carthusian monastery of Shene, in Surry, and on the dissolution of that house within a few years afterwards, it came again to the crown, where it seems to have remained till queen Elizabeth having, in her 3d year, taken into her hands several manors, lands, &c. parcel of the revenue of the see of Canterbury, by her letters patent that year, granted to archbishop Parker and his successors, several rectories and parsonages in lieu of them, among which latter was this church of Marden appropriate, then valued at fifteen pounds, (being the reserved rent by the lessee of it) with the advowson of the vicarage appurtenant to it. Since which it has remained parcel of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, and does so at this time.

/l See Ducarel's Rep. edit. 2, p. 77.

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In the 8th year of king Richard II. this church was valued at 26l. 13s. 4d. annual value. In 1643 Sir William Acton, knight and baronet, was lessee of this

rectory, at the yearly rent of fifteen pounds. John Cole, of Horsemonden, is the present lessee of it.

The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 7l. 18s. 4d. and the yearly tenths at 15s. 10d. In 1557 here were three hundred families, communicants five hundred. In 1569 four hundred and twenty families. Since which this parish has greatly increased in number of inhabitants. In 1640 this vicarage was valued at seventy-five pounds per annum. It is now of much greater value. There is no glebe belonging to it.

Archbishop Juxon, in conformity to the king's letters mandatory, anno 15 Charles II. augmented this vicarage, by increasing the old pension from the lessee of the parsonage, from three pounds to twenty pounds per annum.

An estate in this parish, of about fifteen pounds per annum value, formerly belonging to Mottenden priory, now to John Sawbridge, esq. claims an exemption of tithes.

CHURCH OF MARDEN.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

The Crown. Solomon Boxer, Oct. 29, 1584,
obt. 1614./m

John Wood, A. M. May 10,
1614, . . . 1642./n

The Archbishop of Canterbury. George Amhurst, obt. Nov. 1,
1707./o

George Fage, A. M. Dec. 16,
1707, obt. 1728./p

John Henry Ott, A. M. resigned
Sept. 1728.

/m He was buried in the chancel,
within the altar rails.

/n White's Century, p. 30. Wal=

ker's Suff. of Clergy, pt. ii. p. 400.

/o He lies buried in this church,
within the altar rails.

/p Also rector of Hunton, and pre=

bendary of Litchfield.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

The Archbishop of Canterbury. William Jacomb, presented Sept.
1728, obt. 1741.

Walter Walker Ward, D. D.
inducted Jan. 30, 1741, re=
signed 1742./q

Jonathan Monkton, A. M. in=
ducted Dec. 4, 1742, resigned
1766./r

John Andrews, LL. B. Dec. 22,
1766, the present vicar.

/q Also rector of Biddenden, and re=
signed this vicarage on being presented
to Great Chart.

/r He was before vicar of Sitting=
borne.

- - -

GOUDHURST

LIES the next parish southward from Marden.

The northern part of it, as far southward as the stream formerly called Risebridge river, which flows from Bedgebury to Hope mill, and a smaller part likewise on the other side of it, adjoining to the rivulet called the Bewle westward, is in the hundred of Marden, and lower division of the lath of Scray; the rest of the parish southward of the first-mentioned stream, is in the hundred of West, alias Little Barnefield, and lath of Aylesford, comprehending the whole of that hundred. So much of this parish as is within the borough of Faircrouch, is in the hundred of Cranbrook; as much as is in the boroughs of Pattenden, Lilsden, Combwell, and Chingley or Bromley, is in the same hundred of West, alias Little Barnefield; and the residue is in the hundred of Marden. It lies wholly within the district of the Weald, and in the division of West Kent.

The borsholders of the boroughs of Highamden, Pattenden, and Hilsden, in this parish, are chosen at the court-leet holden for the manor of East Farleigh, and the inhabitants owe no service but to that manor; only a constable for the hundred of West Barnefield may

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be chosen out of such parts of them as lay within it for that hundred. The manor of Maidstone likewise extends into this parish, over lands as far southward as Rise-bridge.

THE PARISH OF GOUDHURST is very pleasantly situated, being interspersed on every side with frequent hill and dale. The trees in it are oak, of a large size, and in great plenty throughout it, as well in the woods, as broad hedge-rows and shaves round the fields. The lands are in general very fertile; the soil, like the adjoining parishes, is mostly a deep stiff clay, being heavy tillage land, but it has the advantage of a great deal of rich marle at different places, and in some few parts sand, with which the roads are in general covered; and in the grounds near Finchcocks, there is a gravel-pit, which is the only one, I believe, in this part of the county. There is much more pasture than arable land in it, the former being mostly fattening lands, bullocks fatted on them weighing in general from 120 to 130 stone. It is well watered with several streams in different parts of it, all which uniting with the Teis, flow in one channel, along the western side of this parish, towards the Medway.

The eastern and southern parts of it are much covered with thick coppice wood, mostly of oak. The turnpike road from Maidstone over Cocksheath through Marden, leads through the upper part of this parish southward, dividing into two branches at Winchet-hill; that to the left goes on to Comborne, and leaving the town of Goudhurst a little to the right, joins the Cranbrooke road a little beyond it. That to the right, having taken into it a branch of the Woodgate road from Tunbridge, near Broadford-bridge, goes on to the town of Goudhurst, and thence eastward to Cranbrooke and Tenterden; and the great high road from Lamberhurst through Stonecrouch to Hawk-hurst, and into Sussex, south-east, goes along the

southern bounds of this parish.

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The parish is about eight miles long and four broad. There are about three hundred houses in it, and somewhat more than five inhabitants to a house. It is very healthy; sixty years of age being esteemed, if not the prime, at least the middle age of life; the inhabitants of these parts being in great measure untainted with the vices and dissipation too frequently practised above the hill.

There are two heaths or commons here; the one called Pyles-health, and the other Killdown, in West Barnefield hundred.

THE TOWN, or village of Goudhurst, stands in the hundred of Marden, about half a mile within the lower or southern bounds of it, on an hill, commanding an extensive view of the country all around it. It is not paved, but is built on the sides of five different roads which unite at a large pond in the middle of it. The houses are mostly large, antient and well-timbered, like the rest of those in this neighbourhood, one of them, called Brickwall, belongs to the Rev. Mr. Thomas Bathurst. Within memory there were many clothiers here, but there are none now. There is some little of the woolstapling business yet carried on.

On the summit of the hill, on which the town stands, is the church, a conspicuous object to the neighbouring country, and near it was the market-place, which was pulled down about the year 1650, and the present small one built lower down, at the broad place in the town near the pond. The market was held on a Wednesday weekly, for cattle, provisions, &c. till within memory; it is now entirely disused, there is a fair held yearly in the town, upon the day of the assumption of our lady, being August 26, for cattle, hardware, toys, &c. This market and fair were granted in the year of king Richard II. to Joane, widow of Roger de Bedgebury, the possessors of which

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estate claim at this time the privilege of holding them, by a yearly rent to the manor of Marden.

At the hamlet of Stonecrouch is a post-office of very considerable account, its district extending to Goudhurst, Cranbrooke, Tenterden, Winchelsea, Rye, and Hastings, and all the intermediate and adjoining places, to which letters are directed by this Stonecrouch bag.

ALMOST adjoining to the town eastward, on the road leading to Tenterden, there is A HAMLET, called LITTLE GOUDHURST, in which there is an antient seat, called TAYWELL, which for many generations was possessed by a family of the name of Lake, who bore for their arms, Sable, a bend between six cross-croslets, fitchee, argent. In the north isle of this church, under which is a vault, in which this family lie buried, there is a marble, on which is a descent of them. The last of them, Thomas Lake, esq. barrister-at-law, resided here, but dying without issue male, his daughters and coheirs became possessed of it; one of whom married Maximilian Gott, esq. and the other Thomas

Hussey, esq. whose son Edward Hussey, esq. of Scotney, now possesses the entire fee of this estate, which is demised for a long term of years to Mr. Olive, who has almost rebuilt it, and resides in it.

AT A SMALL DISTANCE southward from the above-mentioned seat, is another, called TRIGGS, which was for several descents the residence of the Stringers, a family of good account in the different parts of this county. John Stringer, esq. son of Edward Stringer, of Biddenden, by Phillis his wife, daughter of George Holland, gent. resided here in king Charles I.'s reign, and married Susanna, daughter of Stephen Streeter, of Goudhurst, by whom he had Stephen, of Goudhurst; John, gent. of Ashford, who left a daughter and heir Mary, married to Anthony Irby, esq. Edward and Thomas, both of Goudhurst; the latter left two sons. Thomas and Edward, and a daughter

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Catherine, who married William Belcher, M. D. by whom she had Stringer Belcher, and other children. The Stringers bore for their arms, Per chevron, or, and sable, in chief two eagles displayed of the second, in the base a fleur de lis of the first.

Stephen Stringer, the eldest son of John, resided at Triggs in the reign of king Charles II. and was succeeded in it by his second son Stephen Stringer, esq. who kept his shrievalty here in the 6th year of queen Anne. He died without male issue, leaving by Jane his wife, daughter of John Austen, esq. of Broadford, four daughters his coheirs, Jane, married to Thomas Weston, of Cranbrooke; Hannah to William Monk, of Buckingham. in Sussex, whose eldest daughter and coheir married Thomas Knight, esq. of Godmersham; Elizabeth married Edward Bathurst, esq. of Finchcocks, and Anne married John Kirril, esq. of Sevenoke. This seat was afterwards alienated to Francis Austen, esq. of Sevenoke, whose son Francis Mottley Austen, esq. of Sevenoke, is the present owner of it.

THE MANOR OF MARDEN claims over the greatest part of this parish; part of it, being the dens before-mentioned, are within the manor of East Farleigh, and the remaining part, called Wincehurst-den, is within the manor of Gillingham, near Chatham. Although that part of this parish which lies within the hundred of West Barnefield, being the most southern part of it, contains those places which are of, by far, the greatest note in it, yet, for the sake of regularity in my description, I shall begin with those in the hundred of Marden, partly already described, and having finished that, proceed next to the hundred of West Barnefield, and the matters worthy of notice in it.

BOKINFOLD is a manor of large extent, situated in the hundred of Marden, having formerly a large park and demesnes belonging to it, which extended into

/s Pedigree in the hands of Mrs. Knight, of Godmersham.

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the parishes of Brenchley, Horsemonden, Yalding, Marden, and Goudhurst, the house of it being situated in that of Yalding, in the description of which parish the reader will find an ample account of the former

state and possessors of it./t It will, therefore, be sufficient to mention here, in addition to it, that the whole of this manor coming at length into the possession of Sir Alexander Colepeper. He in the 3d year of queen Elizabeth levied a fine of it, and three years afterwards alienated that part of this manor, and all the demesnes of it which lay in Brenchley, Horsemonden, Yalding, and Marden, to Roger Revell, as has been mentioned under the parish of Yalding, and THE REMAINDER OF IT in this parish, held of the manor of Marden, to Sharpeigh, whose descendant Stephen Sharpeigh passed that part of it away in 1582, to Richard Reynolds, whose son and heir John Reynolds, about the 41st year of queen Elizabeth, conveyed it to Richard Eliot, and he, about the year 1601, alienated it to Thomas Girdler, who the next year sold it to John Reynolds, and he, in the 5th year of king James, transmitted it to John Beale, who, about 1609, passed it away to John Harleston, of Ickham, and he settled it by will on Richard Harleston, who in like manner devised it to his kinsman Richard Bishop, and he, soon after the death of king Charles I. sold it to Mr. Stephen Stringer, of Triggs, in Goudhurst, whose son, of the same name, was sheriff anno 6 queen Anne, and left five daughters his coheirs, of whom Elizabeth, the third, married Edward Bathurst, esq. of Finchcocks, and on the division of their inheritance, he, in her right, became possessed of this manor. He died in 1772, upon which this estate came to his son, the Rev. Thomas Bathurst, rector of Welwyn, in Hertfordshire, the present owner of it. A court baron is regularly held for this manor.

/t See vol. v. of this history, p. 163.

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In 1641 the archbishop collated Richard Amhurst, clerk, to the free chapels of Bockinfold and Newsted annexed, in the archdeaconry of Canterbury, then vacant and of his patronage./u

COMBORNE is an estate, situated in the northernmost part of this parish, adjoining to Winchet-hill, in the hundred of Marden likewise; which place of Winchet-hill was antiently the original seat in this county, of the family of Roberts, of Glassenbury.

An ancestor of this family, William Rookherst, a gentleman of Scotland, left his native country, and came into England in the 3d year of king Henry I. and had afterwards the surname of Roberts, having purchased lands at Winchet-hill, on which he built himself a mansion, calling it Rookherst, after himself. This place came afterwards to be called Ladiesden Rokehurst, alias Curtesden, and continued the residence of this family till the reign of king Richard II. when Stephen Roberts, alias Rookherst, marrying Joane, the daughter and heir of William Tilley, of Glassenbury, removed thither, and the remains of their residence here are so totally effaced, as to be known only by the family evidences, and the report of the neighbourhood.

But their estate at Winchet-hill continued several generations afterwards in their descendants, till it was at length alienated to one of the family of Maplesden,

of Marden, in whose descendants this estate, together with that of Comborne adjoining, continued down to Edward Maplesden; esq. of the Middle Temple, who died in 1755, s. p. and intestate. Upon which they descended to Alexander Courthope, esq. of Horsemondon, the son of his sister Catherine, and to Charles Booth, esq. the grandson of his sister Anne, as his coheirs in gavelkind, and on a partition of those estates between them, Winchet-hill was allotted to Charles

/u Book of Inductions, in Register-office, Canterbury.

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Booth, esq. afterwards Sir Charles Booth, of Harrietsham-place, who died possessed of it, s. p. in 1795, and his devisees, for the purposes of his will, are now in the possession of it; but Comborne was allotted to Alexander Courthope, esq. since deceased, whose nephew John Cole, esq. now possesses it.

FINCHCOCKS is a seat in this parish, situated within the hundred of Marden, in that angle of it which extends south-westward below Hope mill, and is likewise within that manor. It was formerly of note for being the mansion of a family of the same surname, who were possessed of it as early as the 40th year of Henry III. They were succeeded in it by the family of Horden, of Horden, who became proprietors of it by purchase in the beginning of king Henry VI.'s reign, one of whom was Edward Horden, esq. clerk of the green cloth to king Edward VI. queen Mary, and queen Elizabeth, who had, for some considerable service to the crown, the augmentation of a regal diamond, added to his paternal coat by queen Elizabeth. He left two daughters his coheirs, Elizabeth, married to Mr. Paul Bathurst, of Bathurst-street, in Nordiam, and Mary to Mr. Delves, of Fletchings, who had Horden for his share of the inheritance, as the other had this of Finchcocks. He was descended from Laurence Bathurst, of Canterbury, who held lands there and in Cranbrooke, whose son of the same name, left three sons, of whom Edward, the eldest, was of Staplehurst, and was ancestor of the Bathursts, of Franks, in this county, now extinct, /w of the earls Bathurst, and those of Clarendon-park, in Wiltshire, and Lydney, in Gloucestershire; Robert Bathurst, the second, was of Horsemondon; and John, the third son, was ancestor of the Bathursts, of Ockham, in Hampshire. Robert Bathurst, of Horsemondon above-mentioned, by his first wife had John, from whom came the Ba-

/w See vol. ii. of this history, p. 500.

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thursts, of Lechlade, in Gloucestershire, and baronets; and Paul, who was of Nordiam, and afterwards possessor of Finchcocks, from whose great-grandson William, who was a merchant in London, descended the Bathursts, of Edmonton, in Middlesex. By his second wife he had John, who was of Goudhurst, ancestor of the Bathursts, of Richmond, in Yorkshire. In the descendants of Paul Bathurst before-mentioned, this seat continued down to Thomas Bathurst, esq. who by his will devised this seat and estate to his nephew Edward, only son of his younger brother Wil-

liam, of Wilmington, who leaving his residence there on having this seat devised to him, removed hither, and rebuilt this seat, at a great expence, in a most stately manner. He resided here till his death in 1772, having been twice married, and leaving several children by each of his wives. By his first wife Elizabeth, third daughter and coheir of Stephen Stringer, esq. of Triggs, he had three sons, Edward, who left a daughter Dorothy, now unmarried, and John and Thomas, both fellows of All Souls college, in Oxford, the latter of whom is now rector of Welwyn, in Hertfordshire. Before his death he conveyed this seat and estate by sale to his son by his second wife, Mr. Charles Bathurst, who on his decease in 1767, s. p. devised it by will to his brother, the Rev. Mr. Richard Bathurst, now of Rochester, the present possessor of it. This branch of the family of Bathurst bore for their arms the same coat as those of Franks, in this county, and those of Cirencester, Lydney, and Clarendon, viz. Sable, two bars, ermine, in chief three crosses pattee, or, with a crescent for difference; but with a different crest, viz. Party per fess, and pale, a demi wolf argent, and sable, holding a regal crown, or; which I take to be that borne by Edward Horden, whose heir Paul Bathurst, their ancestor, married, and whose coat of arms they likewise quartered with their own.

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AT NO GREAT DISTANCE from Finchcocks, in the same hundred, lies a capital messuage, called RISEDEN, alias GATEHOUSE, which formerly belonged to a family named Sabbe, one of whom, Simon Sabbe, sold it, before the middle of the last century, to Mr. Robert Bathurst, from whom it descended down, with an adjoining estate, called TRILLINGHERST, to another Robert Bathurst, who died in 1731, and lies buried in this church, whose daughter Mary sold them both to Sir Horace Mann, bart. the present possessor of them.

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THE
HUNDRED
OF
WEST OR LITTLE BARNEFIELD,

LIES adjoining to that of Marden southward, and is in the lath of Aylesford; it consists only of the remaining part of the parish of Goudhurst yet undescribed, being the southern part of it.

ALMOST in the midst of this part of Goudhurst is situated that eminent seat, called BEDGEBURY, nearly surrounded by a large tract of woodland, the greatest part of which is now known by the names of Bedgebury-park and the Fryth-woods.

This seat, in times of high antiquity, afforded both seat and surname to the possessors of it, one of them, John de Bedgebury, as appears by an old dateless deed, probably about the time of king Edward II. demised lands to William de Comeden, of Comedenhouse in these parts; his seal fixed to it being a knight on horseback, armed cap-a-peè. His descendant John de Bedgebury, son of John de Bedgebury, who died

in 1424, and was buried in this church, dying s. p. in the reign of Henry VI. Agnes his sister, married to John Colepeper, became his heir, and entitled her husband to this seat, with the appendant manors of Bedgebury and Ford. He was the second son of Walter Colepeper, of Goudhurst, descended from those of Bayhall, in this county, where a full account of them may be seen. He was afterwards knighted, and sheriff in the 7th year of king Edward IV. at which time he resided at Bedgebury, where he died in 1480, and was buried near his father in this church, leaving two sons, Alexander, who was of Bedgebury, and Walter, who was ancestor of the Colepepers, of Leeds-castle, Hollingborne, and the Charter-house./x

Sir Alexander Colepeper, the son, was of Bedgebury, and sheriff in the 15th and 22d years of king Henry VII. and the 6th of Henry VIII. Thomas Colepeper, esq. his eldest son, of Bedgebury, procured his lands to be disgavelled by the act of the 2d and 3d year of king Edward VI. in the latter of which he was sheriff. His grandson Anthony was of Bedgebury likewise, and was knighted by queen Elizabeth, who in her progress through Kent in 1573, honored this seat with her presence; and it is said in Camden's Remains, to the reputation of this family, that there were twelve knights and baronets alive, of this house of Colepeper, at one time. He had twelve sons and four daughters; of the surviving sons, Henry the third, was of Endford, in Wiltshire, clerk, and Thomas the fifth was of St. Stephen's, near Canterbury. Sir Alexander Colepeper, the eldest son, succeeding his father, resided at Bedgebury in the reign of king James I. He left an only daughter Anne, married to Thomas Snelgrave, esq. so that after his death this seat and estate seems to have descended, by the entail of it, to his next brother William Colepeper, esq. who

/x See vol. v. of this history, p. 467, 486.

died about the time of the restoration of Charles II. and his son Thomas Colepeper, esq. alienated Bedgebury, with its appendant manors, to Sir James Hayes, who married Rachel, viscountess Falkland, the daughter of Sir Anthony Hungerford, and widow of Lucius, viscount Falkland, the renowned friend of lord Clarendon. He rebuilt this seat, at a small distance from the antient mansion. He bore for his arms, Argent, three escutcheous, gules.

After his death, and much litigation in the court of chancery, Edward Stephenson, esq. who had a large mortgage on this estate, was put in the possession of it by that court, whose nephew Edward Stephenson, esq. afterwards possessed it, and on his death in 1782, it came to his cousin Capt. Edward Stephenson, who died in the East-Indies, and devised it to Miss Peach, and she sold it soon afterwards to John Cartier, esq. the present possessor of these manors, with the seat and estate of Bedgebury.

In the reign of queen Elizabeth, there was an extensive park adjoining to this seat, but it has been disparked many years. John Cartier, esq. has for some

time resided at Bedgebury, where he kept his shrievalty in 1789, and has made great improvements to the house and lands adjoining.

A court baron is regularly held for the manor of Bedgebury.

TWYSDEN BOROUGH, antiently called Twysenden, and now usually called Burrs-farm which name is a contraction from the word borough to burgh, and thence to Burr, was once reputed a manor, and lies in the hundred of West Barnefield, at a small distance northward from Bedgebury; a place worthy notice, as having been the antient inheritance of the family of Twysden, who took their name originally from it, being at first called De Twysenden, and in Latin, De Denna Fracta, according to the quaint language of those times.

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Adam de Twysenden, or Twysden, possessed this estate in the reign of Edward I. as did his descendant Roger Twysden, who in the 5th year of Henry IV. sealed with an impression of a cockatrice, in wax, as appears by a deed now in the hands of Sir William-Jarvis Twysden, bart. of East Peckham, a singular thing in those times, when crests were very unusual, and only began to be customary, when those eminent families, who took part in the two factions of the houses of York and Lancaster, assumed them as marks of distinction of the party they sided with. This crest is still borne by the different branches of this family./y

Roger Twysden, above-mentioned, married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Thomas Chelmington, esq. of Chelmington, in Great Chart, to which his son Roger Twysden, esq. removed and made it his residence. He was steward of the liberty of the priory of Christ-church, in Canterbury, in the reign of king Henry VI. in the beginning of which reign he sold this estate to Roger Riseden, of Riseden, in this parish, and he immediately afterwards alienated it to Jeffry Allen, who, about the latter end of that reign, settled it by deed on Thomas Windhill./z After which it was, for several descents, possessed by the family of Austen, in which it continued till by Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of William Austen, gent. of Goudhurst, it passed in marriage, about the time of king Charles I. to Anthony Fowle, of Rotherfield, in Sussex, a younger branch of those of Riverhall, in that county, and he on his death devised it to his second son Simon Fowle, esq. of this place, who died possessed of it in 1672, leaving an only daughter, and was buried in this church. He bore for his arms,

/y Philipott. p. 172. Vistn. co. Kent, anno 1619. Register of Christ-church, Cant.

/z Philipott, 172, taken from original deeds and evidences.

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Gules, a lion passant, guardant, between three roses, or. Soon after which it came into the possession of Balthurst, a younger branch of those of Finchcocks, from which it was sold to Jeffry Gilbert, baron of the exchequer, and after that to John Norris, esq. of Hem-

sted, in Benenden, eldest son of admiral Sir John Norris, who died in 1767, and was succeeded in it by his son John Norris, esq. whose trustees sold it to John Cartier, esq. of Bedgebury, the present owner of it.

There has been no court held for this manor for some time.

ADJOINING to Twysden borough is the BOROUGH OF LILSDEN, the manor of which lately belonged to Springet, and afterwards to Mr. John Noaks, gent. Since which it has been conveyed to John Cartier, esq. of Bedgebury, the present owner of it.

THE BOROUGH OF PATTENDEN, over which the manor of East Farleigh claims, was once reputed a manor, and is situated at the uppermost or northern part of this hundred. It gave both seat and surname to a family who were possessors of it, as appears by original deeds and other records, as early as the reign of Edward I. They continued owners of it at the latter end of the reign of Henry VI. in the 29th year of which, on the commission then issued out to Jervas Clifton, esq. sheriff of this county, to return all those who bore arma antiqua, the name of Pattenden, then possessor of this manor, was returned among them. His descendant alienated it to Sir Maurice Berkeley, standard-bearer to Henry VIII. king Edward VI. and queen Elizabeth. By his will in 1581, he gave his manor of Pattenden to Robert, his fourth son, being the eldest by Elizabeth his second wife, daughter of Sir Anthony Sondes, of Throwley, and he, in the same reign, alienated it to Mr. William Beswicke, of Spelmonden, in Horsemonden; after which it passed in like manner as that seat down to Hugh

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Marriott, esq. who died in 1753, and his daughter Mrs. Anne Marriott is the present owner of it./a

CHINGLEY, now more commonly called Shingley, is a manor and estate, situated in this parish, at the western side of the same hundred. It was, so early as the beginning of the reign of king Edward I. part of the possessions of the Cistercian abbey of Boxley, the abbot of which, in the 33d year of Edward III. obtained a charter of free-warren for his demesne lands in his manor of Chingele, in this parish, which continued part of the possessions of that abbey till the surrender of it into the hands of Henry VIII. in his 29th year, who in his 36th year granted it, with other premises in Goudhurst and Staplehurst, to Thomas Colepeper, esq. to hold in capite by knight's service. And he, two years afterwards, alienated the manor of Chingley, and Chingley-wood, with their appurtenances, to Thomas Darell, of Scotney, and Stephen Darell, of Horsemonden, sons of Thomas Darell, esq. of Scotney, the former of whom became at length sole possessor of this manor and estate, and in the 17th year of queen Elizabeth, sold one moiety of it to William Champion, barrister-at-law. But the other moiety he still kept possession of, which continued in his name and family down to John Darell, esq. of Scotney, who in 1774 alienated Chingley-wood to Mr. John Hammond, and the moiety of the manor to Mr. John Richards, and he in 1779 sold it to Edward Hussey, esq. of Scotney, the present possessor

of it.

But the other moiety of this manor and estate, called, for distinction sake, LITTLE CHINGLEY, or Shingley, which was alienated to William Campion, esq. who was of Combwell, in this parish, continues at this time in his lineal descendant William-John Campion,

/a See more of the Beswickes and Marriots, under Horsemonden, vol. v. p. 314.

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esq. son of Henry Courthope Campion, esq. of Daney, in Sussex.

The owners of each moiety of Chingley manor and estate claim an exemption of tithes for their respective shares before-mentioned, as does the owner of Chingley-wood.

THE MANOR OF COMB WELL lies in the same hundred, on part of which, at a place then called Henle, Robert de Thurnham, in the reign of king Henry II. founded A PRIORY for canons of the order of St. Augustine, and dedicated it to St. Mary Magdalen, and endowed it with Henle, Cumbewell, and other possessions, in perpetual alms, which gift was confirmed by his son Stephen de Thurnham. together with all its possessions, in free, pure, and perpetual alms, and by king Henry III. by inspeximus, in his 11th year, who at the same time granted to them a fair, to be held here on the feast and morrow of St. Mary Magdalen. In the 8th year of Richard II. the whole revenues of this priory were valued at 66l. 2s. 6d. Tanner says, this was founded an abbey, but on account of the charge of supporting the state of so great a prelate as an abbot, was, by reason of its slender revenues, degraded to a priory. If this was the case, which I find no where else mentioned, this change must have happened very early; for in 1285 it was again become a priory./b It was subject to the see of Canterbury, the prior constantly making his profession of obedience to the archbishop. He was installed by the archdeacon, who, as his fees, had liberty of staying at the priory two nights and one day, during which he was to be found in meat and drink at the expence of the society, but was not to take any thing further. In the 27th year of Henry VIII. an act passed for suppressing all such religious houses, whole revenues did not amount to the clear yearly value of two hundred

/b See Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 326. Tan. Mon. p. xxvii.

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pounds. In consequence of which this priory, whose revenues amounted to no more than 128l. 1s. 9¹/₂d. in the whole, and 80l. 17s. 5¹/₄d. clear yearly income, was surrendered, with all its lands and possessions, into the king's hands, by Thomas Vincent, the prior of it, who had a pension of ten pounds per annum for his future maintenance.

King Henry VIII. next year, being his 29th, granted the late priory of Combwell, otherwise called Comwell, with the manors of Combwell, Lestherst, alias Loffherst, Hooke, and Coldred, in this county, to Thomas Culpeper, to hold in capite by knight's service. But he did not possess them long, for it appears by the es=

cheat rolls that they were again in the crown, in the 34th year of that reign, in which the king granted them to Sir John Gage, in reward for his services in the expedition made into Scotland that year, to hold by the like service. He was a most distinguished person, both in his military as well as civil capacity, and became one of the most eminent men of the age he lived in; having been, among other offices, made of the privy council, vice chamberlain, comptroller of the household, and chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster. After which he was made constable of the tower of London, and knight of the order of the garter, and lord chamberlain of the household, from whom descended the Gages of Firl, baronets; the present lord viscount Gore, and the Gages, of Suffolk, baronets. He bore for his arms, Gyrony of four, azure, and argent, a saltire, gules. He seems to have exchanged the manor of Combwell, and the scite of the priory, and other premises belonging to it in Goudhurst, with Thomas Colepeper, or Culpeper, esq. of Bedgebury, for the confirmation of which an act passed next year, being the 35th year of the same reign. His son Sir Alexander Colepeper, in the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign,

/c Coll. Bar. vol. i. p. 506. Kimb. Bar. vol. ii. p. 247.

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alienated them to William Campion, esq. descended of a younger branch of those of Witham, in Essex, who afterwards resided here, where he died in 1615, and was buried in this church. His son, Sir William Campion, was of Combwell; a most valiant and loyal gentleman, who engaged early in the troubles of Charles I. in the service of that prince. Being in Colchester with his regiment, at the time that town was assaulted by the rebels under General Fairfax, on June 13, 1648, in a sally out of it he was slain, and was buried in the chancel of St. Peter's, Colchester, being aged only thirty-four. He left a son William, esq. who was of Combwell, having married Frances, third daughter of Sir John Glynne, serjeant at-law, by whom he had issue two sons and six daughters. Of the former, the eldest surviving son Henry, succeeded him in this estate, and married the daughter and heir of Peter Courthope, esq. of Danny, in Sussex, whose grandfather, Peter Courthope, esq. was of Cranbrooke, in the time of king Charles I. and removed from thence to Danny, which he purchased of the earl of Norwich, and died in 1657, to which seat Henry Campion, esq. removed, and soon afterwards pulled down the greatest part of this seat of Combwell, leaving only sufficient for a farmhouse. His son and heir Wm. Campion, esq. of Danny, possessed this estate of Combwell on his father's decease, and died in 1778, and his grandson William John Campion, esq. (son of Henry Courthope Campion, esq. of Danny, in Sussex) who married the eldest daughter of Francis Mottley Austen, esq. of Sevenoke, is the present owner of it. The Campions bear for their arms, Argent, on a chief, gules, an eagle displayed, or.

There is a court leet and court baron regularly held for this manor, at the hamlet of Stonecrouch in this parish, which claims over the whole of this hundred of West, alias Little Barnefield.

CHARITIES.

JOHN ROBERTS, of Goudhurst, by will in 1605, gave to the poor of this parish an annuity of 10s. out of his messuage and lands in this parish, wherein he then dwelt, with power for the overseers to distrain, &c.

EDWARD ROBERTS, ESQ. of Goudhurst, by will in 1627, ordered, that his son Thomas, his executor, should purchase lands to the value of 40s. per annum, to remain for ever to the poor of this parish, to be disposed of by the overseers.

RICHARD BISHOP, of Goudhurst, by will in 1630, bequeathed to certain aged poor people of this parish 20s. to be paid to them yearly for ever, out of his house and lands at Risebridge, to be paid to the vicar and churchwardens, and their successors, for ever, to be distributed to ten poor aged and impotent persons of it every half year, with power of distress, &c.

JOHN HORSEMONDEN, of Goudhurst, clothier, by will in 1636, gave 10l to the churchwardens and overseers, to be laid up for a constant stock, to provide wood and faggots for the poor people about the town of Goudhurst, at their discretion.

RICHARD THOMAS, gent. of Goudhurst, by will in 1639, gave to the use of the poor people of this parish for ever, all his right and interest in the three cottages, with their appurtenances, in Goudhurst, at the lower end of Flimwell-street, near to his lands there, called Pound-fields./d

THE FOLLOWING are from a table of charities, hung up in the church.

SIR WILLIAM CAMPION, late of Combwell, in 1618, gave a chalice and patten.

FRANCES CAMPION, widow and relict of William Campion, late of Combwell, deceased, in 1722, gave two silver flaggons gilt, for the use of the sacrament; and the branch in the middle isle.

HENRY CAMPION, esq. late of Danny, deceased, in 1753, gave 400l. to be laid out in the purchase of lands in this parish, or within ten miles thereof, for the benefit of the vicar for ever. This money is now vested in the 3 per cent. consolidated Bank Annuities, and the vicar constantly receives the interest of it.

JOHN HORSEMONDEN, esq. of this parish, by will in 1670, gave 35l. per annum for ever, for the endowment of a Latin school, and charged his real estate in Tenterden with the payment thereof.

SIR HENRY FERMOR, bart. late of Sevenoke, in this county, gave by will in 1732, one load of best wheat bread-corn, to be delivered yearly on Oct. 10, for ever, to industrious poor people, men and women, who do not receive alms, (which is now given

/d All the above-mentioned wills are in the Prerogative-office, Canterbury.

to forty of them) and charged all his estates in Hadlow and Great Peckham with it.

THOMAS BATHURST, esq. late of Finchcocks, by will gave 5l. per annum for ever, for an English school, at Riseden, in this parish, and 20s. to be laid out in good books, and charged his lands in Horsemonden with the payment thereof.

THOMAS PARIS, who died in 1782, gave by will the sum of 400l. vested in the 3 per cent. East-India Annuities, the interest to be applied to purchase forty sixpenny loaves, to be given away to the poor on the first Sunday in every month; and he gave likewise 100l. to be distributed among one hundred poor persons after his death.

The poor constantly relieved are about one hundred and ten: casually as many.

THERE ARE TWO SCHOOLS in this parish, founded by John Horsemonden, esq. one for teaching grammar and the Latin language, the other English. The former is under the care of the Rev. Mr. Dowthwait, who has a salary of thirty-five pounds per annum; the latter is under the care of a widow woman, who has a salary of five pounds per annum, and is full of poor children.

There is another school at Riseden, in this parish, founded by the will of Thomas Bathurst, esq. of Fincocks, who devised five pounds per annum for ever, for an English school there; and twenty shillings per annum to be laid out in good books.^e

GOUDHURST is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton.

The church is dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary. It is a large handsome building, consisting of three isles and three chancels. It has a large over-sized low tower at the west end, with a small beacon tower at one corner, on which is a pointed turret, covered with lead, with a vane on the top of it. There is a ring of eight bells in it. There is no painted glass remaining in the windows. In the south chancel, one half of which be=
^e See the list of charities before.

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longs to the Bedgebury estate, are several monuments and memorials of the Colepeper family; particularly a tomb of Bethersden marble, with figures in brass, of a man and woman, and their six children. Over it is an arch, supposed to be for one of this family; several gravestones, with figures in brass, on one the arms of Colepeper, impaling three harts heads, coupéd; inscription gone. Against the south wall is a most sumptuous monument of sculpture, composed of many different coloured marbles, having the figures of a man and woman (she being on the right hand, which is unusual) kneeling at two desks; behind him a youth kneeling; underneath are five daughters, eleven sons, and two still-born infants besides, lying under the latter, on it an inscription for Thomas Colepeper, esq. of Bedgebury, eldest son of Ould Sir Alexander Colepeper, of the same, obt. 1550; of Sir Alexander Colepeper, son of the said Thomas, obt. 1599; and one mentioning that Sir Anthony Colepeper, son and heir of the same Sir Alexander, made this tomb in 1608, æt. 48, being then living. In the south isle, is a bow window, in the recess of which is a tomb of Bethersden marble, and on it lie, at full length, the figures of a man and woman, most curiously carved in wood, and as curiously habited in the ornaments and dress of their time, having two greyhounds lying at their feet. At the west end of the tomb are the arms of Colepeper. These figures are perhaps the most worthy notice of any within the kingdom; but they are, through neglect, from the wet and weather beating in upon them, likely, in a very few years, to be entirely decayed. Against the east wall is an historical carve-work, in stone, with a relief in miniature, of a man and woman

kneeling at a desk; behind them six daughters, and five sons. On the desk or altar, anno 1535, in antique type, in the high chancel, a mural monument, with effigies kneeling, for William Campion, esq. obt. 1615, and Rachell his wife. In the south chancel a monument

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for William Campion, esq. with his bust in white marble, dressed in a remarkable large and full curled wig, obt. 1702; one half of this chancel belongs to the Combwell estate. In the church-yard are several tombstones of the Stringers, the inscriptions almost obliterated. There is a remarkable yew-tree in the church-yard, which measures twenty-seven feet in circumference.

There was formerly a tall spire on the tower of this church, which on August 23, 1637, at eleven o'clock at night, was set fire to, by a sudden and dreadful storm of thunder and lightning, which at the same time broke and melted the five great bells in it, and burnt and consumed four lofts, and all the timber and wood work of the steeple, and shook and rent the stone work of it so much, that it was thought right to take it down; and the body of the church and leads were much impaired by the fall of the timbers. In the year following a collection was made by a brief, in this and the neighbouring counties, for the repair of this damage, and a parish tax was made for the purpose; and the foundation of the steeple was begun a-new, of stone, and carried on as high as the roof of the church; but by the dishonesty of the collectors of the money gathered for this use, and the dissensions of the parishioners, the work went no further, only the small turret above-mentioned, was set on the top of the stone work, and one great bell only hung in it, in which state it still remains. It appears by the brief, that the charge of repairing the damage was estimated 2745*l*. which the parishioners were no ways able to undergo, by reason that the number of poor people there were of late years so much increased, the charge of them within nine or ten years past, being but eighty pounds, and then amounting to three hundred pounds per annum, most of the parishioners and farmers being tenants at rack rents, were totally unable to undergo the

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charge, above twenty of the chief owners having of late years left their habitations there.

Robert de Crevequer, at the time of his founding the priory of Ledes, in the year 1119, gave to it the advowsons of all the churches of his estates, among which was this of Gutherste, with twenty acres of land in this parish, together with all their customs, goods, liberties, and privileges. This gift was confirmed by his descendants from time to time, and by several kings, archbishops of Canterbury, and others. Daniel de Crevequer, in his confirmation of it, adds – and all tithes of lands, woods, meadows, marshes, mills, orchards, and of flax, colts, calves, lambs, pigs, cheeses, fleeces, and all other matters, of which tithes ought to be paid.

The church of Goudhurst was appropriated to the prior and canons of Leeds in the reign of Edward I. at the latter end of which reign a complaint was made,

before archbishop Winchelsea, by Peter, then vicar of it, against the prior and convent, for with-holding from him the tithes of the sheep and cows of the manor of Gutherst; and that they had taken of him eighteenth-pence of annual rent, for their finding of three flaggons of oil yearly in the church of Gutherst; and the archbishop, having heard the merits of the case, decreed, that the said tithes, then valued at half a marc yearly, should be restored to the vicar, to be in future received yearly by him and his successors. Notwithstanding which, there was no endowment of a vicarage till archbishop Stratford, by his decree, in 1341, endowed one here; which instrument, exemplified by archbishop Courtney in 1391, is yet remaining./g

/f Regist. of Leeds priory. Dugd. Mon. vol. ii. p. 110. Reg. Roff. p. 209.

/g Archives of the church of Canterbury, marked Chartæ Antiquæ, A. 187. A decree of Robert, archbishop, concerning the tithes of this church, dated in 1297, is among the Lambeth MSS, Regist. Winchelsea, fol. 212.

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The church, and vicarage of this church, remained part of the possessions of the above priory till the dissolution of it in the reign of king Henry VIII. when it came, with the rest of the possessions of that house, into the king's hands, who by his dotation charter, under the great seal, in his 33d year, settled both parsonage and advowson on his new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom they now remain. The lessee of the parsonage-house, and glebe-land belonging to it, under the dean and chapter, is the Rev. Mr. Richard Bathurst, of Finchcocks; and of the parsonage, and tithes belonging to it, John Cole, esq. of Horsemonden. But the presentation to the vicarage they reserve in their own hands.

In the 8th year of king Richard II. the church of Goudhurst, appropriated to the prior and convent of Leeds, was valued at 13l. 6s. 8d. The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 26l. 19s. 2d. and the yearly tenths at 2l. 13s. 11d./h In 1640 it was valued at one hundred pounds. Communicants nine hundred. It is at present endowed with all manner of tithes, except those of corn and grain./i There are about two acres of glebe-land belonging to it.

The dean and chapter of Rochester possess a portion of tithes in this parish, the lessee of which is William-John Campion, esq.

CHURCH OF GOUDHURST.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS

Dean and Chapter of Rochester. Richard Carter, March 23, 1592,
obt. 1612.

Richard Milborne, S. T. P.
April 29, 1612, resigned
1613.

Thomas Horsemonden, S. T. B.
Oct. 7, 1613, obt. 1625.

/h Bacon's Lib. Regis. /i Lambeth Queries.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Dean and Chapter of Rochester. Walter Balcanqual, S. T. P.
July 16, 1625/k

Archbishop, by lapse. Daniel Horsemonden, S. T. P.
1625, resigned 1640./i

Dean and Chapter. James Wilcocke, A. M. Feb. 23,
1640.

Edward Thurman, March 18,
1661, obt. 1676.

James Fen, A. M. November 8,
1676, obt. 1709.

Samuel Pratt, S. T. P. August
15, 1709, resigned 1713./m

John Lidgould, A. M. July 13,
1713, obt. 1727.

The same again, presented March
1728.

Thomas Standen, in 1734.

Robert Berisford, obt. Oct. 2,
1736.

Isaac Finch, A. M. February 16,
1737, obt. 1756./n

John Adey, A. B. January 25,
1757, resigned 1759.

Robert Polhill, A. M. July 1759,
the present vicar./o

/k Dean of Rochester. In 1625 a dispensation passed, for his holding the rectory of Adisham with his vicarage. Rym. Fœd. vol. xviii. p. 663.

/l October 5, 1627, a dispensation passed, for his holding this vicarage with the rectory of Ulcombe. Rym. Fœd. vol. xviii. p. 1005. In 1639 one Edward Bright was put into this vicarage, (see the life of Thomas Wilson, p. 65) and he was ejected by the Bartholomew Act in 1662. Cal. Life of Baxter, p. 286.

/m Afterwards dean of Rochester.

/n He was vicar of Stockbury.

/o In 1764 a dispensation passed for his holding this vicarage with the rectory of Shadoxhurst.

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THE SEVEN HUNDREDS.

ADJOINING to the two last described hundreds eastward, lies the district commonly known by the name of the Seven Hundreds, so connected from their being comprehended under the jurisdiction of one court, held within some part of them, and to which the

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whole district is amenable. They have been from ancient time part of the possessions of the crown, and were for a great length of time kept in the king's own hands. These hundreds were, those of Cranbrooke, Barkley, Blackborne, Tenterden, Rolvenden, Selbritten, and Barnefield, Comprehending the rest of the lath of Scray remaining undescribed; but Tenterden being in king

Henry VI.'s reign made a corporation and hundred of itself, and annexed as a limb to the port of Rye, became exempt from the jurisdiction of the court of these hundreds, and within that of the cinque ports; so that they are now but six hundreds, though they still retain their original name of seven.

To collect the revenues and profits accruing from them to the crown, the king from time to time appointed a bailiff, who likewise exercised the jurisdiction of the crown as lord over them, holding his courts regularly for that purpose within the bounds of them; in which state they continued till the lordship or bailiwick of them was granted away at times to different persons. In the 15th of king Charles I.'s reign, John Henden, esq. had by letters patent a grant of the office of bailiff of them. In latter times, Sir John Norris, of Hemsted, had a grant of it, and his widow lady Norris, was the last who had one of it, the profits being so small as hardly to answer the trouble of collecting them; and the office has since been held at pleasure. Thomas Hallett Hodges is the present bailiff of them.

There is a court leet belonging to these hundreds, kept at any place within them at the will of the lord; and a court baron, usually called the three weeks court, where pleas were held for any sum under forty shillings, which was usually kept at Cranbrooke. At the former of these courts, the inhabitants of the hundreds are bound, on having warning given them, to perform suit and service, and the constables and other officers are elected for them.

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The lord is entitled to estrays throughout the whole district, the pound for which is at Wachenden, in Biddenden, by appointment of the bailiff.

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THE HUNDRED OF CRANBROOKE

LIES the next eastward to that of Marden, in the same lath of Scray.

IT CONTAINS THE GREATEST PART OF THE PARISHES OF

1. CRANBROOKE.
2. FRITTENDEN, and
3. STAPLEHURST.

And the churches of those parishes, and likewise a small part of the parishes of BENENDEN, BIDDENDEN, FRITTENDEN, GOUDHURST, HAWKHURST, and HEDCORNE, the churches of which are in other hundreds. One constable has jurisdiction over it.

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CRANBROOKE

LIES the next parish eastward from Goudhurst, a small part of it is in the north borough of the hundred of Great Barnefield, and another small part in the borough of Iborden, in the hundred of Barkley, and all the residue in the hundred of Cranbrooke. It is in the western division of the country.

THIS PARISH is situated in the centre of the Weald, of which it is a principal one as to its wealth, size, and

consequence, being about eight miles long, and six in breadth; it is exceeding healthy, and considering the deepness of the soil, and the frequency of the woods, far from being unpleasant; the oaks interspersed over it, like the adjoining country, are numerous and of a large size, the hedge-rows broad, and the inclosures small. The north and east parts especially are covered with woods, which consist mostly of oak. There are several rises of small hill and dale throughout it; the soil is in general, excepting in that part of it northward

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of the church, about Anglye, where it is a light sand, and the lands of course poor, a kindly sort of clay, which is rendered more fertile by its native rich marle, of which there is much throughout it; besides arable, there is much rich pasture and fatting land, and some hundred acres of good hop-ground. The principal high roads from London, Maidstone and Tunbridge, by Brenchley, Yalding, and Stylebridge, meet here near the town, and lead from hence by different branches to Tenterden and Romney Marsh; to Hawkhurst and Sussex, and to Smarden, Charing, and the eastern parts of Kent. They are wholly made with sand, and though in wet weather they are exceedingly firm and good, yet in dry seasons, from the looseness of the sand, they become very deep and heavy, and by the heat and dust arising from them, are so very offensive and painful, as to become almost intolerable; the bye roads are very bad in winter, and so very deep and miry, as to be but barely passable till they are hardened by the drouth of summer. It is well watered by several small streamlets, the principal ones of which joint the branch of the Medway just below Hedcorne.

There are three chalybeate springs in the parish, at Sisinghurt, Glassenbury, and Anglye. The waters of them are much like those at Tunbridge, and when weighed prove heavier, but they have not near so much spirit. The town of Cranbrook is situated on the western side of the parish, on the road leading from Maidstone by Stylebridge towards Hawkhurst and Sussex, at the 52d mile-stone, and consists of one large wide street, of about a mile in length, having the church nearly in the centre of it. There is but a very small part of it paved, from the market-place eastward, which was begun in 1654, being done through mere necessity; the deepness and mire of the soil before, being not only a great hindrance to the standing of the market people, but to the passing of all travellers in general. The market is still held on a Saturday, for corn and

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hops, and is a very plentiful one for meat and other provisions. It was obtained by archbishop Peckham, anno 18 Edward I. And there are two fairs held yearly, on May 30, and Sept. 29, for horned cattle, horses, linen drapery, toys, &c. but the latter is the largest, at which there is a great deal of business done in the hop trade.

Here was the centre of the cloathing trade, one of the pillars of the kingdom, which formerly flourished in these parts, and greatly enriched not only this county, but the nation in general. The occupation of it was

formerly of considerable consequences and estimation, and was exercised by persons who possessed most of the landed property in the Weald, insomuch that almost all the antient families of these parts, now of large estates, and genteel rank in life, and some of them ennobled by titles, are sprung from, and owe their fortunes to ancestors who have used this great staple manufacture, now almost unknown here. Among others, the Bathursts, Ongleys, Courthopes, Maplesdens, Gibbons's, Westons, Plumers, Austens, Dunkes, and Stringers. They were usually called, from their dress, the grey coats of Kent, and were a body to numerous and united, that at county elections, whoever had their votes and interest was almost certain of being elected. It was first introduced here by king Edward III. who, in his 10th year, invited some of the Flemings into England, by promises of large rewards, and grants of several immunities, to teach the English the cloth manufacture; but this trade, after flourishing here for so many centuries, is now almost disused in these parts, there being only two houses of it remaining in this parish; but there is yet some little of the woolstapling business carried on. The inhabitants throughout the parish, who are in general wealthy and substantial, are computed to be about 3000, of which a great part are dissenters from the church of England, for whose use there are four meeting-houses in the town, one for Presbyterians,

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the second for Methodistical Baptists, the third for Calvinistical Baptists, and the fourth for Independants. The Presbyterians formerly were the most numerous sect throughout this county; but they are greatly diminished of late years, and the Methodistical Baptists are the prevailing sect, and greatly increasing every year, through every part of it. Besides these there is a meeting-house for the Quakers, with a burying ground, but I believe there is not one of this sect in the parish, though they yet hold an annual meeting here.

In the upper or western part of this town is a good house, called Sheppards, late the property and residence of William Tempest, esq. who died possessed of it in 1784, and his only surviving son John Templet, esq. is now the owner of it. At a small distance from the west end of the town is Goddards green, the antient residence of the family of Courthope. Alexander Courthope died possessed of a house and estate here in the year 1525, as did his grandson, of the same name, in 1608. He had issue eleven sons and five daughters, and lies buried under a tomb in Cranbroke church-yard. From one of these sons was descended, in the fourth generation, the late Alexander Courthope, esq. of Sprivers, and the eldest of them was father of Peter Courthope, esq. who in the reign of Charles I. having purchased Danny, in Sussex, of the earl of Norwich, removed thither. His grandson, of the same name, left an only daughter and heir, who carried this estate in marriage to Henry Champion, esq. of Combwell, and his great grandson, John William Champion, esq. of Danny, is the present owner of it.

At Upper Wilsley, which is a small hamlet almost adjoining to the north-east end of the town, is a seat, for several generations inhabited by the Westons, several

of whom lie buried in Cranbrooke church yard, though some of their inscriptions are obliterated through length

/a There are several wills of this family in the Prerogative-office, Canterbury.

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of time. They bore for their arms, Three lions heads, erased and crowned. John Weston, clotheir, resided here, and died possessed of it in 1694. John Weston, gent. his grandson, died possessed of it a few years ago, whose widow, is become entitled to the possession of it, for her life, and now resides in it.

The manor of Glassenbury claims over the greatest part of the town of Cranbrooke; the manor of Godmersham claims over the remainder of it, and all the denne of Cranbrooke, excepting the George inn, with its appurtenances, which is out of it, and is held of the king by knight's service; and the liberty of the manor of Wye claims over the borough of Frechisley, alias Abbots Franchise, which has a court leet of itself, the borsholder where of is chosen there, and the inhabitants of the same owe no service to the court leet holden for the hundred, only at this court a constable for the hundred may be chosen out of that borough.

THE MANOR OF GLASSENbury is of considerable note, the mansion of which is situated near three miles north-west from the church. This seat was for many generations the residence of the antient family of Rokehurst, the first of whom, who settled in this county, was William Rookehurst, alias Roberts, a gentleman of Scotland, of the shire of Anandale, who, leaving his native country, came to the adjoining parish of Goudhurst in the 3d year of king Henry I. and then purchased lands at Winchett hill there, where he built a mansion for his residence; which lands were afterwards named from him, the lands and denne of Rookehurst, which name it still retains, and there is a tablet put up over a tomb in the south chancel of this church, giving an account of him and his posterity, who bore for their arms, Azure, on a chevron, argent, three mullets, sable. This family continued at Goudhurst for 274 years, till, in the reign of king Richard II. Stephen Roberts, alias Rookehurst, marrying Joane, daughter and heir of William Tilley, esq. of Glassenbury, whose ancestors

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had resided here, as appeared by private evidences, from the time of king Edward I. removed to his manor, where he built a mansion, on the hill of Glassenbury, which came by lineal descent to Walter Roberts, esq. who possessed it in the reigns of king Edward IV. and Henry VII. and was the first who wrote himself by that name only. He, about the year 1473, pulled down this antient seat, and built another lower down the valley, being the present seat of Glassenbury, which he moated round, and inclosed a large park which lay at some distance from it; to enable him to do which, in the 4th year of king Henry VII. he had a grant to impark six hundred acres of land, and one thousand acres of wood, in Cranebrooke, Gowdehurst, and Ticehurst, in Kent and Sussex, and liberty of free warren in all his lands and woods, and of fishing in all waters in

his lands in those parishes, with all liberties and franchises usually granted in such cases. The park of Glassenbury has been long since disparked. He was afterwards dispossessed of this seat, and forced to fly into sanctuary, for endeavouring to conceal his friend and neighbour Sir John Guildford from the resentment of king Richard III. for which he was attainted, and this manor and seat, together with all other his lands in Kent, Sussex, and Surry, were granted by the king, in his first year, to his trustly friend Robert Brackenbury, esq. constable of the tower; but on the accession of Henry VII. his attainder was taken off by parliament likewise, and all his estates restored to him. And in the 5th year of that reign, he was sheriff of this county, He died in the year 1522, aged more than eighty years, and was buried under the old tomb on the north side of the south chancel, being the first who appears by clear evidences to have been interred in this church, in which there are many gravestones and memorials of his posterity, who continued to reside here, several of whom were at times sheriffs of this county, until within memory.

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His descendant Sir Thomas Roberts, of Glassenbury was created a baronet in 1620, the lands of whose grandfather Thomas Rohertes, were disgavelled by the act of 2 and 3 of King Edward VI. and from him it continued in succession down to Sir Walter Roberts, bart. who new fronted this antient mansion, in which he resided with a most distinguished character for his worth and integrity./b He died in 1745, leaving only one daughter and heir Jane, who carried this manor and seat, together with the rest of her estates, in marriage to George Beauclerk, duke of St. Albans, who died in 1786, s. p. on which this manor and seat, with the rest of the estates of the late Sir Walter Roberts, in this county, came by the duchess's will, who died before him in 1778, and was buried in the family vault in this church, (having been for several years separated from him, and residing at Jennings, in Hunton, a seat of her father's) to the youngest son of Sir Thomas Roberts, bart. of Ireland, to whom the title had descended on Sir Walter's death, and he is now entitled to the fee of them.

FLISHINGHURST, or Plushinhurst, as it is sometimes called, is a manor, situated some what less than a mile north-eastward from that of Glassenbury. It was the antient seat and inheritance of the family of Sharpeigh, of Sharpeigh, in this parish, one of which, Robert de Sharpeigh, was resident here at Cranebrooke about the beginning of king Edward I.'s reign, and was witness to a dateless deed of William de Brinden, of Brinden, in this parish, an estate which formerly belonged to the Linds, and afterwards to the Holdens. Another Robert Sharpeigh, of the same place, was, as appeared by an antient roll, in commission as a justice of the peace, about the latter end of king Henry VII.'s reign. They bore for their arms, Ermine, on a bend, azure, three

/b There are pedigrees of this family in the Heraldic Vistn. of Kent. taken in 1574 and 1619.

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spears heads, argent. But after this family had remained here for so many years, and had spread itself into the parishes to Benenden, Marden, and Staplehurst, in which they continued till the latter end of the last century, this manor was alienated, about the reign of king Charles I. to Martin, and from him again to Walter, from which name it passed into the possession of the Plumers, of Milkhouse-street, in which name it continued down to Mr. Samuel Plumer, gent. of that place, from whom it came to Mr. Charles Nairn, gent. late of Milk-house-street, deceased, whose heirs are the present owners of it.

THE BOROUGH OF FRIZLEY, as it is now called, corruptly for Frechisley, alias Abbots Franchise, is a district situated about a mile eastward from Flishinhurst, and is within the liberty of the royal manor of Wye, which formerly belonged to the abbey of Battell, whence it has likewise the name of Abbots Franchise./c This borough has a court leet of itself. The principal estate in it formerly belonged to the Wilsfords, of Hartridge, one of whom sold it to the Hovendens, great clothiers here, whose principal mansion it was. From one of them, in 1719, it was alienated to Richard Children, esq. and it is now in the possession of his grandson George Children, esq. of Tunbridge.

WITHIN the bounds of this borough is the MANOR OF ANGLYE, alias Anglynglye, which was part of the possessions of the above-mentioned abbey, from its foundation by William the Conqueor, and continued so till the dissolution of it in the 30th year of king Henry VIII. when this manor came into the hands of the crown, and the king, in his 31st year, sold it, with its appurtenances, to Walter Hendley, gent. afterwards sergent-at-law, knighted, and solicitor of the court of augmentation, to hold in capite by knight's service, and

/c See Tan. Mon. p. 551. See an account of this abbey, Tan. Mon. p. 550. Willis's Mitred Abbeyes, vol. i. p. 32.

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in the 37th year of the same reign, he had the reserved tenths of it likewise granted to him. He died possessed of it in the 6th year of Edward VI. leaving three daughters his coheirs, who, on his death, became jointly possessed of this manor and estate. After which, though the manor continued in the family of Hendley down to William Henley, esq. of Otham, who died possessed of it a few months ago, yet the estate or farm of Angley afterwards was alienated to one of the family of Tempest, who bore for their arms, Argent, a bend between six martlets, sable. In which name it continued down to William Tempest, who came and settled in Cranbrooke, died possessed of it in 1761, much advanced in years, and by his will devised it to his second son George Tempest, esq. of Cranbrooke, who in 1785 passed it away by sale to Mr. Smart, of London, and he is the present proprietor of it.

HARTRIDE is a manor, which lies at the northern boundary of this parish, next to Staplehurst, the mansion of which was formerly a seat of note, being the property and residence of an antient and worthy family of the time name, one of whom, Thomas Hartridge, was a conservator or justice of the peace in this

county in the 34th year of Edward III. when there were eight only in the whole shire. In his descendant, who bore for their arms, Or, a chevron between three griffins heads, erased, sable, this seat continued, till it was at length sold by one of them, about the reign of Henry VIII. to Thomas Wilsford, esq. who came and resided here at Hartridge, and by the acts of 31 king Henry VIII. and 2 and 3 Edward VI. had his lands disgavelled. He was descended from William Wilsford, of Devonshire, anno 4 Henry IV. of whose grandson, James was alderman and sheriff of London, anno 15 Henry VII. and Edmund was S. T. P. provost of Oriel college, in Oxford, &c. and died in 1507. They bore for their arms, Gules, a chevron ingrailed, between three leopards heads, or. By his first wife Elizabeth,

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daughter of Walter Colepeper, of Bedgbury, he had two sons and nine daughters, of the former, Francis, the youngest, was of Nonington, and ancestor of the Wilsfords, of Dover and Yorkshire; and James Wilsford, esq. the eldest, was of Hartridge. By his second wife he had Sir Thomas, who was of Ilden, in Kingston, ancestor of those of that place, and of Rochester; and one daughter Cecilia, wife of Edwin Sandys, archbishop of York. James Wilsford, esq. the eldest son by the first marriage, inherited and resided at Hartridge, and was afterwards knighted; from whom this seat at length descended down to James Wilsford, esq. his eldest grandson, who having married Anne, daughter and heir of Thomas Newman, esq. of Quendon, in Essex, removed to the seat of her inheritance there, where he died in 1619, before which he had alienated this estate of Hartridge to Tindal, of Sutton Valence; from which name it passed by sale to Cooke, and on the death of his descendant Mr. John Cooke, of Penshurst, his three daughters and coheirs became entitled to it, and they joined in the sale of it to Mr. George Lewis, who in 1778 alienated it to Sir Horace Mann, bart. the present owner of it. A court baron is held for this manor.

THERE is an estate adjoining southward, once part of the above, called LOWER HARTRIDGE. It now belongs to Mr. Abraham Walter.

HOCKREDGE is an estate in this parish, which, with another called HOLDEN, was the property of the family of Holden for many generations, who resided at the former of them, being stiled clothiers in their wills, remaining in the Prerogative office, in Canterbury, until the time of Robert Holden, who is in his will, proved in 1667, is stiled gentleman, and bore for his arms, Ermine, on a chief, gules, three pears, or./d From him these estates descended down to Robert Holden,

/d See Heralds Office, marked Book D. 18. fol. 177 b.

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esq. of Whitewell, in this parish, at the beginning of king George I.s' reign, and his grandson alienated Holden a few years ago, to Sir Horace Mann, bart. the present possessor of it, but that of Hockeridge is become the property of Mr. Thomas Shirley.

SISSINGHURST is a manor of great note here. It

was antiently called Saxenhurst, and in very early times was in the possessions of a family of the same name, as appears by the Testa de Nevil, kept in the exchequer, being an account of all those who, holding their lands by knight's service, paid their relief, in the 20th year of Edward III. towards the marriage of the king's sister; in which John de Saxenhurst is there taxed, towards that did, for his lands at Cranebrook, which certainly were those of Sissinghurst, with the two small appendant manors of COPTON and STONE, which always have had the same owners. By a female heir of Saxenhurst, this manor, with its appendages above-mentioned, passed into the name of Berham. Richard, son of Henry de Berham, resided here in the reign of Edward III. and in his descendants it continued down till the latter end of Henry VII. When one of them alienated part of Sissinghurst, with Copton and Stone, to Thomas Baker, esq. who was before settled in this parish. This family had been settled in Cranbrooke so early as the reign of Edward III. as appears by the records of the court of king's bench, in the 44th year of which reign Thomas Bakere, of this parish, was possessed of lands in it, and was then sued by the prior of Christ-church in a plea of trespass, for cutting down trees, which grew on his own soil here, in a place called Omendenneshok, within the prior's lodge of Cranbrooke, which was a drofdenne, the prior prescribing for all oak and beech in the drovedens within his lordship, together with the pannage; and the jury found for the plaintiff, &c./e Sir John Baker, grandson of

/e See Robinson's Gavelkind, p. 206.

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Thomas first before-mentioned, was bred to the law, and became eminent in that profession, as well as in his promotion to different high posts of trust and honour in the service of the crown and state; being in several parts of his life recorder of London, attorney general, chancellor of the exchequer, and privy counsellor in king Henry VIII. and the three following reigns, and ambassador to the court of Denmark in 1526. He died in London in 1558, and was brought hither in great state, and buried in the vault in Cranbrooke church, in which his several descendants lie deposited likewise. They bore for their arms, Azure, on a fess, or, three cinquefoils pierced, gules, between three swans heads, erased, or gorged with coronets, gules./f He had procured his lands to be disgavelled by the acts both of 31 king Henry VIII. and 2 and 3 Edward VI. and before the latter year, at least, had purchased the remainder of this manor and estate, and becoming thus possessed of the entire fee of it, he built a most magnificent seat on it, the ruins of which still remind us of its former splendor, and he inclosed a large park round it. He left two sons, Richard; and John, who was father of Sir Richard Baker, the English Chronicler, and from this family likewise was descended the learned John Selden, born in 1584, whose mother was the only daughter and heir of Thomas Baker, of Rushington./g Sir Richard Baker, the eldest son, resided at Sissinghurst, where he entertained queen Elizabeth, in her progress into this county, in July 1573. His eldest grandson Sir Henry

Baker, of Sissinghurst, was created a baronet in 1611, Sir John Baker, of Sissinghurst, knight and baronet, his grandson, the last of his name here, died in 1661, leaving only four daughters, who became his coheirs, Anne, married to Edmund Beaghan, esq. Elizabeth,

/f See Vistn. co. Kent, anno 1619. Pedigree Baker.

/g See Biog. Brit. vol. vi. p. 3605, note [A]. Wood's Ath. vol. ii. p. 179.

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to Robert Spencer, esq. Mary, to John Dowel, esq. of Over, in Gloucestershire, and Katherine, to Roger Kirkby, esq. whose respective husbands became in their rights jointly entitled to this estate.

A moiety of this estate, as well as two-thirds of it, by the deaths of Robert Spencer, and Elizabeth his wife, s. p. and by the conveyance of Catherine, widow of Roger Kirkby, afterwards coming into the possession of Edmund Hungate Beaghan, esq. (son of Edmund above-mentioned) who resided at Sissinghurst, and bore for his arms, Argent, a chevron, gules, within a bordure, sable, bezantee, were by him passed away by sale in 1730, an act having passed to enable him so to do, to the trustees of Sir Horace Mann, bart. who is the present possessor of them.

The fourth part of John Dowel, esq. came on his death in 1698, to his son John Baker Dowel, esq. of Over, who bore for his arms, Argent, a lion rampant, within a bordure engrailed, sable. He died possessed of it in 1738, as he likewise did of the remaining third of the fourth part, which had descended to him by the deaths of Robert Spencer, and Elizabeth his wife, s. p. in both which he was succeeded by his son John Baker Bridges Dowel, esq. of the same place. At his death in 1744, he devised his interest in this estate to the Rev. Staunton Degge, who conveyed them to Galfrius Mann, esq. whose son Sir Horace Mann, bart. being thus entitled to all the several interests as above-mentioned in this estate, is become the possessor of the entire fee of these manors, the mansion of Sissinghurst, and the lands and estates belonging to them.

The mansion of Sissinghurst stands towards the north-east boundaries of this parish, in a situation far from pleasant, lying low in a wet clayey soil, without prospect, and enveloped with large tracts of surrounding woodland. The house having been long uninhabited

/h See Atkins's Glouc. p. 110.

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was let out during the late war for the confinement of the French prisoners, whence it gained the name of Sissinghurst castle, after which it became again uninhabited, and has since been pulling down piecemeal from time to time, for the sake of the materials, so that what is left of it is now no more than ruins. The park has been disparked many years since. There was a chapel founded at Sissinghurst by John de Saxenhurst, which was re-edified by Sir John Baker, bart. in the reign of king Charles I. and by a deed delivered in 1627 to John Bancroft, bishop of Oxford, was devoted to the service of God, and dedicated, as it was before, to St. John the Evangelist; upon which it

was consecrated by the bishop, with the usual ceremonies and benedictions.

MILKHOUSE-STREET is a hamlet of houses, situated on the road from Biddenden, about a mile north-east from Cranbrooke town. At the east end of it there is a SEAT, which was for many generations the residence of the Plumers; W. Plumer, counsellor-at-law, died possessed of it in 1621. His eldest son Tho. Plumer, esq. was justice of the peace, and kept his shrievalty here, and dying in 1660, lies buried in the church-yard of Cranbrooke, as do several of his descendants, who bore for their arms, Azure, two wings conjoined, argent, a chief, ermine, as appears by a certificate annexed to their pedigree in the Herald's office, one of whom, Thomas Plumer, gent. resided here at his death in 1769, and dying s. p. devised it to Mr. Charles Nairn, gent. who resided here, and married Miss Philadelphia Balderston, and his heirs since his decease are now entitled to it.

AT THE eastern corner of the road leading from this street to Tenterden, are the remains of a chapel, which was founded and endowed by John Lawless, about the latter end of king Henry VI.'s reign, and dedicated to the Holy Trinity, as well for the benefit of the inhabitants of this eastern part of the parish, who in the

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depth of winter could not get to church, as for the receiving the alms, and offering up prayers for the welfare of travellers passing this way. This chapel was suppressed by the act of the 37th year of the next reign of Henry VIII. for the general dissolution of all such chantries and other religious foundations; and the scite and revenues of it, then valued at 9l. 19s. 8½d./i were sold, in the 2d year of king Edward VI. to Sir John Baker, of Sissinghurst. Since which they have continued in a like succession of owners with that place, down to Sir Horace Mann, bart. the present proprietor of them.

BETENHAM is a manor, situated close to the north-east boundary of this parish, and is now usually called Betnams-wood, having a street, or hamlet of houses adjoining to it, at the east end of which the large mansion of it is situated. It was a place of some note formerly, for giving name to, as well as being the residence of the family of Betenham. Stephen de Betenham was possessed of it in the reign of king Henry VI. and left three sons, from the eldest of whom descended those of Shurland, in Pluckley. John, the youngest son, inherited this manor by his father's gift, and resided here. He left three daughters his coheirs; Elizabeth, married to William More, of Benenden; Alice, to Nicholas Dering; and Thomasine, to John Fisher, of Maidstone, who became entitled to this manor in equal shares, and on a partition of their inheritance, it became the sole property of the former of them, who afterwards resided here. He was the second son of Walter More, of Benenden, and left a son Nicholas, who was of Wigmore, in Eltham, and married Clara, daughter of Nicholas Tooke, esq. of Goddenton, but he died without issue in 1556, anno 4 queen Mary, and gave all his lands, by will, to the sons of his cousin John More, of

/i Survey Augtn. off. See Strype's Ecclesiastical Memoirs, vol. ii. coll. p. 93.

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Pluckley, by one of whom this manor was alienated to Sir Thomas Rowe, lord mayor in 1568, who died possessed of it two years afterwards, from whose second son Sir Henry Rowe, lord-mayor, descended the Rowes, of Shaklewell, and Muswell-hill, in Middlesex; and from the fourth Robert, was descended Sir Thomas Rowe, ambassador to the porte, &c. who died in 1644. Sir Thomas Rowe, lord-mayor, bore for his arms, Sable, a chevron, charged with three bezants, between as many cinquefoils; which coat was afterwards varied by his different descendants, who still retained the cinquefoil, as the principal bearing of their arms. But one of his descendants, in the reign of king James I. sold it to Mansfield, from which name it was conveyed to Hendley, in which family it continued down to William Henley, esq. of Otham, who died possessed of it a few months since, and his heirs now possess it.

COURSEHORNE is a manor, situated less than a mile eastward from the church, and is eminent for having been for above four hundred years, as appears by evidences both private and public, the inheritance of the family of Hendley, or as they afterwards spelt themselves Henley, and in an escheat roll of the 17th of king Edward III. No. 92, Gervas Hendley, of this place, appears to have been one of the jury, on an inquisition taken after the death of Sir Richard Handloe, who it seems died possessed of lands at Buckhurst, in this parish. After which it continued the mansion and residence of them, down to Sir Walter Hendley, sergent-at-law, a man of eminent repute in the reign of king Henry VIII. who was born here, having procured his lands to be disgavelled by the acts of the 2d and 3d of king Edward VI. He died in the 6th year of the latter reign, leaving three daughters and coheirs, Elizabeth, married to William Waller, esq. of Groombridge, and afterwards to George Fane, esq. of Badsell, Helen, first to Thomas Colepeper, esq. of Bedgebury; secondly to Sir George Somerset, and thirdly to Sir

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Thomas Fane, of Burston, and Anne to Richard Covert, esq. of Slaugham, in Sussex. Upon which this seat descended to his brother Thomas Hendley, esq. who resided here, as did his several descendants, till Bowyer Hendley, having purchased Gore-court, in Otham, removed thither. His grandson William Henley, esq. of Gore-court, died possessed of it a few months ago, and his heirs are now entitled to it./k

BUCKHURST is an estate here, which had once owners of its own name; but in the reign of Edward III. it was possessed by the family of Handloe, one of whom, Sir John de Handloe, died possessed of it in the 17th year of that reign, as appears by the inquisition then taken. After this family was become extinct here, it became the property of Drayner, or Dragener, as it was sometimes spelt, in the reign of Henry VII. Another branch of whom settled at Smarden. They bore for their arms, Sable, a fess nebulee, between three close helmets, argent, plumed, or. Stephen Drayner possessed

it in the next reign of Henry VIII. and his descendant William Drayner sold it, in the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign, to Alexander Couchman, in whose descendants it continued at the restoration of king Charles II. At length, after some intermediate owners it was sold to Cooke, in which name it remained till John Cooke, esq. of Swifts, in this parish, not many years ago, passed it away by sale to Pearce, of this parish, who now possesses it.

GREAT SWIFTS is a mansion situated about a quarter of a mile north-eastward from the end of the town, on the knoll of a hill, it was antiently the property of the Courthopes. Alexander Courthope, of this parish, died possessed of it in 1525, as appears by his will; but after this family had possessed it for a great length of

/k See Otham, vol. v. of this history, p. 516.

/l See pedigree of Couchman, Vistn. co. Kent, anno 1619, and Herald's off. marked C. 16, fol. 111./b

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time, it was sold to one of the family of Cooke, a younger branch of those of Middlesex. John Cooke, esq. sheriff in 1745, resided here, and died possessed of it in 1747, bearing for his arms, Gules, three pales azure over all, three eagles, argent, crowned and garnished, or. He was succeeded in this seat by his eldest son, of the same name, who died in 1782. Although he left issue, yet having, during his life-time, sold the reversion of this seat to Mr. Jeremiah Curteis, gent. of Rye, he became possessed of it, and afterwards sold it to Thomas Adams, esq. who has made great alterations in it, and now resides here.

The abbot and convent of Beyham were possessed of lands in this parish, in the dennes of Swetlynden and Rodelynden, in the reign of Edward III. of the gift of John de Chivene, and John de Kaynesham, vicar of Cranbrooke; and in the 2d year of Edward III. the abbot, &c. had free-warren for his lands in this and other parishes in Kent and Sussex.

James Benynden, of Bettenhams Wode, in this parish, died in 1469, as appears by his will, possessed of a great house called Sparrowhall, at Bethamyswode, and a house called Castetanys, lying in the denne of Bettenham, in Cranbrooke.

The archbishop, in the reign of Henry VIII. was possessed of lands here, called Charleymore, and Betnams wood; which were particularly excepted and reserved to him in the great deed of exchange, which archbishop Cranmer made with the king in his 31st year; in which he conveyed to the king all other his lands and tenements, except advowsons, in this parish.

CHARITIES.

JOHN ROBERTS, ESQ. of Glassenbury, by his will in 1460, ordered, that housing and grounds be purchased, for seven poor men of Cranbrooke to dwell in; every poor man to have 13s. 4d. yearly, as likewise 13s. 4d. yearly to repair their houses, his right heirs to have the election of them, who should be of this parish, and if not found here, then of the parishes adjoining; his kinsmen, if they had need thereof, to be provided before any

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other; the same to be paid out of his manor and lands of Deryngdale, in Sussex; and he ordered, that five marcs should be raised out of his goods, for seven years after his decease, to be dispended in the cloathing of twelve poor men and women with gowns, hoods, and coats.

MR. ALEXANDER DENCE, as appears by private evidences, about the year 1573, gave a farm in that part of this parish called Swattenden, now let at 14l. per annum, to be distributed by the feoffees, according to their discretion, to indigent people, receiving no relief of the parish.

SIR THOMAS ROBERTS, knight and baronet, of Glassenbury, by will gave 10l. to the overseers of this parish, to increase the sum of money appointed for the stock of the poor, either to buy land, or to remain for ever to that use, except their whole sum might be employed towards erecting a house of correction there, for then he would have it bestowed for that use.

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL here, commonly called queen Elizabeth's grammar school, was founded and endowed by Simon Lynch, gent. of this parish, by deed in the year 1574, and the queen granted a charter of incorporation to it; by which it is vested under the management of thirteen trustees, freeholders of this parish, of which the vicar is always to be one. It is endowed with a house and land in Cranbrooke, and a farm at Horsemonden, the whole of the annual produce of 75l. The Rev. Mr. Greenall is the present master of it. — The school, which bears a good reputation, is free for all the boys in the parish, who, by a late regulation, have classical books given them by the trustees. There are generally from twenty to thirty boarders in the master's house. The family of Lynch had been resident here some time; one of whom, William Lynche, was of this parish, and was ancestor of those of Groves, in East Kent. He died in 1480, possessed of much property in it, and was buried in the church-yard here.

MR. SAMUEL DENCE, in 1573, founded a writing-school here, which is at present endowed with a school-room for teaching children, a separate dwelling for the schoolmaster, under the same roof, and the interest of 160l. put out by the churchwardens. And he is supposed to have left by will land, now of the annual produce of 18l. vested in fifteen feoffees, to be distributed yearly among indigent persons receiving no relief from the parish.

MR. SAMUEL HAYWARD, left by will in money 100l. the interest to be distributed equally among five poor widows receiving the sacrament, now vested in the executors of the late Mr. Thomas Hope, and of the annual produce of 4l.

MR. JOSEPH WILLARD, left by will in 1770, for the benefit of the poor belonging to the Anabaptist meeting, three houses,

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vested in five trustees, inhabitants of this parish, and of the annual produce of 7l. 18s.

The poor constantly relieved are not more than about 135; casually about twenty.

CRANBROOKE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church is dedicated to St. Dunstan, confessor, and is very large and handsome. It consists of three isles and three chancels. The pillars on each side of the middle isle are beautifully slender and well proportioned. The west end has a gallery over it, ornamented with painting. The pews are uniform, and

made of wainscot, and the pavement black and white marble. The high chancel is well ceiled, and decorated with paintings. The east window is full of fine stained glass, many of the figures of it being entire, and richly ornamented as to their drapery, &c. There are several shields of arms remaining in it, among which are those of Wilsford, Guldeford, quartered with Halden, within the order of the garter, and archbishop Bouchier, being those of the see of Canterbury, impaling first and fourth, Bouchier, second and third, gules, a fess between twelve billets, or. Archbishop Tenison, in 1710, was a benefactor in repairing of the high chancel. Against the east wall of the south chancel is a very high and broad pyramid of white marble, on which there is a full account of the family of Roberts, inscribed by a most pompous scheme of pedigree, with the numerous coats of arms properly emblazoned. At the west end is a square tower steeple, in which are eight bells and a set of chimes. On the west side of the tower were formerly carved in the stone-work, though now decayed by time, the arms of Berham, Bettenham and Wilsford, in antient times owners of lands, as has been already mentioned, in this parish. In the south isle over

/m See Biog. Brit. vol. vii. p. 3929. [v]

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the vault, in which the remains of the Bakers and their descendants lie, is a superb pyramid of white marble, on which are the names and the dates of their deaths, and at the top of it their arms. It was erected by John Baker Dowel, esq. of Over, son of John and Mary, in 1736.

In 1725, part of this church fell down, but was quickly afterwards rebuilt. It was occasioned by some persons digging in the vault belonging to the Baker family, by which two stones, on which one of the main pillars stood, gave way, and the pillar cracked, soon after thirty or forty feet of the middle isle fell in, by which the pews were all crushed, and the cost to repair it was estimated at near 2000*l*. There is a room, with a staircase to it, adjoining the church, in which there is a large dipping-place, for the use of such Baptists who are desirous of being admitted into the established church; but in seventy years past it has been but twice made use of for this purpose. It was provided by Mr. Johnson, vicar of this church. In this church was a chantry, founded by the will of J. Roberts, esq. of Glassenbury, in 1460, for a priest to say mass here for ever. And he ordered that twenty pounds be laid out to remove the rood-loft, and setting it on the high chancel. And being so considerable a benefactor to this church, his figure was painted in the windows of the north isle, kneeling, in armour, with his helmet lying by him, before a desk, with a book on it, and an inscription, to pray for him and his wife, and his son Walter, and his three wives. Walter Roberts above-mentioned, by his will 13 Henry VIII. directed Thomas his son to find a priest to celebrate divine service at St. Giles's altar in this church, for the souls of his father, mother, his wives, and his own; for which service he should have ten marcs yearly, payable by his heirs for ever, out of his lands in this parish and Goud-

hurst. And he gave further to this church towards the

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making of the middle isle, one half of all the timber of that work.

The church of Cranbrooke was part of the antient possessions of the see of Canterbury, to which it was appropriated in the 6th year of Edward III. with the king's licence; and the same was afterwards confirmed by pope Clement VI. at which time there appears to have been a vicarage endowed here. The archbishop continued owner of the appropriation of this rectory, and of the advowson of the vicarage till the reign of Henry VIII. when archbishop Cranmer, by his deed, anno 31 Henry VIII. granted the rectory, among other premises, in exchange, to that king, reserving the advowson of the vicarage to himself and his successors. Soon after which the king settled it by his dotation charter, in his 33d year, on his new-erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, part of whose possessions it now remains. In 1644 Sir John Roberts was lessee, at the rent of 33l. 6s. 8d. per annum. The present lessee is Mrs. Lawson.

When the vicarage of Cranbrooke was endowed, I have not found; but in 1364 and 1371, the portion of the vicar was augmented, and in the latter year the prior and convent of Christ-church, Canterbury, confirmed the confirmation of archbishop William, of the donation of his predecessor archbishop Simon, of 6000 of tawod granted to the vicar of Cranbrooke, of the tenths of silve cedue belonging to the church of Cranbrooke.

It is valued in the king's books at 19l. 19s. 4¹/₂d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 19s. 11³/₄d. In 1578 here were 1905 communicants. On a survey taken in 1648, after the abolition of deans and chapters, it appeared that there was a parsonage-house, an orchard, little garden, two great barns, and other buildings; and that the late

/n Augtn. off. Deeds of Inrolment and Exchange, box marked A. 14/a. Ratified and confirmed by the convent, A. 14/b.

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dean and chapter, in 1636, demised to John Roberts, esq. these premises, and all manner of tithes of corn and grass, for twenty-one years, at 33l. 6s. 8d. per annum, but that they were worth, over and above that rent, 228l. 13s. 4d. per annum. The lessees to repair the chancel and the market-cross of the town.

There is no part of this parish which claims an exemption of tithes; but there is a small and irregular modus upon all the lands in it, in lieu of vicarial tithes. There are no tithes paid specifically for hops, though there are upwards of six hundred acres planted in this parish, as being included in the above-mentioned modus.

The glebe land consists of the scite of the vicarage, the garden, and about three quarters of an acre of meadow. There are some old houses belonging to the vicarage, which, when the taxes and repairs are deducted, produce very little clear income.

Anno 1314, a commission was issued for settling a dispute between the rectors of Biddenden and Cran-

brooke, concerning the bounds of their respective parishes.

CHURCH OF CRANBROOKE.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

The Archbishop. William Eddy, A. M. Dec. 29,
1591, obt. 1616.

Robert Abbot, A. M. Nov. 28,
1616, sequestered March 9,
1643./o

John Saltmarsh, in 1645./p

William Goodridge, ejected 1662./q

John Cooper, A. B. Nov. 21,
1662.

/o Walker's Suff. of Clergy, pt. ii.
p. 183. Wood's Ath. Ox. vol. i. p.
431, fasti p. 177.

/p Likewise rector of Brasted, which
he was put into by the parliament, be=
ing a bigotted enthusiast.

/q Ejected by the Bartholomew Act.
Calamy's Life of Baxter.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

The Archbishop. Charles Buck, inducted 1668,
obt. 1706.

John Johnson, A. M. inducted
April 25, 1707, obt. Dec. 15,
1715./r

Joseph Disney, A. M. Dec. 23,
1725, obt. Aug. 3, 1777./s

Richard Podmore, LL. B. Dec.
3, 1777, the present vicar./t

/r See his life, Biog. Brit. vol. vii.
append. p. 111. He was first vicar of
Boughton Blean and Hernehill, then
curate of St. John's, Margate, and
vicar of Apledore, with Ebony. He
lies buried in the church-yard here,
close to the wall of the vestry. He
was a very learned man, and published
many books, sermons and treatises.

/s He succeeded his predecessor in the
vicarage of Apledore with Ebony, and
died here far advanced in years, inso=
much, that the vicar, clerk, and sex=
ton, made together the amount of 254
years; an instance of the healthiness
of this place. The clerk, Samuel Jen=
ner, died in 1782, æt. 96 and upwards.

/t He was before vicar of Sitting=
borne. In Nov. 1777, a dispensation
passed for his holding the vicarage of
Apledore with Ebony, together with
this vicarage.

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FRITTENDEN

LIES the next parish north-eastward. So much of it as is in the borough of Stephurst, is in the hundred of Barkley, and the rest of it is in the hundred of Cranbrooke. The liberty of the court of the bailiwick of the Seven Hundreds claims paramount over it, and part of it is within the manor of Hollingborne; but there are several other small manors likewise subordinate to it. It is wholly in the division of West Kent.

THIS PARISH is very narrow from east to west, and contains about seventy houses. It has an unpleasant and forlorn aspect. The soil is a deep, stiff clay, very wet and unkindly for tillage, inasmuch that, in a rainy season, the occupiers have but little produce from their lands, which consequently keeps them very poor. The southern part of it is entirely covered with copice wood; besides which, the shaves are frequent, and the hedge-rows broad round the fields, which have

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quantities of large oak trees interspersed throughout them. The roads, from the soil, except in the driest seasons, are so deep and miry, as to be almost impassable; though it lies so obscure, that there is but little traffic through it. The village, which is but small, stands on a hill near the middle of the parish, and the church close to it. One of the streams from Cranbrooke runs across the parish north-eastward, and turns a corn-mill belonging to David Papillon, esq. late of Acrise, and there was formerly another southward of it, the scite of which is still called the Old Mill. Near the present mill, not half a mile north-west from the village, is a green called Frittenden-brook, which the occupiers of the houses round it stock at their pleasure; and on the other side of the stream is another, called Singsted-green. Sir Horace Mann is owner of more than half of this parish.

THERE WAS formerly a family of the name of Webbe, which was resident here for many years. William Webbe was of Frittenden anno 23 Henry VI. and was descended from Richard Webbe, who lived anno 17 Edward II. but they became extinct here about the end of the last century, ending in a female heir Lucy, sole daughter of Thomas Webbe, esq. of this place, who married Sir William Dutton Colt, envoy to Hanover in 1692. They bore for their arms, Or, a cross quarterly, counterchanged, gules, and sable; in the first quarter, an eagle, displayed of the third. The scite of their mansion, which has been some time pulled down, passed from the heirs of this family to Page, and Mr. Stephen Page, of Maidstone, in 1777, devised it by will to Mr. John Seager, of the same place, brewer, the present owner of it.

There is a fair held here on Sept. 8, yearly, for toys, ribbons, &c.

/u See Collins's Bar. vol. v. p. 47. Heraldic Vistn. of Kent, anno 1619. Pedigree Webbe. Her. off. book D. 18. f. 5.

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THE MANOR OF COMDEN, alias Comenden, is situated in the south-west part of this parish. It was part of the antient possessions of the priory of Leeds, where it remained till the suppression of that priory, in the

31st year of Henry VIII. when it came into the king's hands; who in his 32d year, granted it to Walter Hendeley, esq. attorney of his court of augmentation, to hold in capite by knight's service, and he, two years afterwards, alienated it to Sir John Baker, of Sissinghurst, in Cranbrooke, in whose descendants it has continued down in the same succession as that place, till it was sold, in like manner with it, to the trustees of Sir Horace Mann, bart. who is the present owner of it.

BEWPER was once accounted a manor here, and, with Great and Little Ferhurst, was part of the revenues of the abbey of Faversham; before which, as appears by the Testa de Nevil, it was the property of Roger de Leyborne, who owned it in the reign of Edward I. and then got the tenure of it changed from sergeantry to knight's service. This estate continued among the possessions of that abbey till the surrendry of it, in the 30th year of Henry VIII. when it came into the hands of the crown; but it had been demised by the abbot and convent, in the 29th year of that reign, for ninety-nine years, at the yearly rent of 2l. 19s. 3d./w to Henry Wylford, in which state it then came into the hands of the crown, and was granted, subject to that demise, in the 35th year of that reign, to Sir Thomas Moile, who, not long after, passed away his interest in it to Robert Prat, and his son Mr. Francis Prat, in the 1st year of queen Elizabeth, conveyed it, by fine, to Mr. Edward Bathurst, who, in the same reign, sold it to Sir Richard Baker, of Sissinghurst, and he seems to have become entitled to the actual possession of this estate, which continued in his descendants, in the same manner

/w See Bailiffs Accounts, Augtn. off. Jacob's Faversh. p. 190.

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as Sissinghurst, till it was alienated to the trustees of Sir Horace Mann, bart. who is the present owner of it.

WALLINGHURST and BUCKHURST, are two small obsolete manors in this parish, which, by some means that I cannot at present discover, were come into the hands of the crown in the reign of Henry VIII. who, in his 29th year, granted them to Sir Thomas Cromwell, lord Cromwell, afterwards created earl of Essex, whose lands were disgavelled by the act of the 31st year of that reign, on whose attainder the year afterwards, they returned again to the crown, whence they were, the same year, granted to Sir John Baker, of Sissinghurst, in whose descendants they continued down, with that seat, till they were sold with it, to the trustees of Sir Horace Mann, bart. who is the present possessor of them.

UPPER PEASRIDGE, alias POUND-FARM, is a manor here, which was antiently part of the extensive possessions of the great family of Badlesmere, in which it remained till Bartholomew de Badlesmere forfeited it, for treason, to the crown, in the 15th year of king Edward II. as appears by the inquisition, which was not taken after his death till the 2d year of Edward III. Notwithstanding this, his young son Giles de Badlesmere found so much favour, that in the 7th year of that reign he had possession granted of his inheritance, though he was not then of age. He died in the 12th year of that reign, s. p./x upon which his four sisters be=

came his coheirs, the eldest of whom marrying John de Vere, earl of Oxford, on a partition of their estates, he in her right, became entitled to it, and died possessed of it in the 34th year of that reign; and in his descendants this manor continued till the reign of king Henry VI. when Richard de Vere, earl of Oxford, passed it away by sale to St. Leger, in which name it

/x See an account of the Badlesmeres, vol. vi. p. 469.

/y See more of the Veres, vol. vi. of this history, p. 474.

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remained till the reign of Philip and Mary, when it was sold to Lone, descended from those of that name in Lancashire, in which name it remained for several descents; at length it was alienated to Weston, of Cranbrooke. John Weston, clotheir, of that place, died possessed of it in 1694, as did his son of the same name, in 1714; his son John Weston, esq. of Wilsley-green, in Cranbrooke, died possessed of it a few years ago, leaving Elizabeth his wife surviving, and several children by her. She now resides at Upper Wilsley, in Cranbrooke, and is the present possessor of this manor.

CHARITIES.

THOMAS IDENDEN, by will in 1566, gave, for the benefit of poor maids marriages, for the relief of poor housholders, and for such deeds of charity as should be thought most needful, at the discretion of the churchwardens and four honest men, chosen from time to time by the parishioners, a house and land, containing twenty-six acres, new vested as above, and of the annual produce of 21l.

THE ABOVE TRUSTEES purchased in 1641, of Richard Webbe, of this parish, for the use of the poor above-mentioned, a messuage, and close by the church-yard gate, now vested in the same trustees, and of the annual produce of two guinea.

AN ACRE OF LAND adjoining to the church yard, was given to the poor by persons unknown, and of the annual produce of 1l. 2s. 6d.

The poor relieved annually are about sixty; casually 140.

FRITTENDEN is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church consists of two isles and two chancels, having a spire steeple, in which are six bells. It is dedicated to St. Mary. In the chancel is a monument for the Rev. Henry Bagnall, rector, 1761, arms, Barry of four, or, and ermine; over all, a lion rampant, azure; and a memorial for Elizabeth, sole daughter and heir of Robert Perry, gent. of this parish, obt. 1646, æt. 17; arms, On a bend, three spears.

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It is a rectory, the patronage of which was for some time owned by the Bakers, of Sissinghurst, and next by the family of Webbe, of this place. William Webbe, esq. of Frittenden, was patron of it at the latter end of queen Elizabeth's reign, as was his son Richard at the latter end of king James I. but they do not seem to have continued so long afterwards, and in the reign of Charles II. William Daines, of London, was become entitled to it. In later times it became the property of

Bagnall, and Mr. Henry Bagnall, clerk, rector of this parish, died possessed of it in 1761, leaving by Judith his wife, eldest daughter of Anthony Paull, gent. of High Halden, two daughters, Anne and Elizabeth, his coheirs, in whom the interest of it seems at this time to be vested.

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 15l. 18s. 9d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 11s. 1³/₄d.

In 1578 there were communicants here one hundred and fifty six.

CHURCH OF FRITTENDEN.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

William Webbe, gent. of Frittenden Edward Hargrave, July 3, 1594,
obt. 1619./z

Richard Webbe, gent. Sanderson Webbe, A. B. Dec. 23,
1619, obt. 1620.

Richard Bonde, A. M. Nov. 2,
1620.

William Dell, May 20, 1635./a

Robert Clarke, obt. 1666.

Wm. Daines, gent. of London. Robert Newton, A. M. Jan. 23,
1666, obt. March 20, 1725./b

Thomas Bagnall, A. M. Oct. 30,
1725, obt. 1726.

/z He lies buried in the chancel,
where his inscription remains on brass,
but partly hid under the altar-rails.

/a Presented by the king, being va=
cant for simony. Rym. Fœd. vol. xix.
p. 772.

/b He lies buried in the chancel,
within the altar-rails. He died æt. 85.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

Wm. Daines, gent. of London. Henry Bagnall, A. M. May 6,
1726, obt. March 28, 1761./c

Henry Frend, A. B. Oct 3, 1761,
the present rector.

/c He lies buried in the chancel, as mentioned above.

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STAPLEHURST

Is the last parish to be described in this hundred, being situated the next north-west from that of Frittenden. So much of it as is in the north borough, the boroughs of King's Franchise and Faircrouch, or Lovehurst, is in the bailiwick of the Seven Hundreds, and hundred of Cranbrooke; and another part of it is in the hundred of Marden; all which above-mentioned is in the lower division of the lath of Scray.

The residue of this parish is in the lath of Aylesford, viz. that part of it which is in the hundred of Eyhorne, and that part likewise called Detling borough, which contains in it six or seven houses, is in the hundred of Maidstone.

The liberty of the court of the bailiwick of the Seven Hundreds claims paramount over that part of this pa=

ish which is in the hundred of Cranbrooke, subordinate to which there are several small manors, or rather manor farms in it. It is within the division of West Kent.

THE PARISH of Staplehurst, though healthy like its neighbourhood, is, excepting the village of it, an unpleasant situation, having a gloomy and dreary appearance; the country is low, flat, and miry; the houses dispersed at distances from each other, and along the broad green swerds, and small forstals in it. The stream which comes from Cranbrooke runs along the southern boundary of it, as the Hedcorne stream to-

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wards Stylebridge does along the eastern and northern parts of it. The soil is in general a wet clay, intermixed with marle at different places, and in the southern part of it some sand. The high road from Maidstone over Cocksheath, and by Stylebridge to Cranbrooke and Tenterden, leads through it, being like the rest of the high roads in these parts fabricated of sand; the bye roads are equally bad, and nearly impassable as the neighbouring ones in wet weather and winter. There is but very little wood in it.

The village, or street of Staplehurst, is built on each side of the great road, at the 47th mile-stone from London, being the only part of this parish which can be called tolerably pleasant and dry, being situated on the side of a hill, from the knoll of which it continues to the bottom of it, having the church at the south end of it, and the parsonage-house just below it. The houses are mostly old-fashioned and large timbered; most of them shops, but there are three or four good modern built houses interspersed among them, which stand pleasantly on the hill, having a fine view over the Weald southward,

The parish contains about eighty-eight houses, and not quite a thousand inhabitants. The rents of it are about 3000l. per annum. There are two meeting-houses; one for the Baptists, the other for the Presbyterians.

At the entrance of the village, on the hill, at a small distance from the high road, on the east side of it, is a large antient manor-house, called Loddenden, situated within the borough of its own name. It was lately the property of Mr. Edward Osborne, deceased, and now of his widow, who lives in it.

THE MANOR OF STAPLEHURST was once part of the possessions of the family of Fremingham, or Farningham, as they were usually called. John, son of Ralph de Fremingham, of Lose, died in the 12th year of king Henry IV. possessed of it, and leaving no issue,

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he by will devised it to certain feoffees, who next year assigned it over, according to the directions of it, to John, son of Reginald de Pimpe, and his heirs male, with remainder to Roger Isle, as being nearest of blood to him.

John Pimpe died possessed of this manor in the 9th year of king Henry V. and in his descendants it continued down to Reginald Pimpe, esq. who, about the 12th year of Henry VII. conveyed it by deed to John

Isley, esq. His grandson Sir Henry Isley, (whose lands were disgavelled by the act of 2 and 3 Edward VI.) together with his son William Isley, being both attainted for the rebellion raised by Sir Thomas Wyatt, in the 1st year of queen Mary, their lands and estates became forfeited to the crown, and Sir Henry was executed at Sevenoke; but this manor staid with the crown but a very small time, for the queen granted it that year, together with lands here, which had been formerly belonging to the abbey of Boxley, and on the suppression of it had been granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Wyatt, and come to the crown on his attainder at the time above-mentioned, to Sir John Baker, her attorney-general, in whose descendants they continued, in a like succession as Sissinghurst, already described, in the adjoining parish of Cranbrooke, till they were sold in 1752 to Galfridus Mann, esq. whose son Sir Horace Mann, bart is the present owner of them.

NEWSTED is a manor in this parish, which was annexed to the free chapel erected here by Hamon de Crevequer, and invested with several privileges; which gift, with all its franchises, was confirmed to it in the 41st year of Edward III. But this chapel, with all others of the like sort, being suppressed, and their revenues given to the crown, by the act passed anno 1 Edward VI the king, not long afterwards, granted this

/d See the first book of composition kept in the Register's office at Rochester.

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manor to Sir Edward Wotton, knt. one of his privy-council, in whose descendants it continued down to Thomas, lord Wotton, who died in 1630, and before his death had settled it in marriage upon his eldest daughter and coheir married to Henry, lord Stanhope, son and heir of Philip, earl of Chesterfield. After which, she, by her feoffees in trust, passed it away to Mr. Robert Oliver, of Leyborne, whose son, of the same name, leaving an only daughter and heir Juliana, she carried it in marriage to Edward Covert, esq. of Sussex, who likewise left one daughter and heir, and she marrying Mr. Henry Saxby, entitled him to it. Soon after which it was alienated to Hales, and Mr. James Hales, of Rochester, in 1730, conveyed it by sale to Mr. Thomas Mercer, of Hawkhurst, whose son Mr. William Mercer died possessed of it some few years ago, and his son John Dunmoll Mercer, now of Hawkhurst, is the present owner of it.

This estate consists of two farms, adjoining to each other, called Great and Little Newsted, the latter of which claims an exemption of tithes. On this farm are the remains of a moat, and there is some appearance of a building having antiently stood within it.

There has not been any court held for it for many years.

HENHURST, as it is now called, was in antient times known more properly by the name of Engehurst, as appeared by some old dateless deeds relating to the bounds of some lands in this parish, in which they were mentioned to be situated juxta terras Osberti de Henghurst supra dennam de Enghurst, and from this denne did that antient family of Enghurst, or Henhurst, take the first

origin of its name, bearing for their arms, as appeared by several seals, for their paternal coat, Barry, of six pieces; and having continued in possession of this place from the reign of Edward II. till that of Henry VI. at length Henry Henghurst, in the 23d year of it, settled it, by his feoffees in trust, on his kinsman John Nash,

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in which name it continued in the reign of Henry VII. and was then alienated to Sir William Kempe, of Olantigh, sheriff anno 20 Henry VIII. and he died possessed of it at the latter end of that reign. His son Sir Thomas Kempe, alienated it to Thomas Roberts, who held it of the manor of West-court, in Detling, and died possessed of it anno 5 and 6 Philip and Mary. At length one of his descendants John Roberts, alienated it to Henry Moody, who died before the middle of king James I.'s reign, and left an only daughter Sybell, who carried the manor of Henghurst in marriage to Thomas Lusher, who, before 1634, had alienated it to Samuel Hovenden, gent. who bore for his arms, Chequy, argent, and sable, on a bend, gules, three lions heads erased, or, and died soon after the death of king Charles I. by one of whose daughters and coheirs Elizabeth, it was carried in marriage to Patrick Tyndall, gent. whose son Thomas was possessed of it at the latter end of the reign of Charles II./e His heirs alienated it to Mr. John Love, whose grandson leaving an only daughter and heir, she entitled her husband Mr. John Waller to the possession of it; but the remainder, on failure of issue by them, is vested in her kinsman Mr. John Love, of this place.

SPILSILL-COURT was once, as appears by antient deeds, the residence of a family of that name, who, before the end of king Edward II.'s reign, were extinct here, and it was become the property of Stangrave, of Stangrave, in Eatonbridge; for Sir Robert de Stangrave, at his decease in the 12th year of Edward III. held some estate at Spilsill, but about the end of that reign the Mainneys were become owners of it; in which name it continued down to Walter Mayney, second son of John Mayney, esq. of Biddenden, who kept his shrievalty here in the 13th year of queen Eli-

/e The above account is entirely taken from the court-rolls of West-court manor.

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zabeth./f His descendant, in the reign of king James I. sold it to Mr. John Sharpye, clothier, who resided here, and died in 1613. His son, of the same name, who died in 1617, left an only daughter Frances, married to Mr. George Thomson, of London, in whose right he became possessed of it; and in his descendants it continued till it was sold to Nicholas Toke, of Maidstone, by whose daughter Constance it went in marriage to Mr. William Usborne, gent. of this parish, descended of ancestors of long standing in these parts, who bore for their arms, Quarterly, first, and fourth, ermine, of five spots; second and third, azure, a cross, or;/g and his son Nicholas Toke Ulborne, gent. now of Staplehurst, is the present owner of this estate.

AYDHURST, usually called Little Aydhurst, is a ma-

nor here, lying about three quarters of a mile north-west from the church, the mansion of which has been some time gone to ruin. It was formerly the property of the family of Lambe, of Sutton Valence, one of whom, Thomas Lambe, gent. possessed it in 1692, whose daughter and heir carried it in marriage to Thomas Peene, junior, and he sold it to Jeremy Parker, whose descendant Augustine Parker, in 1752, passed it away by sale to Mr. John Rawlins, of Maidstone, whose widow Mrs. Rawlins, at her decease within these few years devised it by her last will to Mr. George Prentice, timber-merchant, of that place, who is the present possessor of it.

There is no court held for this manor, which is held of that of Sutton Valence, and is described in the rolls by the name of part of the denne of Adhurst.

WIDHURST, alias LOWER PAGEHURST, by which latter name it is usually called, is a manor, situated at a very small distance southward from that last described.

/f Vistn. co. Kent, anno 1574. Pedigree Mayney.

/g Pedigree of this family in the hands of Mr. Usborne, beginning in 1405.

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It was sometime since owned by Mayo, who devised it by will to Mary his wife, for her life, and she having remarried Mr. John Philcocks, entitled him to it for that time, but on her decease it became divided in shares among her several children, and they are now respectively entitled to it. A court baron is held for this manor.

LOVEHURST is a manor, which lies about a mile and a quarter southward from Lower Pagehurst, and is of somewhat more considerable account than those last mentioned, giving name to a small borough in this hundred. This manor was given among other premises, in the reign of Henry II. by Robert de Thurnham, by the description of all his land at Lofherste, with its appurtenances, to the priory of Combwell, in Goudhurst, at that time founded by him, and it remained part of the possessions of it till the 27th year of Henry VIII. when it was suppressed by the act then passed, as not having revenues to the clear yearly value of two hundred pounds.

This manor remained but a small time in the crown, for the king, in his 29th year, granted it to Thomas Culpeper, gent. to hold in capite by knight's service; but he did not continue possessed of it long, for it appears by the escheat-rolls, that it was again in the crown in the 34th year of that reign, when the king granted this manor, with its appurtenances, to Sir John Gage, to hold in like manner. He sold it to Thomas Wilsford, esq. of Hartridge, whose son, of the same name, had possession granted of it in the 7th year of queen Elizabeth. Soon after which he alienated it to Mr. John Baker, from which name it passed in that same reign, to Stanley; at length, after some intermediate owners, it came into the name of Johnson, one of which, about fifty years ago, gave it by

/h See the confirmations of it in Dugd. Mon. vol. ii. p. 270.

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will to St. Bartholomew's hospital, in London, part of the revenues of which it continues at this time.

The borough of Lovehurst has a court leet of itself, holden at the manor of Lovehurst, and the inhabitants of it owe no service to the court leet for the hundred of Cranbrooke; but at this court leet of Lovehurst, a constable for that hundred may be chosen out of this borough.

AT A SMALL DISTANCE from the south end of the village of Staplehurst is Iden-green, on which stood, till within these few years, the mansion of THE MANOR OF IDEN. This manor was formerly the property of Chiffinch, from one of which name it passed to Brian Faussett, esq. of Heppington, whose son the Rev. Mr. Bryan Faussett sold it, about twenty years ago, to Mr. Thomas Simmons, gent. the present owner of it.

There was a court held for this manor about seventy years ago, on Iden-green, under an oak, and some years afterwards in the mansion; but the oak being felled, and the house taken down, none has been held since, nor probably will be again.

MAPLEHURST and EXHURST, are two manors here, which in antient times were of no small account, the former of them being situated within the bounds of one of those thirteen denberries which Kenewulf, king of Mercia, and Cuthred, king of Kent, gave to Wernod, abbot of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, at the time he gave to that monastery the manor of Lenham, being called in that grant Mapulterhurst. This estate was in the reign of Edward I. in the possession of the family of St. Leger, and Thomas de St. Leger, in the 29th year of that reign, had a grant of free warren for his lands at Mapelherst;ⁱ and in his descendants it continued till it was at length sold to Roberts, or Robesart, one of which name. Sir Lewis

ⁱ Rot. Cart. ejus an. N. 15.

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Robesart, died possessed of it in the 10th year of king Henry VI. How long it continued in that name, or who were the successive owners of it from that time, I have not found; but in later times they both became the property of Speke, one of whom, in 1720, sold them to David Papillon, esq. of Acrise, in this county, whose son David Papillon, esq. late of that place, is the present owner of it.

CHARITIES.

LANCELOT BATHURST gave by will in 1639, 150l. for the support of a schoolmaster, to instruct the sons of the poor in reading, writing, and accounts, which, with 40l. raised by the contribution of the parishioners, purchased a farm, rented at 10l. per annum, which the schoolmaster receives, and is obliged to teach ten boys for it.

MAJOR JOHN GIBBON, who was born and baptised in this parish, gave by will in 1707, the remaining term in three Exchequer annuities of 70l. value (after the death of three relations) to the churchwardens and overseers of this parish, for the educating of poor boys in reading, writing, and arithmetic, and binding them apprentices to handicrafts and other trades. Philips Gibbon, esq. survivor of the three, dying in 1762, there

were then forty-two years to come unexpired, which being sold, by virtue of a decree in chancery, and the money laid out in the purchase of three per cent. consolidated annuities, produced a dividend of 50l. per annum, which is applied by the trustees appointed by the said court, according to the testator's intention.

THIS PARISH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton.

The church is dedicated to All Saints. It is a large handsome building, consisting of two isles and two chancels, having a tower steeple, with a beacon turret at the west end, in which are five bells. On the outside of the steeple, over the west door, is a coat of arms, viz. A lion, rampant; on the right side another coat, impaled, but defaced; on the left, one, being a cross, engrailed, over a dormant window on the roof, on the south side in the church, is a curious ancient canopy or ceiling of woodwork, in square compart-

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ments, on which are carved designs of sheers, such as are used by clothiers, and a crown, and a portcullis, &c. By the emblem of the sheers, it is supposed to have been put up by some one exercising that trade. The south chancel is said to have belonged to Spilsill court, there is a tomb of Bethersden marble in it, on which were the figures of a man between his two wives, that on the left hand only remains; it probably belonged to one of the family of Mayney. In the church-yard are several tomb stones for the family of Love, most of the inscriptions of which are obliterated, and one for Edward Simmons, obt. 1735.

The earliest patron I find of this rectory is, John Kempe, bishop of London, who died anno 4 king Henry VII. possessed of one acre of land in this parish, with the advowson of the church of Staplehurst annexed, held of the king, as of his manor of Marden, as was found by inquisition; and that Thomas Kempe was his kinsman and next heir. He was of Ollantigh, knight, and was the bishop's nephew, and died possessed of it, holding it by the like tenure. His son, of the same name, passed it away to Sir Richard Baker, who was possessed of it in 1578, and he soon afterwards sold it to Martin Culpeper, M. D. of Oxford, who, in the beginning of the next reign of king James, alienated it to Robert Newman, S. T. P. in whose descendants it continued several years; but in the reign of Charles II. John Clayton, esq. was owner of it; at length, about the time of queen Anne's reign, it was sold to the master and fellows of St. John's college, Cambridge, part of whose possessions it remains at this time.

It is valued in the king's books at 26l. 5s. 11d. and the yearly tenths at 2l. 12s. 7d. In 1578 there were four hundred and forty communicants here; in 1640, five hundred and eight, when it was valued at 160l. per annum.

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There is no glebe land belonging to the rectory beside the scite of the house, garden, and forstal in the front of it.

In the Lambeth registers are articles of agreement between Robert Newman, clerk, D. D. rector, and his parishioners, concerning tithes in 1604; and a further order by archbishop Abbot, concerning the same, in 1607, in the library there, among the Cart. Miscell.

There are three farms in the borough of Lovehurst, in this parish, which pay the rector a modus of one shilling, in lieu of all tithes.

CHURCH OF STAPLEHURST.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Robert Newman, S. T. B. April

29, 1591, obt. 1612./k

Millicent, widow of said R. New=

man, pro hac vice. Robert Browne, A. M. Dec. 30,

1612, sequestered 1642./l

John Sloper, resigned 1645.

Robert Newman, gent. Henry Keat, A. M. Dec. 15,

1645.

Daniel Poyntell, ejected August,

1662./m

John Cleyton, esq. Stephen Lowton, A. M. Nov. 7,

1662, obt. 1684.

The Archbishop. Joseph Crowther, A. M. Aug. 27,

1684, obt. 1719.

Master, &c. of St. John's college,

Cambridge. John Bowtell, S. T. P. Dec. 22,

1719, obt. 1752./n

Michael Burton, D. D. March 2,

1754, obt. March 3, 1759.

John Taylor, S. T. P. Aug. 20,

1759, obt. Dec. 29, 1784.

Thomas Thompson, A. M. 1785

obt. 1786./o

Henry Grove, A. M. 1786, the

present rector.

/k His will is in the Prerog. office, Cant. It appears by it, that he was of New College, Oxford, to the fellows of which society, preaching at St. Paul's Cross, London, he bequeathed 10l. per annum for ever.

/l Walk. Suff. Clerg. pt. ii. p. 203.

/m Calamy's Life of Baxter, p. 286.

Kennet's Chron.

/n Fellow of St. John's college, and vicar of Patricksborne.

/o Head-master of the king's school at Rochester, and vicar of Hoo.

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THE HUNDRED OF BARKLEY

LIES the next north-eastward from that of Cranbrooke. In the 20th year of king Edward III. it is spelt Berdekely.

This hundred, which is within the lower division of the lath of Scray,

CONTAINS WITHIN ITS BOUNDS THE GREATEST PART OF

THE PARISH OF

BIDDENDEN,

With the church, and part of the parishes of BENENDEN, CRANBROOKE, FRITTENDEN, HALDEN, HEDCORNE, and SMARDEN, the churches of which are in other hundreds. One constable has jurisdiction over it.

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BIDDENDEN

IS the next parish eastward from Frittenden. That part of it which is in the boroughs of Ibornden, Wosenden, Hevenden, Omenden, Stepherst, and Wachenden, is in the hundred of Barkley; and the residue of it, being in the borough of the Outbounds of Smithsditch, is in the hundred of Cranbrooke. The borsholder of the above-mentioned borough of Wosenden, is chosen at the court-leet held at Burham, in this county; and the borough of Wachenden has a court-leet of itself, holden in this parish, at which the borsholder of that borough is chosen; so that neither of these two borsholders last-mentioned are chosen at the court-leet held for this hundred, nor do the inhabitants of them attend at that court; but at it there may be chosen a constable for the hundred out of either of these boroughs.

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The dennis of Biddenden and Spelhurst, in this parish, are held of the manor of Shurland, in Pluckley; the liberty of the manor of Wye claims over the borough of Wachenden; and the manor of Godmersham extends into this parish, which is in the division of West Kent.

THE PARISH is much the same, as to the appearance of the country, as those in this neighbourhood last-described, having some gentle rises in it; the soil too is much the same, having plenty of marle throughout it, the southern and western parts are covered with coppice woods, the large oak trees are numerous throughout it, as well there, as in the hedge rows. It is populous, containing about 2000 inhabitants, of which about a fifth part are dissenters, there are no clothiers remaining in it, though the trade formerly flourished in this equally with the adjoining parishes. The village, usually called in like manner as most others in the Weald, the town of Biddenden, having the church and parsonage on the western side of it, stands rather towards the southern part of the parish, on the high road from Tenterden to Ashford, which is here joined by that from Cranbrooke. There are three principal hamlets, which are dispersed at different parts of the parish, called Wosenden-green, Stroud-quarter, and Standen.

There is a fair, formerly held on the day of St. Simon and St. Jude, now on Nov. 8, for Welsh cattle chiefly, and another on Old Lady day.

BIDDENDEN PLACE, or, as it was afterwards usually called, THE PLACE-HOUSE, stands at the south end of the town, and was antiently the residence of an old family, who took their surname from it; after which the Mayneys were the next who succeeded to the pos=

session of it, and resided here likewise, being, as well as that great man Sir Walter de Mayney, so noted in history both for his valour and piety, descended from Walter de Meduana, or Mayney, who came into

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England with the Conqueror, and, as appears by the red book, in the exchequer, held twenty knights fees in this county, and appears by his arms, Or, three chevronels, sable, to have been the elder branch of this family; those of Biddenden and Linton bearing, Per pale, argent and sable, three chevronels, between as many cinquefoils, all counterchanged. Sir John de Mayney resided here in the beginning of king Edward III.'s reign, as did his son, of the same name, who died possessed of this seat, with other lands contiguous to it, in the 50th year of that reign; and from him it descended down to John Mayney, esq. of Biddenden, who left two sons, John, who succeeded him here, and Walter, who was of Staplehurst, and sheriff anno 13 Elizabeth, the lands of both whom were disgavelled by the act of 2 and 3 king Edward VI. John Mayney, the eldest son, resided here, and was sheriff anno 7 Elizabeth, 1566, in which year he died, leaving two sons, Anthony and Walter; the former of whom was father of Sir Anthony Mayney, who, in that reign, having purchased a seat at Linton, removed thither,^{/p} and alienated this seat to Sir Edward Henden, one of the barons of the exchequer in the reign of Charles I.^{/q} whose arms are in the semicircular window of Grays-Inn hall, of which he was a member, being Azure, a lion passant, between three escallop shells, or; who dying s. p. in 1662, was buried in the chancel of this church, having given it by will to his nephew Sir John Henden, sheriff in the 22d year of that reign, who resided here, as did his descendants down to William Henden; but he having, in the reign of king George I. dissipated his patrimony, pulled down the greatest part of this seat, and left the poor remains of it, consisting of only three or four rooms, and a very few acres of the old garden and park, to his son William,

^{/p} See vol. iv. of this history, p. 367.

^{/q} His will is in the Prerog. Office, Cant.

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and he sold it to the trustees of Sir Horace Mann, bart. the present proprietor of it.

ALMOST opposite the Place-house is A MANSION, formerly the seat of the Taylors, from whom it passed to Mr. Jenkin Hague, whose nephew, of the same name, now owns it. And at the north end of the town is another, called BIDDENDEN-HOUSE, formerly the estate of the Pattensons, who bore for their arms, Argent, on a fess, sable, three fleurs de lis, or; in which name it continued down to Mr. Josias Pattenson, who devised it to his eldest son of the same name. He married Elizabeth, the eldest of the two daughters and coheirs of Felix Kadwell, esq. of Rolvenden, by whom he had Kadwell Pattenson, of the Gate-house, in Rolvenden, who died s. p. Margaret, Ellen, Josias Pattenson, esq. now of Brooke-place, in Ashford, and Mary, who married Samuel Munn, of Hastings,

by whom she had Samuel, late of Ashford, gent. and Ellen, married to William Jemmett, gent. of Ashford. The Pattensons bear for their arms, Argent, on a fess, sable, three fleurs de lis, or. After his death his heirs alienated it to Mr. Peter Berry, who afterwards sold it to Mr. Stephen Elmstone, the present owner of it.

THE FAMILY OF POMFRET was for several generations possessed of a good estate in this parish. The mansion in which they resided is a large old house, near the town. It formerly belonged to Edmund Steed, gent. who died in 1664, and afterwards to Vincent Quilter, by whose daughter and heir it came by marriage to Pomfret, in one of whose descendants it continues at this time. Many of them lie buried in the south part of the church-yard, where their tombs are yet remaining, with their arms on them, being Quarterly, argent, and gules, a bend, sable; a branch of the family of Seyliard, who intermarried with the Boddenhams, likewise resided here during the last century, bearing for their arms, Gules, a chief, ermine.

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ALLARDS is an estate in this parish, which had on it an antient seat, which for many generations was the mansion of a family of the same name, one of whom was Gervas Allard, who was admiral of the western seas in the 34th year of Edward I. and in his descendants it continued till the reign of Charles I. when Francis Allard, gent. of this place, leaving an only daughter Elizabeth, she carried it in marriage to Terry Aldersey, gent. of Swanton-court, in Bredgar, who died possessed of it in 1678, and bequeathed this estate to his second son Mr. Henry Aldersey, of Maidstone, whose descendant sold it to Thomas Tong, surgeon, of Milton, from whom it passed by sale to Mr. John Hooker, gent. of Brenchley, and his descendant John Hooker, esq. now of Broadoak, in that parish, is the present owner of it.

CASTWISELL is an estate here, situated at the boundary of this parish, next to Cranbrooke, which was once accounted a manor, and had in very early times owners of the same name, as appears by some antient deeds without date, relating to it, in which John de Castwisell is a witness at the teste of them. But before the reign of Edward IV. the Moiles were become possessed of it; in the 6th year of which Sir Walter Moile, of Eastwell, granted to Reginald and William Sands, all those lands, tenements, rents, and services, which Simon Gidenden lately held of him, as of his manor of Castwisell. His grandson Mr. Thomas Moyle (afterwards knighted in the 29th year of Henry VIII.) conveyed it to Stephen Rogers, gent. whose descendant Mr. Jonathan Rogers owned it at the restoration of Charles II. At length, after it had continued for some time in his descendants, it became the property of Sir Henry Fermor, bart. who died possessed of it in 1734, without lawful issue. Since which it has remained vested in the trustees of his will, for the uses mentioned in it.

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LESSENDEN is an estate here, about a mile and a

half northward from the church, which was formerly the residence of a family of the name of Boddenden, or Boddenham, one of whom, William Boddenden, died possessed of it in 1579, leaving by his first wife a son William, who was afterwards knighted. He bore for his arms, Azure, a fess, between three chess rooks, or, and lies buried in the chancel of this church. His sister Jane having married Bernard Randolph, of this parish, clothier, he by that alliance became afterwards possessed of this estate, of which he died possessed in 1628, and was buried by his wife in the chancel of this church. His eldest son William was of Burton, in Kennington, where his posterity afterwards remained. John, the third son, went to Virginia, where his descendants still continue; and Edmund, the fifth son, travelled into Italy, and took the degree of M. D. at Padua, and on his return was incorporated into the university of Oxford in 1628; afterwards he practised physic at Canterbury, and dying in 1649, was buried in St. George's church there, leaving a numerous issue, one of whom was Bernard, author of the account of the Archipelago. Herbert, the fourth son, succeeded him in this estate, whose grandson Herbert Randolph, esq. was recorder of the city of Canterbury, and died possessed of Lessenden in 1724, leaving a numerous issue by his two wives. By the first he left only two surviving children, Herbert; and Mary, who married Christopher Packe, M. D. By his second wife he had eight children, Thomas, D. D. late president of Corpus Christi college, Oxford; George, M. D. of Bristol; Francis, D. D. principal of Alban hall, Oxford; and Charles, bred to the law; and four daughters, of whom a further account may be seen under Aldington. They bear for their arms, Gules, on a cross, argent, five mullets pierced, sable.

Herbert Randolph, clerk, the only son by his first wife, succeeded him here. He died in 1755, leaving

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issue only by Catherine his first wife, daughter of Edward Wake, D. D. prebendary of Canterbury, one son Herbert, and a daughter Mary. Herbert Randolph, the son, is of Wiltshire, and is in holy orders, and married Elizabeth Adcock, of Ashford; he is the present possessor of this estate.

ON THE NORTH SIDE of the parish is a seat, called IBORNDEN-HOUSE, which, with the greatest part of the denne in which it is situated, has been, from the very beginning of the last century, the estate and residence of the family of Pattenson. Roger Pattenson, clothier, came out of Yorkshire, and purchased this estate, with several others in this and the adjoining parishes, and built three several houses in Biddenden. He died about 1638. His descendant Josias Pattenson, left two sons, Josias, late of Biddenden house, and William, the latter of whom inherited Ibornden, in which he was succeeded by his only son Mr. William Pattenson, the present proprietor of it.

The denne of Ibornden, or Iberden, as it is sometimes spelt, is held of the manor of Ashford. It lies in the western part of this parish, a little more than a mile north-west from the church.

AT ABOUT HALF A MILE northward from the vil-

lage, is THE BOROUGH OF STANDEN, in which is a hamlet of houses, on the high road; this has formerly been a place of some note, and now belongs to Mrs. Knight, the widow of Thomas Knight, esq. of Godmersham, for her life; remainder to Edward Austen, esq. now of Godmersham park.

RIVER-HALL is a seat in the south-east part of this parish, near Stroud Quarter, which has been for more than a century in the possession of the Beales, formerly clothiers here. Richard Beale, clothier, of Biddenden, resided here in the beginning of Charles II.'s reign, and his grandson Mr. Richard Beale is the present owner of it, and resides in it. They bear for

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their arms, Sable, on a chevron, or, between three griffin's heads erased, argent, as many estoiles, gules.

WHITFIELD-HOUSE is near the above, taking its name from the owners of it. Thomas, second son of Clement Whitfield, the second son of John Whitfield, of Tenterden, possessed it in king James I.'s reign, and was succeeded in it by his son John, who was of Biddenden, gent. and died in 1695, and in his descendants it continued till it was sold, not many years since, to Mr. Jenkin Hague, whose nephew, of the same name, now possesses it.

AT THE corner of this parish, among the woods, lies THE MANOR OF WACHENDEN, in the borough of its own name, which belonged to the abbot and convent of Battel, most probably at its first foundation in the reign of the Conqueror, at least they were owners of it in the reign of Edward II. as appears by the patent rolls of the 7th year of that reign; and in the church chest here, there is an antient deed, dated anno 8 king Henry IV. wherein the abbot and convent acknowledge to have received four pounds of Thomas Brickenden, for his ferme of their manor of Wachendenne, which continued part of their revenues at the time of their dissolution, in the 30th year of Henry VIII. when it came, among the rest of their possessions, into the hands of the crown; whence it was granted to Sir John Baker, of Sissinghurst, one of whose descendants sold it to Henden; from which name it passed to Sir John Norris, of Hemsted, at whose death in 1767, it came to his son John Norris, esq. whose trustees alienated it to Thomas Hallet Hodges, esq. of Hemsted, in Benenden, who is the present possessor of it.

A court leet is held for this manor.

/r See Heraldic Vistn. co. Kent, 1619.

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CHARITIES.

TWENTY ACRES OF LAND, called the Bread and Cheese Land, lying in five pieces, were given by persons unknown, the yearly rents to be distributed among the poor of this parish. This is yearly done on Easter Sunday in the afternoon, in 600 cakes, each of which have the figures of two women impressed on them, and are given to all such as attend the church; and 270 loaves, weighing three pounds and an half a-piece; to which latter is added one pound and an half of cheese, are given to the parishioners only, at the same time.

There is a vulgar tradition in these parts, that the figures on the cakes represent the donors of this gift, being two women, twins, who were joined together in their bodies, and lived together so till they were between twenty and thirty years of age. — But this seems without foundation. The truth seems to be, that it was the gift of two maidens, of the name of Preston; and that the print of the women on the cakes has taken place only within these fifty years, and was made to represent two poor widows, as the general objects of a charitable benefaction. William Horner, rector of this parish in 1656, brought a suit in the Exchequer, for the recovery of these lands, as having been given for an augmentation of his glebe land; but he was nonsuited. They are altogether of the yearly value of about 31l. 10s.

THOMAS TAYLOR, of Cranbrooke, by his will in 1569, gave a parcel of woodland in this parish, upon the denne of Etilte, containing by estimation seven acres, which he purchased of John Pattynden, and ordered, that the profit that should come of it, whether it be wood or otherwise, should always be employed to the use of the poor people of this parish; to be distributed to them by the churchwardens, at their discretion, from time to time for ever.

A sum of money, arising from the sale of the timber on the above-mentioned land in 1733, was laid out in the purchase of a house and farm in Bredgar, of the yearly rent of 8l. per annum, by deed of feoffment.

MRS. HOOPER, of Cranbrooke, widow, in 1682, gave 20l. with which was purchased Tripe-lane house, and one field adjoining, of the yearly rent of one guinea, to be distributed among twenty-one widows. The house is now made into two dwellings for poor people.

JAMES STONE, of Cranbrooke, in 1722 gave by will 2l. per annum, payable out of Highpoles-farm, in this parish, to be distributed among sixteen poor widows, or decayed housekeepers, on the 1st of November for ever, by the overseers of the poor.

DR. JOHN BANCROFT, rector of this parish, and in 1732 bishop of Oxford, gave a set of communion-plate to this church.

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A new workhouse has been built for the use of the poor within these few years.

The poor constantly relieved are about ninety; casually 36.

WILLIAM, or JOHN MAYNE, esq. of this parish, by a deed of feoffment in 1522, founded A FREE LATIN GRAMMAR SCHOOL in it, and endowed it with a school-house, garden, and certain payments out of lands in this parish, Tenterden and Bethersden, of the yearly value of 20l. 3s. 4d./s The management of it, and the appointment of the master, is under the direction of Mr. Richard Beale, of this parish, with other feoffees. The Rev. Mr. Pitman is master of it. The archbishop of Canterbury is visitor of this school; which jurisdiction has not been exercised for many years. For want of this interposition, this endowment has been much abused, and the whole of it is now made a sinecure. There is a deputy, who is a decayed tradesman, put in by the master, who lives in the school-house, and with whom he shares half the salary. There have been no children taught in it for some time past.

BIDDENDEN is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of

Charing.

The church, which is dedicated to All Saints, stands on an eminence, close at the west end of the village, with the parsonage-house on the north side of it. It is large and well-built, consisting of three isles and three chancels, having a handsome square tower at the west end, with a beacon turret at one corner. In it are six bells, and a set of chimes. There is a small vestry-room on the north side of the great chancel, in which lies buried Sir Edward Henden, baron of the exchequer, anno 1662, and several of the family of Randolph and Everden; in it is a memorial

/s Among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, is a tract concerning the foundation of this school. No. 368â€”15.

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for Richard Allard, alderman of Rochester, 1593. In the north chancel there is a brass plate, fixed to the wall, for Sir William Boddenden and his wife, having the figures of them and their children, and an inscription to their memories. This chancel belonged to the Mayneys, of whom there are monuments in it, and does now to Sir Horace Mann. The south chancel is ceiled with wainscot, in pannels, at the corners of each of which are carved and painted different devices and arms; among others are the arms of the see of Canterbury, impaling Warham, Argent, three birds volant, sable, and portcullis, &c. Alice Bedlyngston, by her will in 1463, ordered her feoffees, out of the money arising from the sale of a piece of land in this parish, to make a new window on the south side of this church; and it appears that in the beginning of king Henry VIII.'s reign, there was a new isle building to this church, by the several legacies left towards it.

On the outside of the steeple are three shields of arms, carved in the stone-work, viz. first, A saltier; second, A bend, sinister; and third, A fret. In the church-yard are buried several of the family of Beale.

This church is a rectory, and was part of the ancient possessions of the see of Canterbury, where it still continues, the archbishop being the present patron of it.

It is valued in the king's books at thirty-five pounds, and the yearly tenths at 3l. 10s.

In 1578 there were five hundred and forty-five communicants here, in 1640 there were four hundred, and it was then valued at one hundred and twenty pounds per annum. It is now of the annual value of about two hundred and forty pounds.

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CHURCH OF BIDDENDEN.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Thomas Scott, esq. John Whetcombe, A. M. June 10, 1579, obt. 1609.

The Archbishop. John Bancroft, S. T. P. April 7, 1610, obt. 1640.t

George Wilde, LL. B. Feb. 19, 1640, resigned.

The King. Moses Lee, Sept. 4, 1660, obt.
1681./u
The Archbishop. Giles Hinton, S. T. P. Jan. 23,
1681, obt. 1702./w
Elias Sydal, S. T. P. March 5,
1702, resigned 1704.
William Trent, June 12, 1704,
obt. Jan. 15, 1740./x
Walter Walker Warde, B. D.
June 9, 1740, resigned 1747./y
John Mather, A. M. inducted
March 12, 1747, obt. 1794.
W. P. Warburton, 1794, the
present rector.

/t He was afterwards, in 1632,
made bishop of Oxford, and held this
rectory in commendam. He was buried
at Cuddesdon.

/u Before him William Horner was
rector here, during the usurpation.

See Calamy's Life of Baxter, p. 236.

/w He was before vicar of Faversham.

/x He lies buried in the south chan=
cel here, æt. 64, where there is a mo=
nument to his memory.

/y In 1741 he was presented to the
vicarage of Marden, which he held
with this rectory by dispensation, and
was afterwards rector of Great Chart,
which he resigned for the rectory of
Chiddingstone; which last he held
with that of Withiam, in Sussex. He
had been likewise rector of Hayes, and
vicar of Downe, in this county.

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THE
HUNDRED
OF
GREAT BARNEFIELD,

LIES on the other, or southern side of the hundred
of Cranbrooke; and here it should be observed, that
Great and Little, or East and West Barnefield, are in
fact but two half hundreds, and formerly had their
separate names of the eastern half hundred, and the
western half hundred of Barnefield; which division was
occasioned by their lying in two different laths.

The hundred of Great Barnefield lies in the lower di=
vision of the lath of Scray,

AND CONTAINS WITHIN ITS BOUNDS THE GREATEST PART
OF THE PARISH OF

HAWKHURST,

With the church of it, and part of the parish of CRANBROOKE,
the church of which is in another hundred. One constable has
jurisdiction over it.

HAWKHURST

LIES the next parish southward from Cranbrooke. A small part on the southern side of it, called Hawselden, consisting of two houses, and a small quantity of land to each, is in the hundred of Shoyswell, and county of Sussex, and the residue of it is in the county of Kent. So much of it as in the borough of Hawkhurst, alias South Borough, or in the North Borough, is in the hundred of Great Barnefield. So much of it as is in the East Borough, is in the hundred of Sel-

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brittenden; and the residue in the borough of Crothall, being a very small part of it, is in the hundred of Cranbrooke.

The borough of Hawkhurst above-mentioned, has a court leet of itself, where the borsholder of that borough is chosen; and the inhabitants of it owe no service to the court leet holden for the hundred of Great Barnefield: but at that court an inhabitant of this borough may be chosen constable of that hundred; the liberty of Wye claims over this borough. It is in the division of West Kent.

THE MANOR OF SLIPMILL, alias MOREHOUSE, which includes the denne of Hawkhurst, was antiently esteemed as one of the appendages belonging to the royal manor of Wye, the liberty of which extends over the greatest part of this parish, and passed as such with that manor, in the gift made of it by William the Conqueror, to the abbey of Battel, at the first foundation of it in the year 1067./a

In the reign of king John, Odo, abbot, and the convent of Battel, granted by charter, to which there is no date, to the owners of the lands in this parish, within the liberty of their manor of Wye, by the name of his men of Hawkhurst, the ville of Hawkhurst, at a certain rent in money, hens, and eggs. And afterwards the abbot and convent, anno 14 Edward I. granted to them, by the name of their tenants of Hawkhurst, all the tenements there which they held of his fee, in certain dennes therein mentioned, to hold at a yearly rent, reserving suit to their court of Wye, from three weeks to three weeks, by two men only.

King Edward II. in his 5th year, granted to the abbot and convent, a market to be held here weekly on a Wednesday, and a yearly fair for three days, on

/a See an account of this abbey, Willis's Parl. Abbies, vol. i. p. 32.

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the vigil, the day, and the day after the feast of St. Laurence.

In which state this manor continued till the suppression of this abbey in the 30th year of Henry VIII. when it came, with the manor of Wye, into the hands of the crown, whence the royalty, with the quit-rents at Hawkhurst appendant to that manor, which still continued there, was granted, by the name of the manor of Morehouse, with its appurtenances, anno 33 Henry VIII. to Sir John Baker, of Sissinghurst, to hold in capite by knight's service. His descendant Sir Henry Baker, knight and baronet, anno 17 king

James I. Conveyed his interest in it to Henry Carey, lord Hunsdon, lord of the manor of Wye, which had been granted to his grandfather of the same name, by queen Elizabeth, in her third year. He was afterwards created viscount Rochford, and earl of Dover; soon after which he sold both the manor of Wye, and this of the denne of Hawkhurst, alias Morehouse; with their appurtenances, to Sir Thomas Finch, knight and baronet, of Eastwell, who, on the death of his mother in 1633, succeeded to the titles of viscount Maidstone and earl of Winchelsea. In his descendants these manors continued down to Daniel, earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, who died in 1769, without issue male, and by his will devised them, among the rest of his estates in this county, to his nephew George Finch Hatton, esq. now of Eastwell, the present possessor of them.

At the court baron held for this manor, now stiled Slipmill, otherwise Morehouse, the alterations of tenancies, and the apportioning of the rents formerly paid to the abbey, and now to the proprietors of Wye manor, are presented; two beaules are elected, to gather the rents; and a reeve is likewise chosen. All which privileges are in consequence of the grant of the 14th of Edward I. above-mentioned.

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THE WHOLE PARISH of Hawkhurst is situated exceedingly pleasant and healthy. It is in length from north to south about four miles, and in breadth three, from east to west. It is well watered by several streams, the southernmost and largest of which, called here Kent dyke, and the stream itself the river Kent, or Kennet, runs into the river Rother just below Sandhurst, separating this parish from that of Salehurst, and the counties of Kent and Sussex.

This parish, till about the time of king Charles I. was divided from Salehurst, in Sussex, by a bridge, called Kent-bridge, under which this river then ran about six rods at the narrow entering into the way beyond the present bridge; which old bridge being taken away, and the river being turned to run under the present one, the broad place between this last and the narrow place, is now accounted to be in Salehurst, in Sussex, but is really in Hawkhurst, in Kent.

The market, granted as above-mentioned, anno 5 Edward II. has been long since disused; it was formerly kept upon the green at the moor, opposite the seat of Elford's, where a market-cross once stood, and near it was a small house, called St. Margaret's cross, long since demolished, in which the corn unsold was put; and this place is yet called the market-place. But the fair is still held yearly, near the church, on the day of St. Laurence, August 10, and the day following, for cattle and pedlary ware. There was formerly another fair kept in this parish on St. Valentine's day, Feb. 14, in the field at the next gate beyond Moor-house, at a place where once stood a pound; but it has been a long while discontinued.

In the hedge of Beaconfield, near Beacon-land, leading between Fourtrowes and Foxhole, stood a beacon and watch-house, long since taken down.

There is hardly any wood in this parish, excepting

in the western part, adjoining to Goudhurst, which is entirely covered with part of the Fryth woods; the

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soil is in general clay, abounding with marle, and in the northern part there is much sand; though few parishes have a greater diversity of soil. It is still very populous, the present inhabitants being computed to be about 1500, and formerly, whilst the cloathing manufacture flourished in this and the neighbouring parishes, was much more so. There is not one clothier left here now; but there is a worsted-maker, who constantly employs one hundred people in spinning.

There are two principal villages, one called Highgate, built on high ground on each side the great road leading from Lamberhurst and Stonecrouch through this parish southeastward to Newenden and the county of Sussex, which road is joined here by another principal one from Maidstone through Staplehurst and Cranbrooke hither. On the north side of this village are situated the school and alms-houses, founded by the will of Sir Thomas Dunk, as will be mentioned hereafter. The other village, which is the more antient one, stands about half a mile southward of the other, on another hill of equal height, having a deep valley between, most of which is a kind of heath or common, interspersed, the greatest part of it, with cottages and gardens to them, which makes a pleasing picturesque view from every part of both. In this latter village stand the church, and the minister's house, and at a very small distance eastward of the church, is the antient family seat, surrounded with pleasure-grounds, called ELFORDS, which once belonged to a family named Castleman, one of whom, Walter Castleman, anno 34 Henry VI. sold it to William Conghurst, one of whose descendants passed it away to Roberts, and John Roberts died possessed of it in the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign, and lies buried in this church. His son Edmund Roberts alienated it, in the 12th year of that reign, to Richard Boys, gent. who resided here, and died possessed of it in 1605. He lies buried in this church, as do most of

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his descendants, in whom, resident here, this seat continued down to Samuel Boys, esq. of Elford's, who died in 1772, leaving two sons, Samuel, now of Hawkhurst, esq. who married Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Gatland; esq. of Sussex, by whom he had one daughter Elizabeth, and William, who married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Richard Harcourt, esq. of Wigsell. Samuel Boys, esq. the eldest son, succeeded his father in this seat, and kept his shrievalty here in 1782, and is the present possessor of it. He bears for his arms, Or, a griffin, segreant, sable, but it appears by their gravestones, that they bore it within a bordure, being the same coat as that borne by the family of this name in East Kent; though I cannot make out any connexion between them.

AT A SMALL DISTANCE further southward is LILSDEN, which at least as early as the reign of queen Elizabeth, was the property of the Chittendens, eminent clothiers here, in which name it continued down

to John Chittenden, gent. in which name it still continues.

On the great road from Lamberhurst above-mentioned, and at the western extremity of this parish, is Siccoks, commonly called Seacocks-heath. On this heath, but in the parish of Etchingham, in Sussex, is a seat lately belonging to the Rev. Mr. Robert Gunsey Ayerst, and on the same road, a small distance eastward, is a good house, which was formerly the property of Mr. James Pott, who in 1681 alienated it to Redford, in whose descendants it has continued down to Thomas Redford, esq. who now resides in it; and at much the same distance still further eastward, is a seat belonging to the Bakers. George Baker died possessed of it in 1740, and his son John Baker, esq. receiver-general for the county of Kent, rebuilt it, and gave it the name of Hawkhurst-lodge. He died unmarried, and by his last will devised it to his brother Mr. Geo. Baker, surgeon, of Canterbury, descended of ancestors who bore for their arms, Argent,

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three keys, a castle triple towered, sable. Several of whom lie buried in the church-yard here. He was succeeded in his estate here by John Baker, esq. of St. Stephen's, near Canterbury, who married one of the daughters of the Rev. Mr. Tattersal, of Stretham, in Surry, and he is the present owner of it.

At a small distance still further eastward is the village of Highgate, in which is Hawkhurst-place, formerly a seat of good account, though now only a farm-house. It has been for many years the property of the Peckhams, of Eridge, in Sussex, and now belongs to Henry Peckham, esq. and on the north side of the road is a mansion called FOWLERS, which is particularly deserving notice, as having been the property and residence of Richard Kilburne, esq. author of the survey of this county, published in 1659. He was a man of some eminence in his profession as a lawyer, having been five times principal of Staples-inn, and of as worthy a character, both as a magistrate and an historian. He died in 1678, and lies buried in the north chancel of this church. The Kilburnes originally were of Kilburne, in Yorkshire, whence they came into Cambridgeshire and Essex. Richard Kilburne above-mentioned, was the youngest son of Isaac Kilburne, of London, third son of John Kilburne, of Saffron Walden, in Essex. They bore for their arms, Argent, a chevron, azure, between three baldcootes, proper. /d Richard Kilburne, esq. left an only daughter and heir Anne, who entitled her husband Thomas Brewer, esq. of West Farleigh, whose second wife she was, to the possession of it. He had by her two sons John and Philip, and a daughter married to Davis. John, the eldest, succeeded him at West Farleigh; and Philip, the youngest, had this seat at Hawkhurst; but he died by a fall from his horse, unmarried, in 1721, upon which it came to his eldest

/d Their pedigree is entered in the Visitation of London, by St. George, Richmond, in 1634.

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brother John, of West Farleigh, who died in 1724, leaving an only daughter Jane, who surviving both her husbands, died s. p. in 1762, and by her will devised this seat, among the rest of her estates, to her kinsman John Davis, D. D. son of Davis above-mentioned, who died possessed of it in 1766, and was succeeded in it by his only son Sir John Brewer Davis, knt. the present proprietor of it./e

NEAR the east end of Highgate, a little to the north of the high road, lies a seat called TONGS, which was formerly the seat of the Dunks, who were great clothiers here. Simon Donke died possessed of it in 1512, anno 4 Henry VIII. as did his descendant Thomas Duncke in 1617, and from him this seat continued down to Sir Thomas Dunk, who resided here, and dying possessed of it in 1718, was buried in the middle isle of this church,/f and by his will gave it to William Richards, gent. who died possessed of it in 1733, leaving by Anne his wife, daughter of Mr. John Davis, gent. of this parish, one only daughter and heir Anne, who carried it in marriage to George Montague Dunk, earl of Halifax, who, reserving the fee of the mansion itself only, passed the possession of it away by lease for one thousand years, at the yearly rent of sixpence, with the fee simple of the offices, as well as of the lands belonging to it, to Mr. Jeremiah Curteis, of Rye, and he soon afterwards conveyed his interest in it to William Jenkin, esq. who resided here, and died in 1784; since which it has been sold by his executor to David Langton, esq. the present owner of it.

About three quarters of a mile northward from Tongs, lies WOODSDEN, formerly the property of the Springetts, one of whom, Robert Springett, died pos=

/e See more of the Brewers and Davis's, vol. v. p. 141.

/f There are several wills of this family in the Prerog. office, Canterbury.

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essed of it in 1619, and they continued here down to John Springett, who died in 1733;/g and his son alienated it to the Norris's, of Hemsted, in Benenden, from whom it passed in like manner as that seat to Thomas Hallet Hodges, esq. the present owner of it.

CONGHURST is a manor in the southern part of this parish, next to Sandhurst, into which parish likewise it extends, which once was the property and residence of a family of the same name, whose still more antient seat, now called Old Conghurst, the moat and scite of which are still visible, was at no great distance from it, nearer to the county of Sussex, which being burnt by the Danes, they erected a mansion here, where they afterwards resided. But in the reign of king Henry VIII. Mildred, daughter and coheir of George Conghurst, esq. of Conghurst, carried this seat in marriage to Thomas Scot, who was descended from John Scot, of Halden, in the reign of Henry VI. His grandson, Henry Scot, of Halden, left two sons, Henry, the eldest, was of Halden, and ancestor of the Scots, of that place, of the parish of Hayes, and of Langley, in Beckenham; and Thomas, the second son, married the coheir of Conghurst, and had two

sons. From the eldest, George, descended the Scots, of Conghurst; and from Thomas, the youngest, those of Sutton-at-Hone, and of London. They bore for their arms, Argent, a cross-croslet fitchee, sable, quartered with the arms of Conghurst, Azure, three congers heads, erased fessway, or./h Thomas Scot above-mentioned, began to build this seat, but he died in 1533, and was buried in the Lady's chancel, in this church, leaving the finishing of it to Mildred his wife, after whose death their son George Scot Succeeded to it, and in his descendants it continued for some gene=

/g Several of their wills are in the Prerog. off. Cant.

/h There are pedigrees of Scot and Conghurst, both in the Heraldic Visitations of 1574 and 1619.

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rations afterwards, till at length it was alienated to Weller, in which name it remained for some years, and till Capt. Weller, of Rolvenden, conveyed it by sale to Russell, of London, whose heirs sold it to Mr. John Piper, and he is the present owner of this antient seat, now occupied only as a farm-house.

There has not been any court held for this manor for many years.

A BRANCH of the family of Courthope lived at Nettershall, in the northern part of this parish. Henry Courthope, gent. died possessed of it in 1743, and lies buried in this church. By a female heir of this name this estate went in marriage to Charles Moore, esq. who gave it with one of his daughters to John Frost, esq. and he lately sold it to John Boddington, esq. since deceased, whose heirs are now entitled to it. The WOODGATES, lived at Hensill, of whom there are several tombstones remaining of them in the church-yard here. They bore for their arms, On a chevron, cotized, three trefoils slipt, between three squirrels, sejant. It was purchased of the Woodgates, by Richard Harcourt, esq. of Wigsell, and by Elizabeth, one of his daughters and coheirs, came to Wm. Boys, esq. the present possessor of it; and the POPES resided at Hockeridge. These Popes were a younger branch of those of Halnden, and bore the same arms, Or, two chevrons, gules, on a canton, a mullet. It is now only a small farm-house, though it gives name to one of the dennes of the manor of Glassenbury. It was lately the property of the Rev. Thomas Hooper, of Beckley, in Sussex, and now of Mr. William and Richard Foster. There was a branch of the family of Pix resident here a long while, who bore for their arms, Azure, a fess between three cross-croslets, fitchee, or; many of whom lie buried in this church; an elder branch to those of Crayford. They had formerly large possessions in this parish, and resided at a house called Pixes-hall, in Highgate. From this family this seat was purchased by

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John Russel, gent. whose only daughter and heir Mary carried it in marriage to John Knowler, esq. recorder of Canterbury, whose two daughters and coheirs, were married, Anne to Henry Penton, esq. and Mary to William, lord Digby, who in their wives right, became entitled to it./i

THE FAMILY OF BARRETT, from whom those of Belhouse, in Essex, descended, was possessed of lands in this parish, upon the tenure of Cecele, by grant from Simon de Cecele and John Retford, anno 23 Edward III.

CHARITIES.

HENRY PARSON and WILLIAM NELSON, by deed anno 22 Edward IV. conveyed to the use of this parish for ever, a messuage and an acre of land, adjoining to the church-yard, called the church house, the rent whereof is employed towards the repair of the church. – Kilburne, in his Survey, p. 134, says, upon part of this land was erected an alms house, and another house, usually called the sexton's house, the same having been, from about the beginning of king James I.'s reign, used for the habitation of the sexton.

THOMAS IDDENDEN devised by will in 1556, several messuages and lands at or near Highstreet, in this parish, to be for ever employed for pious uses, and are now of about the annual value of 23l. 10s. being vested in the churchwardens and four other trustees, the produce of which is given away at Christmas yearly, in gift-money.

THOMAS GIBBON, by deed anno 15 Elizabeth, granted to trustees for ever, an annuity of 43s. 4d. per annum, out of his messuage and three pieces of land upon the tenure of Amboldeshurst, containing seven acres; which annuity was purchased of him by the parishioners, to be employed towards the maintenance of the church.

SIR THOMAS DUNK, by will in 1718, gave the sum of 2000l. to be laid out in building and endowing a free school and six alms-houses at Highgate, for six decayed housekeepers, three men and three women; the schoolmaster to receive 16l. and the alms-people 6l. each per annum. The school and alms-houses were accordingly erected and endowed, by William Richards, esq. his executor; (the surplus of these sums, after the completing of the buildings, being laid out in the purchase of a

i There is a pedigree of them in the Heraldic Visitation of Kent in 1619, in MSS. C. 16, fol. 131/b.

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farm, now let at 70l. per annum); who, to make the building and endowment more complete, added to the 2000l. about 600l. of his own money, and further by his will ordered, that a further sum, not exceeding 250l. should be laid out in the purchase of lands, the income of which should be employed to augment the salary and pensions payable to the master and alms-people. In pursuance of which bequest, George Dunk, earl of Halifax, who married Anne, only daughter and heir of William Richards, (as being the representative of the executor of Sir Thos. Dunk, as perpetual visitor) in 1753, in consideration of the said 250l. and 70l. raised from the sale of timber from Tilden, the estate settled before on this charity, conveyed to the trustees of it, and their successors for ever, being the minister of Hawkhurst, and ten others, a messuage and land lying near Fourtrows, in this parish and in Sandhurst, of the yearly rent of 17l. by which means the salary of the schoolmaster was augmented to 20l. per annum, and the alms-people to that of 7l. per annum each.

WILLIAM BIRCHETT, of this parish, appears by his will, proved 1508, to have been a good benefactor, both to the poor and church of Hawkhurst.

The poor constantly relieved are about two hundred and fifty, casually fifty.

THIS PARISH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Laurence, stands on the southern side of the village of Hawkhurst. It consists of three isles and three chancels, having a tower steeple, with a beacon turret, in which are six bells. It was founded by the abbot of Battel, in the reign of king Edward III. whose arms, as well as his son's, were in the windows of it; and the windows throughout it were filled with much curious painted glass, almost all which was demolished in the civil wars of the last century, and there are now hardly any figures left in the windows; there are two or three, much defaced, in two of them in the north isle, and two shields, one, quarterly, first and fourth, A sword, argent; second and third, A crown, or. The other, Fretty, azure, fleurs de lis, or. An account of the former state of them may be seen at large in Kilburne's state of this parish in his survey. The font

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seems very antient, and has four shields of arms; first, A cross; second, A saltier; third, A chevron; and the fourth is hid against the pillar.

In the church are many gravestones of the family of Boys, one of John Roberts, inlaid with brass, before the pulpit; of Thomas Iddenden, 1556; of Humphry Scot, and many others; and in the church-yard several tomb-stones for the Bakers, Davis's, Woodgates, &c.

It was formerly esteemed a rectory, and the advowson of it was part of the possessions of the abbey before-mentioned, the rector paying to the sacrist of it five shillings yearly, as an acknowledgment; in which state this church continued till the suppression of that abbey in the 30th year of Henry VIII. when it came into the king's hands, who, within a few months afterwards in the same year, granted the patronage and presentation of it to Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk, to hold in capite by knight's service, /k and he sold it soon afterwards to Sir William Peke, who, in the 37th year of that reign reconveyed it to the king, who settled this rectory or parsonage as an appropriation, by his dotation-charter in his 38th year, on his new-erected dean and chapter of Christ-church, in Oxford, to take place after the death of Henry Simonds, then rector of it; ordering, nevertheless, by it, that they should present an able clerk to the ordinary, who should be named perpetual vicar of this church, and should bear all ordinary and extraordinary charges, except the reparation of the chancels, and that he should have a dwelling, and a yearly pension of 12l. 10s. 10d. and should pay the king yearly for his tenths 25s. 1d. and be charged with first fruits; but it does not appear that any act was done by the dean and chapter in consequence of this towards the endowment of a vicar at that time, and it has ever since

/k Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 7. Augtn. off. box E. 94.

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been presented to by them as a donative, and served

as a perpetual curacy. In which state it continues at this time.

In the year 1534, during the time this church was a rectory, it was rated in the king's books at 36l. 13s. 4d. but since it has ceased to be so, no first fruits have been paid, and it has paid only 11s. 8d. as a stipendiary. The valuation of it in the king's books, made after the above-mentioned grant of the appropriation and advowson to Christ-church, Oxford, is, according to the provision made then by the king in it, for the support of a vicar, under the notion of which it is there rated at 12l. 10s. 10d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 5s.

After which the dean and chapter, anno 2 and 3 Philip and Mary, granted to Sir William Peter eight pounds per annum, to be paid out of the parsonage towards the support of the vicar or incumbent; and in the reign of James I. the stipendiary incumbent had of the dean and chapter a salary of twenty pounds per annum, the profits of the Easter book, then of some value, some rooms in the parsonage-house, called the vicarage-rooms, a small croft, called the vicarage-croft, and the herbage of the church-yard; all which together were of so inconsiderable a value, that upon this living being sequestered about 1642, no one could be found who would serve it, but the place was destitute of a pastor for more than fourteen months; after which the parishioners were obliged to provide a minister themselves, which not being able to bear, the charge of an augmentation was procured from the state, which in a few years afterwards was likewise taken away, and the former allowance only left to the minister; which, by reason of the Easter book becoming of no value, was in 1659, at the most, but twenty-four pounds per annum.

This slender income of the incumbent, induced Sir Thomas Dunk, an inhabitant of this parish, to make

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an addition to it; which he did by his will in 1718, by which he gave 200l. to be employed with the like sum of queen Anne's bounty in the purchase of lands, in fee simple, to the augmentation of the living of the minister of this parish, and his successors for ever; with which sums, land lying near Seacocks-heath, of about twenty pounds per annum value, was purchased, situated in Pepper-mill-lane, and at Delminden-green. And it was again augmented in 1767, by 200l. of queen Anne's bounty; to which was added 200l. more paid by Sir Philip Boteler, bart. from Mrs. Taylor's legacy, and fifty pounds given by the dean and chapter of Christ-church, Oxford; which sums, amounting to 450l. were lately laid out in the purchase of a small farm, called Roughlands, lying near the church. So that the profits of it, at the time of this donation, amounting, according to a recent certified valuation, to 27l. 2s. 6d. (which arose from the pension of twenty pounds payable by the lessee out of the parsonage and surplice-fees, the minister having no right to any tithes whatever) are now almost double to what it was heretofore, but they are yet by no means adequate to so laborious a cure of souls.

In 1578 here were communicants six hundred and

eighty; in 1640 fourteen hundred.

The parsonage is held by lease from the dean and chapter of Christ-church, in Oxford, by Mr. Braborne. There was a suit between Sir John Wildegos, lessee of the parsonage, and John Gibbon, parishioner here, in the ecclesiastical court, touching the manner of tithing; and Gibbon, in Michaelmas term, anno 5 Jacobi regis, obtained a prohibition thereon out of the king's bench, which was tried at Lent assizes at Rochester that year, and a verdict was found for Gibbon, and in Easter term following judgment was given accordingly in Banco Regis; and the suggestion and depositions are entered Trin. 4 Jac. Regis. Rot. 692.

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CHURCH OF HAWKHURST.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Dean and Chapter of Christ-church,
Oxford. Robert Watson, obt. 1617./l

Edward Goodwin, 1617, sequestered 1642./m

George Hall, about 1648.

Ephraim Bothell, from 1657,
ejected 1662./n

Jonathan Pleydell, 1662 to 1691.

Benjamin Horner, 1692 to 1697.

Richard Saunders, in 1702.

John Nash, 1725 to 1727.

Thomas Willis, 1727 to 1728.

Thomas Glover, 1729 to 1737./o

William Taswell, 1738 to 1739.

William Pysing, 1739 to 1748.

Richard Parry, D. D. 1748 to
1751.

John Chawner, A. M. 1751, obt.
1797.

Arnold French Pinkhurst, A. M.
the present curate.

/l Wills, Prerog. off. Cant.

/m Kilb. Surv. p. 128.

/n He was ousted by the Barthol. act.

See Calamy's Life of Baxter.

/o He lies buried in the high chancel. He is called vicar on his grave-stone.

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THE HUNDRED OF SELBRITTENDEN

LIES the next eastward from that of Barkley. It is written in Domesday, Selebrist hundred, and afterwards in other antient records, Selebrichtindene. In the 20th year of Edward III. it is spelt Selbrightinden.

THIS HUNDRED CONTAINS WITHIN ITS BOUNDS THE PARISH OF

SANDHURST,

With the church, and part of the parishes of BENENDEN, HAWKHURST, and NEWENDEN, the churches of which are in other hundreds. One constable has jurisdiction over it.

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SANDHURST

IS the next parish eastward from Hawkhurst. The manor of Aldington claims over some part of this parish, as does the manor of Acrise over another part of it.

THIS PARISH lies on the southern edge of this county, adjoining to Sussex, from which it is separated by the stream called the Kennet, or more usually Kent Dyke, which rises near Tysehurst, in that county, and just below that place falls into the river Rother. It is near four miles from east to west, and near three from north to south. The soil of it in the north-east and southern parts of this parish is a stiff and heavy tillage land, which has underneath plenty of marle, in which parts there is much iron ore; the western part being more hilly, is a light and gravelly soil. The church stands nearly in the centre of the parish, on the knoll of a hill, and the parsonage-house at no great distance northward from it. Between the parsonage and the church is a large forstal, containing the principal part of the estate mentioned below, called Twisden borough. It was formerly a playstool, or common play-ground for the parishioners, and a fair was kept on it; but the Turners, lords of the manor, laid claim to it, and it has been for some time accounted their property, and now accordingly belongs to Mr. Blackburn. The great high road from the western parts of this county, through Newenden, to Hastings and the county of Sussex, leads through this parish south-eastward, on it are situated three greens, Field-green, Cowbeach-green, and Ringlecrouch-green; on the former is a house and estate, which has been for many years the residence of the Wardes, who bore for their arms, In chief, a lion, rampant; in base, a cross flory, a crescent for difference;

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the last of them, Mr. John Warde, died in 1778, leaving three sons and a daughter Elizabeth, married to Mr. John Collins, by whom she had a son Mr. Edward Collins, who has since taken the name of Warde, to whom his grandfather by will, disinheriting his three sons, gave the whole of his estates, among which were this at Field-green, and the manor of Riseden, in this parish, which formerly belonged to John, earl of Ewe, (who died in 1171); for it appears by the register of Horton priory, that he by his charter, without date, gave all his land of Rysdenne, in Sandhurst, which Goldwin held of him, to that priory; and by another charter, Adelize his wife confirmed the same; and by another, Canon, then prior of that house, and the convent of it, quit-claimed to Alexander de Spondenne, the property of a certain drofdenne, in the denne of Risedene, in this parish; Mr. Edward Collins Warde is the present owner of them. The farm of Ringlecrouch, near the green of that name, was the property of Thomas Blackmore, esq. of Hertfordshire, who died in 1789, and his heirs now possess it. On this green there is a meeting-house for baptists, the congregation of which is very large; and a little further eastward is

a capital messuage called Frenchurst, and formerly Frinchinurst, to which formerly belonged the mill called Hope mill here, and it appears by the escheat-roll anno 4 Henry VII. that Thomas Pulter then died possessed of a capital messuage, called Frechinghurst, and one water-mill, called Hope-mill, in Sandhurst, held of the prior of Christ-church, in Canterbury; the former of them belongs now to Mr. John Collins, and the latter to the earl of Thanet. And farther on the same road is Hernden manor, belonging to John Peckham, esq. of Salehurst.

In this parish is an estate, called Silverden, belonging to the Rev. Mr. Hudson; and in the south-east part of it two farms, called Upper and Lower Boxhurst, the former belonging to Mr. Joseph Fowle, the latter to

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Mr. Thomas Burt, both of Sandhurst; and in the western part of it next to Hawkhurst, is a seat, called Downgate, which belonged to the Turner estate, and afterwards to Mr. Blackburn.

A fair is annually held here on May 25, for cattle and pedlary wares. It was till within these few years held on Dec. 6, St. Nicholas's day, the patron saint of the church.

THE MANOR OF SANDHURST was given by Offa, king of Mercia, in the year 791, to Christ Church in Canterbury, and was, soon after the time of the conqueror, held of the archbishop by knight's service, by the family of Criol; of them it was, in the reign of king Edward II. held again by Hugo de Combe, whose successor in it was John de Betherinden, whence it came to be called the manor of Sandhurst, alias Betherinden, and in the east window of the north chancel here were formerly the effigies and arms of one of this family, and in Downe church, was once a memorial for John Bederenden, once citizen, woollen-draper, and chamberlain of London, who died in 1445. By a female heir of this name it came into the family of Fitzherbert, alias Finch, in which it continued till the beginning of the reign of queen Elizabeth, when Herbert, son of Vincent Finch, who lies buried in this church,^a sold it, with the antient mansion of Sandhurst-place, now usually called OLD-PLACE, (at present only a farm-house) to Pelham, from which name it was alienated to Fowle, who bore for his arms, Argent, a chevron gules, on a chief of the second, three mullets pierced of the first. In which one of them, Sir John Fowle, of Sandhurst, in his will, proved 1637, mentions certain lands which he had here, called the Coomes, which were his grandfather's, whereon was a house, since his death built,

^a His will, proved 1524, is in the Prerog, off. Cant.

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which were held of the king by knight's service,^b and in his family it remained till it was passed away to Turner, whose descendant Robert Turner, esq. in 1784, passed it away by sale to John Blackburn, of London, esq. the present owner of it. A court baron is held for this manor.

ALDRINDEN, which lies at the north west part of this parish was once accounted a manor of some note

here, being held of the manor of Acrise, and had owners of the same surname, in which it continued till Roger de Aldrinden, as appears by the private deeds of it, leaving and only daughter and heir Christian Aldrinden, she passed it away by sale, in the 22d year of king Edward III. to John Selbritten, who not long after alienated it to Thomas atte Bourne, and he held it, as appeared by an old court-roll in the 1st year of Richard II. and from him it descended down to John Bourne, who dying in the 4th year of king Edward IV. settled it by will on Joane his female heir, married to Thomas Allard. They had one son, Henry, whose son John Allard, alienated his right in it by sale, in the 30th year of Henry VIII. to John Twysenden, or Twisden, gent. as the name soon afterwards was spelt, whose ancestors resided at TWISDEN BOROUGH, upon the tenure of Twisden, in this parish, a place noted for having been, in very early times, the inheritance of this family, who resided here at the time they were stiled in Latin deeds, according to the quaint language of those times, de Denna Fracta, and from them this place obtained their name, by which it is called to this day.

His descendant Mr. William Twisden, about the beginning of king James I.'s reign, sold it to Thomas Downton, esq. who died possessed of it in 1623, and was buried in this church, and his descendant Richard Downton, esq. owned it at the restoration of king

/b In Heraldic Visitation of Kent in 1619, is the pedigree of Fowle, of Sandhurst.

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Charles II. and bore for his arms, Argent, on a chief indented, sable, three goats heads, erased. After which it passed into the family of Dunk, and from thence to Richards, whence by Anne, only daughter of William Richards, esq. it went in marriage to George Dunk, earl of Halifax, who soon afterwards sold it to Collier, and his daughter marrying Mr. Henry Jackson, of Hastings, in Sussex, he is, in her right, the present possessor of it.

CHARITIES.

SIR JOHN FOWLE, of this parish, in 1632, gave by deed to the poor of it a piece of ground, with a malt-house on it, since burnt down, and now called the Malt-house Platt, containing three quarters of an acre upon Ringlecrouch-green, on which it has a right of common. It is now let at 34s. per annum, and is vested in trustees, the produce of which is distributed by the directions of the donor, once in two or three years in cloaths, chiefly in gowns, to poor widows of this parish.

THOMAS DOWNTON, ESQ. of Sandhurst, devised by will to the poor of this parish 10l. to be lent to them by the direction of four of the sufficientest men of it, giving security for the paying of it again, at such time as they should appoint, so to continue to the parish for ever.

THERE IS AN ALMS-HOUSE, consisting of three or four dwellings, by whom given is not known, but supposed by one of the family of Fowle.

The poor constantly relieved are about one hundred and sixty, casually fifty.

SANDHURST is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

RISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Nicholas, is built of sand stone. It consists of two isles and two chancels, with a square tower, in which are five bells. It was part of the antient possessions of the see of Canterbury, and continues so at this time, his grace the archbishop being the present patron of it.

It is a rectory, and valued in the king's books at twenty pounds, and the yearly tenths at two pounds.

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In 1578 here were communicants two hundred and eighteen, in 1640, two hundred and eighty. When it was valued at 110l.

There are about ten acres of glebe land. The parsonage-house has lately been handsomely repaired, and fitted up by the present rector Mr. Hussey.

CHURCH OF SANDHURST.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS

Dean and Chapter of Canterbury,

sede vac. John Whetcombe, A. M. July 16,
1583, obt. 1609.

The Archbishop. John Simpson, A. M. Jan. 22,
1609.

William Master, S. T. P. resig.
1626.

John Simpson, S. T. P. May 15,
1626./c

Thomas Buckner, S. T. B. resig.
1632.

Walter Drurie, A. M. April 3,
1632, obt. 1680.

Samuel Atwood, A. B. Dec. 9,
1680, obt. 1696.

Charles Maude, A. M. Jan. 17,
1696, obt. 1722.

Henry Hodson, A. M. Jan. 1722,
resigned 1753.

Henry Hodson, A. M. Nov. 16,
1753./d

William Hussey, A. M. Oct. 3,
1781, the present rector./e

/c In 1626 a dispensation passed for his holding Aldington with this rectory. Rym. Fœd. vol. xviii. p. 874.

/d Son of the former rector, and rector also of Thurnham by dispensation.

/e Brother to Edward Hussey, esq. of Scotney.

THE TOWNSHIP AND PARISH OF NEWENDEN

LIES adjoining to Sandhurst eastward. It was called in Latin, Noviodunum. Lambarde says, in Saxon, Niefeldune, that is, the low or deep valley. Leland calls it

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Noviodunum, which word is framed out of the Saxon,

Niwandune, and soundeth as much as the new hill./f But it most probably took its name from its being raised on the scite of some more antient town, perhaps built in the time of the Romans, of whom there are many vestigia in and about this place.

Part of this parish is in the hundred of Selbrittenen, the rest of it, called THE TOWNSHIP OF NEWENDEN, is exempt from any hundred, having an officer of its own, called the bailiff, whose power is much the same here as that of high constable in other parts of the county, and is appointed merely to prevent this district merging into the jurisdiction of the hundred; and this bailiff has an under bailiff subordinate, who is the same as a borsholder in other parts.

AT A SMALL DISTANCE north-eastward from the present village of Newenden, it is conjectured by many, among which are Lambarde, Camden, and Selden, that the station and city of the Romans stood, called by Pancirollus, in his Notitia Provinciarum, ANDERIDA, and sometimes Anderidos; by the Britons, Caer An= dred, and afterwards by the Saxons, the castle of An= dred, or Andredceaster; being situated in the immense forest which extended from hence for the space of eighty miles into Hampshire. It was called by them Andredwald; by the Britons, Coit-Andred; and now by us, the Weald. This was one of those ports where the Romans placed their castra riparensia, for the de= fence of the coast against the piracies of the Saxon ro= vers. And here they placed a detachment of soldiers, under the command of the honourable the count of the Saxon shore, distinguished by the name of Præpo= situs numeri Abulcorum; for hither at that time the river Limen, long since called the Rother, was sufficiently navigable. After the Romans had deserted Britain, this place seems to have been still accounted a port of

/f See Lambarde's Peramb. p. 219. Dict. 240.

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great strength by the Britons, and to have been used by them as one of their principal places of refuge, when harrassed by the Saxons. Hengist, the Saxon king of Kent, died in 488, and was succeeded by his son Es= cus, during the three first years of whose reign there was a general truce between the Saxons and Britons; at the end of which Ella, a famous Saxon chief, who had come over from Germany, with a large company of Saxons, on the invitation of Hengist, and had placed themselves in Sussex, having received a strong rein= forcement out of Germany, renewed hostilities, and went and besieged the Britons in this their principal port of Andred-ceaster, which at length, after a vigorous defence, was taken by storm. But the Saxons were so much enraged at the losses and fatigues it had occa= sioned them, that they put all the inhabitants to the sword, and totally demolished the city itself./g In which desolate state it afterwards continued, a monument of curiosity to future ages, till at length it was granted, by the name of Andred, by king Offa, to Christ-church, Canterbury.

There are two places here, by which the remains of the antient station may still be discovered; the one is called Castle-toll, and is a raised piece of ground, con=

taining about twenty acres, situated on a point of land between the river Rother and Haydon sewer, about a mile and a quarter east-north-east from Newenden church, and about two miles south-west from Rolvenden. On the east side of it are the remains of a deep ditch, and bank, which seem to have been continued quite round it.

The other lies at a small distance from the above, north-north-east, and is a piece of ground raised much higher than the former; this was encompassed with a double ditch, the traces of which are still visible in

/g Chron. Sax. ad an. 490. Flor. Worc. p. 545. Hen. Hunt. lib. 2. Matth. Westm. ad an. 492.

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some places, and within the innermost of them is somewhat more than an acre of land. The shape is a square, with the corners a little rounded; and at each corner, within the area, is a circular mount of earth. When Dr. Plot viewed this place in 1693, the valla were then very lofty, and he was informed by an antient countryman, who had often ploughed upon this hill, that both the mounts and the valla were then at least four feet lower than when he first knew the place; so that in a process of time it is most probable they will be reduced by the plough to a plain level with the adjoining lands. The plain remains of such strong entrenchments, together with the circumstance of several Roman coins having been found from time to time in and about this place, gives no small weight to the opinion of those, who have placed the site of the antient Anderida here at Newenden.

THE MANOR of Newenden was given by Offa, king of Mercia, by the name of Andred, to the monks of Christ-church, in Canterbury, for the feed of their hogs, being in the vast wood or forest then called Andred, or the Weald. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was accounted part of the archbishop's demesnes, and was held of him by one Leofric, being then taxed at one suling, and esteemed as an appendage to Saltwood, and in the general survey of Domesday, taken in the year 1080, it is thus described, under the title of the archbishop's lands:

In Selebrist hundred the archbishop himself holds Newedene. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is There are twenty-five villeins, with four borderers having five carucates. There is a market of forty shillings all but five pence. Wood for the pannage of forty hogs. In the whole, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth one hundred shillings, when he received it twelve pounds, and now ten pounds, and yet the bailiff paid eighteen pounds and ten shillings.

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After which, anno 21 Edward I. it appears that Boniface, archbishop of Canterbury, had claimed an exemption for his tenants here from service in the hundred court, and from such taxations as were usually made; but upon trial it was given against him.

In which state this manor continued till the 51st year of Henry VIII. when Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, by deed that year, and inrolled in the

Augmentation-office the year afterwards, conveyed it in exchange, among other premises, to that king; and after the death of king Charles I. anno 1648, the powers then in being having seized on all the royal estates, this manor, as one of them, was sold to Hugh Peters, /h with whom it continued till the restoration, when it returned to the crown, and remained there, till at length it was granted to the earl of Aylesford, in whom the fee of it was afterwards vested by act of parliament. His descendant Heneage Finch, earl of Aylesford, conveyed it, together with the fishery belonging to it, (which extends on the river Rother from New Barn, at the eastern extremity of this parish, to Odiarne Oak, about a mile beyond Bodiam westward) by sale in 1760 to Mr. Samuel Bishop, of Losenham, in this parish, who is the present possessor of it. A court leet and court baron is held for this manor.

LOSENHAM, usually called Lossenham, is a manor and seat in this parish, about half a mile north-east from the church, situated within the township of Newenden, and within the hundred of Selbritten. It was anciently the seat of a branch of the family of Aucher, who were both eminent and numerous, as well in this county as in those of Essex, Sussex, Nottingham, and elsewhere, deriving their origin from Ealcher, or Aucher, the first earl of Kent, who had also the title of Duke, from his being intrusted with the military power

/h See the survey and sale of it in Parliamentary Surveys, Augmentation-office.

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of this county. His descendant Walter Fitz Auger, a noble Briton, flourished at the time of the conquest, and was a good benefactor to the monks of St. Saviour's, Bermondsey. His descendant Thomas Fitz Aucher was become possessed of this manor of Losenham, with divers other lands in Essex, in the reign of king John. His descendant Henry Fitz Aucher is in the roll of those Kentish gentlemen, who were with Edward I. in his 28th year, at the siege of Carlaverock, in Scotland, and for his service there was made a knight-banneret, bearing for his arms, Ermine, on a chief, azure, three lions rampant, or. Nicholas Aucher, esq. resided at Losenham in the next reign of king Edward II. His grandson Henry, married first Isabel at Towne, by whom he had Thomas, who succeeded to Losenham; and Robert, from whom descended those of Westwell. And secondly Joane, daughter and heir of Thomas St. Leger, of Otterden, (remarried to Robert Capys) from whom came the Auchers, of Otterden, Bourne, and Nonington. /i At length his descendant Henry Aucher, esq. of Losenham, left an only daughter and heir Anne, who, in the reign of Henry VII. carried this manor, together with that of Woods, in this parish likewise, in marriage to Walter Colepeper, esq. of Bedgebury, /k whose grandson Sir John Colepeper, of Wigsell, in 1628, sold them to Adrian Moore, esq. of Egham, in Surry, in whose family they continued till they were alienated in 1702, to Mr. Nicholas Bishop, whose grandson Mr. Samuel Bishop is the present owner of them, and resides at Losenham. There has not been any court held for this

manor for many years.

There is a moat round the present house, which was built in 1666. Many foundations have been dug up

/i See pedigrees in the Heralds-office, and in the Heraldic Visitations of 1574 and 1619.

/k See a further account of the Colepepers before, under Bedgebury, in Goudhurst.

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southward of the house, and a few years ago a stone coffin was dug up, composed of four flat stones, perforated with several holes to let the moisture through.

AT LOSENHAM above-mentioned, Sir Thomas Aucher, or Fitz Aucher, in the year 1241, being the 26th of Henry III. founded A HOUSE, or PRIORY, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, for Friars Carmelites, or Carms, as they were commonly termed, being so called from their being brought hither from Mount Carmel, in Palestine; this place being most desirable to them, as they affected to take up their abode in retired and solitary habitations. The first institution of their order was in 1170; and they were likewise called White Friars from the colour of their habit. They were first brought into England in 1240, and were settled at Alnewick, in Northumberland, and Aylesford, in this county, and the next year here, and at Brunham, in Norfolk. William Stranfield, born in Kent, a Carmelite friar here, S. T. P. of Oxford, was well versed in the history of his order, and particularly of his own house, of which he became prior, and wrote the history of this monastery of Newenden, with lectures and other discourses of divinity. He died and was buried at Newenden in 1390. Under the patronage of this family of Aucher, whose residence was almost adjoining to this priory, it continued safe till the general dissolution of religious houses in the reign of Henry VIII. in the 27th year of which it was suppressed, as not having revenues to the clear amount of two hundred pounds per annum, and was, with all its possessions, surrendered up into the king's hands.

The scite of this priory seems to have continued in the crown till the 5th and 6th year of Philip and Mary, when it was granted to Edmund and Henry Gilberd. It afterwards passed into the family of Colepeper, and from thence into the name of Moore, from which it

/l See Stev. Mon. vol. ii. p. 167.

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was sold, at the same time with the manors of Losenham and woods, to Mr. Nicholas Bishop, whose grandson Mr. Samuel Bishop, of Losenham, has now the property of it.

Kilburne, p. 198, says, that in this parish, near the priory, stood a castle, which was destroyed by the Danes in 892, and not so much as the ruins then remained, only the memory of it was preserved by a place here still called Castle toll.

NEWENDEN is situated on the southern confines of this county, adjoining to Sussex, from which it is parted by the river Rother, which flows along the southern bounds of it for upwards of two miles, being the whole length of this parish. The high road from the western

parts of Kent into Sussex, across the river Rother, over which there is a modern bridge of three arches, built of brick, called Rother-bridge, leads through it south eastward. There are but fifteen houses in the whole parish.

The village, which is but small, consisting of a very few cottages, with the church amongst them, stands on this road, near Rother-bridge. It was built on its present spot in the reign of Edward I. and seems, from the many remains of foundations and wells, all round the church, especially on the north and east sides of it, to have been formerly a place of considerable size; and the reports of the inhabitants, from tradition, of the antient and more flourishing state of this place, are very extraordinary. The middle part of this parish, from east to west, being a narrow slip, is high ground and arable, the rest, being by far the greatest part of it, is a low flat of pasture and marsh lands, the whole of it has a most forlorn and dreary aspect, and is far from being healthy. About a quarter of a mile eastward from the village is a spring of water, which is a strong chalybeat. It is situated in the marshes, at a small distance northward from the Rother. This water, with

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oaken leaves put into it, turned blackish; and with powder of galls, it sparkled and turned like Champagne wine.

There are no parochial charities. The poor constantly relieved are about five, casually three.

NEWENDEN is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter, stands within the township of Newenden. It was formerly much larger, but becoming very ruinous in 1700, a faculty was procured from the archbishop for the parishioners, to take wholly away the steeple and chancel, and that they might put the body of the church only in repair, and build a turret upon the top of it, to hang up one of the bells in; and that they might sell the other two bells, with the materials of timber and stone remaining after they had made such repairs. All which was soon afterwards done; so that the church is now very small, about sixty feet long, consisting of one isle, and a very narrow one on the north side of it. The chancel is a small room, about eight feet square, on the south side very dark, having the altar-rails across it, being very mean, and unfitting for the purpose. There is a fine old stone, font, standing on four stone pillars, with capitals of flowers and antient Saxon ornaments round the top.

Over the porch of the church was a room, with iron grates to the windows, called the gaol, and was so to the jurisdiction of the township. It was taken down about eighteen years ago, by order of the archdeacon. Thomas Twysden, of Newenden, as appears by his will, was buried in this church-yard in 1521.

This church is a rectory, valued in the king's books at 7l. 13s. 4d. the yearly tenths of which are 15s. 4d.

In 1640 this rectory was valued at fifty pounds, and the communicants here were sixty.

CHURCH OF NEWENDEN.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

The Archbishop. John Tunbridge, obt. 1609.

Richard White, A. M. Dec. 14,
1609.

Thomas Brown, resigned 1664.

Walter Collins, Jan. 26, 1664.

James Kay, A. M. July 18,
1668.David Maccorne, Nov. 2, 1677,
obt. 1686.James Stretton, March 4, 1686,
resigned 1694.Thomas Fishenden, A. M. June
10, 1694, obt. 1737./mWilliam Huddleston, A. M. in=
ducted Sept. 1, 1738, obt.
June 8, 1743.Richard Morton, A. M. July
28, 1743, obt. October 21,
1772./nThomas Morphett, A. M. Nov.
19, 1772, the present rector./o/m Likewise rector of Rolvenden. /n He was buried within the altar-rails
of this church.

/o And rector of Rolvenden.

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THE HUNDRED OF ROLVENDEN

LIES the next northward from that of Selbritten=
den. It is written in Domesday, Rovindene, and in the
20th year of Edward III. Riolvinden.IT CONTAINS WITHIN ITS BOUNDS PART OF THE PA=
RISHES OF

1. BENENDEN, and
2. ROLVENDEN.

And the churches of both those parishes. One constable has
jurisdiction over it.

- - -

BENENDEN

IS situated the next parish northward from Hawk=
hurst. That part of it which is in the borough of Be=
nenden, is in the hundred of Rolvenden; as much of
it as is in either of the boroughs of Hevenden, or
lbornden, is in the hundred of Barkley; as much as is
in the North Borough, is in the hundred of Selbritten=
den; and as much as is in the borough of Crothall, is
in the hundred of Cranbrooke. The liberty of the
court of the bailiwick of the Seven Hundreds claims
over this parish.THE PARISH is in extent from east to west about
seven miles, and about four the other way, is situated
mostly on high ground, much more so than most of
the adjoining country, which consequently makes it

more pleasant, as much so as the generality of the soil and roads will allow of. It has of late years had the improvement of a turnpike road, which leads through it from Cranbrooke towards Rolvenden and Tenterden; before which, the roads were so deep in winter, as they still continue, excepting the above road, that within these fifty years Sir John Norris, whilst he resided at Hemsted, was forced to have his coach drawn to church in the common waggon track, by six oxen, one before the other, as the only means of conveyance to it. The soil is mostly a stiff clay, having plenty of marle at different parts throughout it, and in some parts sand. The northern boundaries of it are much covered with coppice woods; in this part is Hemsted, situated on very high ground, exceedingly pleasant, and commanding an extensive prospect over the neighbouring country; it stands in the midst of a paddock, or park-like ground, well planted with avenues of trees; the house has been lately altered and modernized, and the moat round it filled up; the two wings

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have been pulled down, the right one, which seems to have been the gate-house to the more antient mansion, was of the time of queen Elizabeth; among the rubbish of it was found a silver coin of that reign, anno 1575. It was built of brick, and has two handsome octagon towers, of a grand and stately appearance; the left wing, by the remaining form of a large circular window, seemed to have been the domestic chapel of the mansion, the centre remaining, is a sashed modern building. At a place in the park, called the Merry Tree, the ground is reputed to be the highest in all the Weald of Kent; westward of Hemsted there rises a small streamlet, which runs on from hence towards Rolvenden, and at a small distance eastward, near it, is the hamlet of Walkhurst. The village of Benenden is situated likewise on high ground, nearly in the centre of the parish, and is built on each side of the before-mentioned road.

At a small distance southward from it is the church and the vicarage; adjoining to the latter is a large green, called the Playstool, formerly used as a bowling-green by the neighbouring gentry, who within memory used frequently to resort to it, and at whose expence it was kept in order. In the southern part of this parish, near the hamlet of Iden-green, is Framfarm, formerly the property of Edward Alexander, esq. of Bedford row, who married Levina, daughter of Sir Levinus Bennet, and their grandson Richard Henry Alexander Bennet, passed it away by sale, for which an act passed in 1764, to Sarah, viscountess Falkland, who in 1776 devised it by will to her husband Lucius, viscount Falkland, for life, with remainder to Francis Motley Austen, esq. now of Sevenoake, who purchased lord Falkland's interest in it, and is the present owner of it.

GREAT and LITTLE alias EAST WALKHURST are two estates here which belonged to the priory of Christ-church in Canterbury, and, at the dissolution of

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the priory in the reign of king Henry VIII. were set=

tled by him, by his dotation charter anno 33 of that reign, on his new-erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, who are now entitled to them. At a small distance north-eastward from hence, adjoining to the woods, is Pump-house, formerly the residence of a branch of the family of Gybbon, one of whom, Edmund Gybbon, esq. was a good benefactor to the free school in this parish, as will be further mentioned.

The family of Sharpe resided in this parish for many generations. Many of them lie buried in the south porch of this church; and in the beginning of the last century, a branch of the Hendons lived here, and were clothiers of great repute. /p A fair is held here on May 15, for horses and cattle.

THE MANOR OF BENENDEN, which is subordinate to the liberty of the Seven Hundreds, appears by the record of Domesday to have been among those possessions which William the Conqueror gave to Odo, the great bishop of Baieux; under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in that record:

In Rovindene hundred, the same Robert de Romanel holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Benindene. It was taxed at half a suling. The arable land is two carucates. In demesne there is one carucate, and four villeins, with nine borderers having two carucates. There is wood for the pannage of five hogs, and one church. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth forty shillings, now fifty shillings. Osier held it of king Edward.

Upon the bishop's disgrace about four years afterwards, this, among the rest of his estates, came to the crown, of whom it was again afterwards held by the earl of Albermarle, and of him again by a family who assumed their name from their possession of it. In the reign of king Edward I. John de Benendene

/p See their wills in Preg. off. Canterbury.

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held it, as one knight's fee, of the countess of Ewe, and she again of the earl of Albermarle; and it was held in the 20th year of king Edward III. in like manner, by another John de Benenden. In his descendants, who bore for their arms, Azure, a lobster, or, this manner continued, till by a female heir Joane de Benenden, it went in marriage to Sir William Brenchley, chief justice of the common pleas, who died possessed of it in 1446, as she did in 1453, s. p. and were both buried in the nave of Canterbury cathedral, in which she built and endowed a chantry; on which this manor came into the possession of Margaret, daughter and coheir of John Brenchley, esq. by Margaret his wife, daughter and heir of Richard Golding, who had been married anno 21 Henry VI. to William Moore, esq. of this parish, who, in his wife's right became entitled to it.

This family of More, or De la More, as they were antiently written, had been seated at More-court, in Ivychurch, as early as the reign of king Henry II. and had removed from thence hither in the reign of king Edward III. on the marriage of Thomas De la More with a daughter and heir likewise of Benenden; by

which alliance he became possessed of lands both in this and the adjoining parishes. After which one of his descendants, most probably William Moore before-mentioned, in the reign of king Henry VI. built for his future residence that seat here, since called Moore-court, which, with the manor, came at length into the possession of his descendant John Moore, esq. who married Margaret, daughter and heir of John Brent, relict of John Dering, esq. by whom he had several sons, from the second of whom Edward, the present Earl of Drogheda, is descended. They bore for their arms, Azure, in a chief indented or, three mullets, gules. He alienated this estate in the first year of queen Mary, to Mr. William Watts, who died possessed of it in the 15th year of queen Elizabeth, hold-

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ing it of the king, as of the honour of Hereford, and in his descendants it continued down till it was at length sold to Sir John Norris, of Hemsted. Since which this manor, with Moore-court, has passed in like manner with that seat, as will be further mentioned hereafter, to Thomas Hallet Hodges, esq. of Hemsted, present owner of it.

HEMSTED is a manor here, lying in Cranbrooke hundred, Hemsted bridge dividing the hundreds of Cranbrooke and Rolvenden, which about the 20th year of Henry III. as appears by the Testa de Nevil, kept in the Exchequer, belonged to Robert de Hemsted, who had assumed his surname from it; but his descendants did not continue long here; for in the 7th year of Edward III. James de Echyngham, of Echyngham, in Sussex, who bore for his arms, Azure, frettee, argent, was possessor of it, and that year brought his action of trespass against the prior of Christ-church, and others, for entering his close at Benenden, and cutting down his trees there. The latter pleaded, that the place where they grew was a drofden, at Knolle, in this parish, immediately holden of him; and that by the custom of gavelkind, the lord was entitled to the great oaks, ash, and beech; and the jury found accordingly. In the beginning of the next reign of king Richard II. Sir Robert Belknap, chief justice of the common pleas, was become possessed of it; but favouring too much the designs of that prince, in the extending of his prerogative, he was, in the 11th year of that reign, attainted, and this, among the rest of his estates, became forfeited to the crown, whence it was presently after granted to William de Guldeford, who kept his shrievalty at his seat here that year, and made great additions to this mansion. This family of Guldeford, or Guildford, as they were in after times frequently spelt, seem to have settled in this county very soon after the conquest, and were eminent for the considerable services they had performed for the public; the offices of

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trust and honor which they had conferred on them, and the noble alliances they made, by which through females descended, among others, the Darells, Gage's, Brownes, Walsinghams, Cromers, Isaacs, and Isleys. They bore for their arms, Or, a saltier, between four martlets, sable. William Guldeford, son of William

before-mentioned, by his marriage with Joane, daughter and heir of John de Halden, became possessed of the inheritance of that family, and of their seat called Lambin, alias Halden, in the adjoining parish of Rolvenden, where several of his descendants afterwards resided. Sir John Guldeford, his grandson, was a person of considerable note in king Edward the IVth.'s reign, being comptroller of his household. He afterwards espoused the cause of the earl of Richmond, for which he was, as well as his son Sir Richard, attainted in parliament anno 1 Richard III. which attainders were reversed anno 1 Henry VII. and Sir John was made of that prince's privy council. He died in the 8th year of that reign, and was buried in Canterbury cathedral. Sir Richard Guldeford, his son above-mentioned, having fled on his attainder, returned with the earl of Richmond, after whose accession to the crown he had continued favors, as well as posts of trust and honor conferred on him, being made of that prince's privy council, and master of the ordnance, and in the 8th year of that reign a knight banneret, and next year sheriff of this county, keeping his shrievalty at Halden, his father residing then at Hemsted, in which year he was made knight of the garter, as he was afterwards comptroller of the household. In the 11th year of it he procured his lands to be disgavelled, by a private act then passed specially for the purpose. He bore for his arms those of his ancestors as above-mentioned, quartered with those of Halden, with two supporters, between two stags, attired proper, or, which were afterwards continued to be so borne by his descendants.

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He died about the year 1500 at Jerusalem, where he had journeyed on a pilgrimage. He left by his first wife two sons, Edward, to whom he gave his seat of Halden, under which a further account of him and his posterity may be seen, and George Guldeford, esq. to whom he gave this seat of Hemsted, where he kept his shrievalty in the 16th year of Henry VIII./q His son Sir John Guldeford, of Hemsted, procured his lands to be disgavelled by the acts of the 31st of that reign, and the 2d and 3d of king Edward VI. in the 6th year of which latter reign he was sheriff. His eldest son Sir Thomas Guldeford, was of Hemsted, where he had the honor of entertaining queen Elizabeth in her progress through this county on the 20th of August, 1575. And in his descendants, residents at this seat, it continued down to Robert Guldeford, esq. of Hemsted, who, anno 1 James II. was created a baronet. He removed from hence to Camber farm, in Sussex, and having, anno 10 queen Anne, procured an act for the sale of this manor and his other lands in this county and Sussex, he in 1718 vested them in trustees, who soon afterwards conveyed this manor, with the mansion, and all his other lands in this county, to Sir John Norris, admiral of the British fleet, and vice-admiral of England, who had been in 1717 envoy extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Czar of Muscovy, bearing for his arms, Quarterly, argent, and gules, a fret, or. He died in 1749, after which this manor and seat descended at length down to his grandson John Norris, esq. who was of Hemsted, and in 1780 pro=

cured an act to vest this estate, among others, in trustees, who sold it for the purposes mentioned in it; afterwards to Thomas Hallet Hodges, esq. sheriff in 1786, who now resides at Hemsted, and is the present owner of it.

/q Anno 14 and 15 Henry VIII. an act passed for George Guldeford, esq. to turn a road through Hemsted manor.

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COMBDEN, now called Camden, is another manor in this parish, which was antiently possessed by Fulk, son of Ralph Bullard, who, as appears by Testa de Nevil, in the exchequer, paid aid for his land here at the marriage of Isabel, sister to king Henry III. in his 20th year. He resided here, as did his descendants for some time afterwards, but in king Richard II.'s reign it was come into the possession of the Whitfields, an antient family descended from Whitfield, in Cumberland, one of whom was Sir Ithan de Whitfield, who in behalf of the confederate barons defended Boroughbridge against king Edward II. and in this name it continued down to Sir Ralph Whitfield, who, at his decease in the reign of Charles I. bequeathed it by will to his daughter Dorothy, and she carried it, with another small manor here, called RIPTON, in marriage to John Footherby, esq. after which these manors passed into the family of Norris, and thence again in like manner as Hemsted above-described, to Thomas Hallet Hodges, esq. the present possessor of them.

CHARITIES.

EDMUND GYBBON, ESQ. of Hole, in Rolvenden, gave by will in 1677, fifty shillings per annum, to be paid out of Mr. John Elphee's estates in Rolvenden; which money is applied by the minister and churchwardens to the use of such poor as take no monthly relief.

MR. JOHN GINDER, in 1712, gave 50s. per annum to be paid out of Northlands, in Salehurst, in Sussex, now the estate of Mr. George Springet, of Hawkhurst, to be disposed of in such manner, and at such time as the before-mentioned bequests.

A SMALL HOUSE belongs to this parish, for poor people to dwell in; and also lands belonging to it, of the produce of 8l. 10s. per annum, now in the tenure of John Munn, brickmaker, called Feoffee lands, the profits to be disposed of by the minister, churchwardens, overseers, and feoffees, now vested in Thomas Hallet Hodges, esq.

TWO SMALL HOUSES on Iden-green, belong to it, for poor people to dwell in, and one field, called Parish lands, which single field is rented by Mrs. Munn, at 1l. per annum; and the money is distributed by the minister and churchwardens to such poor as take no monthly relief.

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EDMUND GYBBON, ESQ. of Benenden, was the principal benefactor of a free school, in this parish, and lands near the Beacon-hill, estimated at eighty acres, towards the maintenance of a master of it.

JOHN GYBBON, ESQ. of Hole, in 1707, gave by will an Exchequer annuity of 14l. per annum, out of the excise of beer, &c. which expired in 1791, for a further augmentation to the said master, provided he be neither vicar, curate, nor reader here; if he should be so, then to the use of poor girls.

EDMUND GYBBON, ESQ. of Hole, gave a house and lands in this parish, called Sarnden, estimated at 73 acres, for the maintenance of an usher to the school. The feoffees of which, by the sale of the timber off the lands, purchased a house and lands, estimated at 16 acres, near the Beacon-hill, for an additional maintenance for the usher.

There are now to the above-mentioned school a master and usher, and about thirty boys, who are taught to read and write.

THOMAS BUCKLAND, in 1786, gave by will for the educating of poor male children, in money, 200l. to be vested in the public funds, which has been since done in the names of the minister and parish officers.

THERE ARE four inferior schools in this parish, where the younger children are taught by women to read English.

The poor constantly relieved are about ninety-five; casually one hundred.

THIS PARISH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church, which is dedicated to St. George, consists of three isles and a chancel, having a tower steeple at the west end, with a beacon turret at the south-east corner of it.

This church was ruined by a storm of thunder and lightning, on Dec. 29, 1672. It was rebuilt and finished in 1673. The present steeple was built in 1715. It stood before apart on the north side of the church, at a small distance from it; being built with stone at the bottom, and the upper part with wood of curious workmanship, having a lofty spire on the top of it. In the high chancel, against the north wall, is a monument, with the bust in white marble, made by Sheemaker, of Sir John Norris. In the north isle a

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memorial for dame Mary, relict of Sir Edmund Fortescue, of Bragnam, obt. 1693, and for Edward Guldeford, esq. of Hemsted, obt. 1678, and Anne his wife, obt. 1710. In the south isle a memorial for Edmund Gibbon, esq. of this parish. Walter More, lord of the manor of Benenden, by will in 1504, ordered his body to be buried in our lady's chapel, in this church, and gave 3l. 6s. 8d. to buy a chalice of silver, and gilt, to be used at our lady's altar there, and that a yearly obit be kept in this church by him who should have the lordship of Benenden.

The church of Benenden was part of the possessions of the priory of Combe well, in the neighbouring parish of Goudhurst, to which it was appropriated before the reign of Richard II. In which state the appropriation, together with the advowson of the vicarage, continued till the suppression of it in the reign of Henry VIII. when they both passed into the hands of the crown, when they remained till the 34th year of that reign, when the king granted this rectory and advowson to Sir John Gage, to hold in capite by knight's service, who passed them away to Sir Thomas Guldeford, in whose descendants they continued, in like manner as Hemsted above-described, till they passed by sale with that manor to Thomas Hallet Hodges, esq. of Hemsted, the present proprietor of them.

The vicarage is a discharged living, of the clear

yearly certified value of forty pounds, in the king's books, the yearly tenths of which are 2l. 15s. 3d. In 1640 it was valued at ninety pounds, and there were then communicants here five hundred. The vicarage is now about fifty pounds per annum value.

There is a modus of two pence per acre upon land in this parish; the woodland in it is tithe-free.

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CHURCH OF BENENDEN.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

The Queen, by the minority of

Henry Guldeford, esq. Walter Jones, A. M. April 1586,
deprived 1608.

Sir Henry Guldeford. Vincent Huffam, A. M. June 22,
1608, resigned 1611.

Richard Austen, A. B. June 8,
1611, obt. 1643.

Sarah Sharp, of Benenden, widow,
hac vice. Nathaniel Wilmot, A. B. March
22, 1643.

Joseph Osborne, ejected 1662./r

Sir John Henden. Nicholas Monyman, A. M. Sept.
19, 1662, obt. 1700.

John Fetherstone, resig. 1732./s

Sir John Norris. Thomas Hudson, Aug. 11, 1732,
resigned 1739

John Prince, A. B. May 25,
1739, obt. Aug. 1741.

The Archbishop, by lapse. Benjamin Slocock, D. D. ind.
Oct. 1741, resig. 1744.

Sir John Norris. John Williams, April 26, 1744,
resigned 1761./t

Dame Elizabeth Norris. Joseph Dunne, A. B. Dec. 9,
1761, the present vicar.

/r He was ejected by the Bartholomew Act. See Calamy's Life of Baxter, p. 286.

/s See Leysdown, of which he was vicar, and resigned it on being presented to that of Bethersden.

/t Afterwards rector of Ripple.

- - -

ROLVENDEN

LIES the next parish eastward from Benenden. It is universally called, and in general spelt Rounden. The court of the bailiwick of the Seven Hundreds claims paramount over this parish.

THE PARISH of Rolvenden is pleasantly situated, most of it in a dry and healthy country, the soil of it being much the same as that of Benenden last described. It had formerly the mansions of many respectable families resident in it, interspersed in almost every part of

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it, but they are now several of them converted into farm-houses; the high turnpike road from thence towards Tenterden leading through it. There are about one hundred houses and five hundred inhabitants in it.

The village, with the church, stands on high ground, nearly in the centre of the parish, the above road passing along the northern part of it; it is watered by two or three streamlets, which crossing this parish at small distances from each other, run on eastward, and joining a stream from Tenterden, separate the two parishes, and form the eastern boundary of this of Rolvenden. There is but little wood in this parish, what there is, being near the southern boundaries of it.

About half a mile south-eastward from the church, on the opposite side of the road, is a seat called KINGSGATE-HOUSE, which has been for some generations in the possession of the family of Weller. Alexander Weller owned it in the reign of king Charles I. and his descendant John Weller, esq. rear-admiral of the navy, died here possessed of it in 1772, he gave it by will to his brother Nicholas, who died in the East-Indies, and his son Mr. Robert Weller, is the present possessor of it.

A branch of the family of Maplesden, clothiers, were settled here, at the manor of Maplesden in this parish, in the reign of Henry VIII. which now belongs to John Beardsworth, esq.

THE RIVER ROTHER, which divides the parishes of Sandhurst and Newenden from Sussex, and those of Rolvenden, Tenterden, and Apledore, from the Isle of Oxney, about the year 1736, was so swarved, that the proprietors of the adjoining marsh lands were obliged to purchase and cut a new channel through Wittresham level, from Maytham-ferry to Blackwall on the south side of the island, for the passage of the waters; whereupon the course of that river, for the space of five miles or more, became inverted, and instead of running from Maytham to Smalhyth and Reading, in Ebony parish,

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to the east, now runs from thence to Maytham westward, and thence goes into the new channel.

Many commissions were issued formerly, on the complaints of several of the owners of lands hereabouts, for the safety of the marshes in this and the adjoining parishes, and to oblige the other respective land owners to repair and keep the banks, &c. against the sea, from the reign of king Edward I. to that of king Henry VI. and among others, those especially near the sea coast, between Smalhede and Mayhamme; between the latter and Newenden, and Bodisham bridge, and between Maytham and a certain place called the Pendyng, in Rolvynden and Tenterden, all which may be seen at large in Dugdale's History of Imbanking, &c. p. 40, 42, 47, 83.

SUBORDINATE to the court of the Seven Hundreds is the MANOR OF LAMBIN, alias HALDEN, which is situated in the north-east part of this parish, and had the former of those names from the antient proprietor of it, Lambin de Langham, who held it by knight's service, as appears by the Testa de Nevil, in the 20th year of Henry III. His descendants continued in the possession of it till the beginning of king Edward III.'s reign, when it went by purchase into the family of Halden, who fixed their name on it, in addition to its former one of Lambin; and William, son of John de Halden, died possessed of it in the 50th year of that

reign, and lies buried in the nave of this church. His son John de Halden died in the reign of Henry IV. and was buried near his father, leaving an only daughter and heir Joane, who carried this manor in marriage to William Guldeford, esq. of Hemsted, whose descendants, though they continued possessed of their more antient seat of Hemsted, in the adjoining parish of Benenden, yet removed to this mansion of Halden, and made it their principal residence, and from time to time kept their shrievalties here. At length Sir Richard Guldeford, knight-banneret and of the garter,

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died possessed of it about the year 1500, leaving by his first wife, two sons, Edward, to whom he gave this manor of Halden; and George, to whom he gave that of Hemsted. Sir Edward Guldeford, the eldest son, was a man of much eminence and distinction, being marshal of Calais, lord warden and constable of Dovercastle. He had a son Richard, who died in Spain, s. p. and a daughter Jane, who became her brother's heir, and married Sir John Dudley, afterwards duke of Northumberland, who in her right became entitled to this manor; which he appears to have been possessed of in the 28th year of Henry VIII. Soon after which, either by purchase or exchange, it came into the hands of the crown, where it staid some time; the mansion and park continuing in the king's own occupation; and the demesne lands of it being demised for a term by the king to Sir John Baker, his attorney-general; to whom this manor of Halden itself, (the scite of the mansion, together with the demesne lands belonging to it being excepted) was granted some years afterwards in fee. The park was disparked by Sir John Baker soon after his grant of it. In the mean time king Edward VI. in his first year, had granted the manor of Halden, with its appurtenances, late parcel of the possessions of Sir Thomas Cromwell, earl of Essex, attainted, to John, earl of Warwick, which on his attainder in the 1st year of queen Mary, came again into the hands of the crown, and was then granted to Sir John Baker as above mentioned. Since which this manor continued in his descendants, in like manner as Sissinghurst, in Cranbrooke, till it was at length sold with it, not many years ago, to the trustees of Sir Horace Mann, bart. who is the present owner of it.

There are twelve dennes which hold of this manor of Lambyns-court, alias Halden; and on the court-day there are elected twelve officers, called beadles, to collect the rents of assise or quit-rents due from them to it. These dennes lie in Rolvenden, Benenden, Sand-

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hurst, High Halden, Woodchurch, Tenterden, Stone, and in Wittersham.

BUT THE SCITE OF THE MANSION OF HALDEN, alias LAMBYNS-COURT, together with the greatest part of the demesne lands of this manor, which had been demised for a term to Sir John Baker as above-mentioned, were afterwards granted in fee to Sir Henry Sidney, who had married Mary, eldest daughter of John, duke of Northumberland, and he died possessed of these lands in the 28th year of queen Elizabeth.

His son Sir Robert Sidney, created earl of Leicester, sold them, at the latter end of that reign, to Sir Thomas Smith, of London, second son of Customer Smith, of Westenhanger, whose grandson Robert Smith, esq. of Bidborough, in the reign of Charles II. alienated them to Robert Gybbon, esq. of Hole in this parish. Since which they have continued down with that seat, in a like succession of ownership, to John Beardsworth, esq. of London, who is the present proprietor of them.

Halden place is now only a large farm house, situated about a mile and a quarter north from the church. The arms of Guldeford still remain, carved in stone, on the stables belonging to it.

THE HOLE is a seat in this parish, about a mile north-west from the church, situated within the denne of that name. It had antiently owners of that surname, one of whom, Henry at Hole, in the year 1340, demised this place by deed to his two sisters Honor and Alice. How long it continued in their descendants, I have not found; but in the reign of Henry VIII. it was become the property of Mr. Rob. Gybbon, a wealthy clothier, who then exercised that trade here, as did his son John Gybbon, who died possessed of Hole in the 5th year of Edward VI. anno 1550, and there were some of this name, who held lands in this parish as early as the year 1340. A branch of this family was of Pump-house, in the adjoining parish of Benenden; another of it was of Frid, in Bethersden, and ended in

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two daughters and coheirs, married to Harlestone and Chowte, and from this branch issued those of Charlton, in Bishopsborne. In the descendants of John Gybbon above-mentioned, it continued down to colonel Robert Gybbon, who was possessed of it at the latter end of king Charles I.'s reign. His son Major John Gybbon died in 1707, and was succeeded in it by his brother Robert Gybbon, esq. who was of Hole, where he died in 1719, leaving by Elizabeth his wife, daughter and heir of John Phillips, gent. of Middlesex, one son Phillips, and a daughter Mary, married to James Monypenny, esq. of this parish. Phillips Gybbon, esq. succeeded his father in this seat, which he resided at, and died here in 1762, bearing for his arms, Azure, a lion rampant-guardant, between three escallops, argent; but in the windows of the hall at Hole, the arms of Gybbon are painted in antient glass, Or, a lion rampant, sable, charged on the shoulder with an escarbuncle, pomettee and florettee of the first; which glass was brought from the seat of Pumphouse, in Benenden, where it had been for a great length of time. Guillim. p. 359, says, Or, a lion rampant, sable, between three pellets, was borne by the name of Gybbon, and was confirmed to Edmund Gybbon, son and heir of Thomas Gybbon, gent. of Rolvenden, by Sir William Segar, in 1629, anno 5 Charles I. but when they altered their bearing to the present coat, I have not found. Phillips Gibbon left an only surviving daughter and heir, married to Philip Jodrel, esq. whom she survived, and dying possessed of this seat in 1775, s. p. she by will gave it, among her other estates in this county, in tail to Mrs. Jefferson, who since marrying with John Beardsworth, esq. of London, he is in her right, enti=

tled to the possession of it.

KEINSHAM, corruptly so called for Cassingham, its proper name, was once accounted a manor here, and was in very early times held by a family so called from their possessing this estate, as well as much other land in

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this parish, on the denne of Cassingham. William de Cassinghame held it in the reign of Henry III. in the 20th year of which he paid aid for it, together with Orlovingden, another inconsiderable manor here, as appears by the Testa de Nevil, at the marriage of Isabel the king's sister, as holding it by knight's service, notwithstanding which, part of it, containing one hundred and twenty acres of land, appears by other certain records to have been held at that time by the same William de Cassinghame, of Edmund, archbishop of Canterbury, in gavelkind; for that archbishop being empowered so to do by the charter granted by king John to archbishop Hubert, his predecessor, changed the tenure of these lands from gavelkind to knight's service, to hold to the said William and his heirs of the archbishop and his successors, by knight's service, and the rent of 10s. 2d. per annum, and the addition of the same liberties as other knights had of the see of Christchurch, Canterbury. He was succeeded in this estate by his son Ralph de Cassinghame, who left two daughters and coheirs, Petronelia, married to Nicholas Aucher; and Benet, to Bertram de Wylmyngton, against whom the archbishop brought a suit for cutting down his oak and beech in this and the adjoining dennes, to which they pleaded the above change of service, and that the owners had constantly felled them. But the jury found that the trees were the archbishop's, and that he and his predecessors had always felled them, without let of the owners, and had always taken amends for any trespass of this kind; and that they had in time before, and he did then, take a moiety of the pannage in the said woods.

There remains at this day no footsteps of this right, the reason of which is well accounted for by Mr. Somner as follows, in his Roman Ports, p. 112: – In the times of king Edward III. and Richard II the arch-

/u See Regist. Abb. de Begham, cart. 204, 374.

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bishops of Canterbury and prior and convent of Christchurch respectively, among other like lords and owners of the Wealdish dens, finding themselves aggrieved by their tenants there and others, in cutting down and wasting their woods, which on former grants they had expressly reserved from their tenants to themselves, (though it is more probable their title to them was from the above-mentioned custom) in order to free themselves from further care and trouble on this account, entered into a composition, and for a new annual rent of assise, over and above the former services, by indenture of feoffment, made the wood over to them in perpetuity, either to be cut down or left standing at the tenants choice. Since which the interest of the lord so compounding has been gone, as to the wood itself, and nothing left but this rent of assise, together

with the former services.

And a custom of a contrary nature is set up at present in most manors, if not throughout the whole Weald, under the name of landpeerage, i. e. landowner-ship; by which the owners of the lands on each side of the highway claim to exclude the lord from the property of the soil of the way, and of the trees growing on it.

Notwithstanding the account of the coheirs of Cassingham becoming entitled to this manor, yet the family of Cassingham was still remaining here a long time afterwards, as appears by the will of Peter Cassingham, of Rolvenden, proved anno 1 Edward IV. 1461, in which he mentions his principal messuage, in which he then dwelt, with his lands in this parish, upon the dennes of Casynghame and Hachysdene, and at Maythame.

Bertram de Wylmyngton above-mentioned, appears by the escheat-rolls to have died possessed of lands here anno 2 Henry IV. Soon after which the Mores, of Benenden, are mentioned in the court-rolls as being owners of it until the reign of Henry VIII.

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when it was alienated in that reign by John More, esq. to John Gybbon, of this parish, clothier, who by will in the 5th year of Edward VI. gave this manor, with its lands, rents, and services, to his son John; from whom, in the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign, as appears by the same court-rolls, it went into the possession of William de la Hay, who, in the records of that time, is said to have held one knight's fee of the archbishop in Cassingham, in right of his wife. From this name it went, in the reign of James I. into the name of Everden, or Everinden, a branch of the Everindens, of Everinden-house, in Biddenden, where they are recorded by the private deeds of it to have been resident many hundred years, until the 2d year of queen Mary, when they alienated it; and thence again, in the next reign, to Munn, from whom it passed, in 1685, to Attained Smith, who gave it by will to Attained and Richard Hoare, the latter of whom having come into the possession of the whole of it, by will in 1757 settled it on Mr. William Gibbs, the present possessor of it.

The manor house was formerly very large; but it has been most of it pulled down, so that now it makes but a mean appearance. THE LARGEST HOUSE at this time in this hamlet of Keinsham, is one which formerly belonged to John Kadwell, esq. of this parish, whose daughter and coheir Sarah carried it in marriage to the Rev. Thomas Chamberlaine, of Charlton, near Greenwich, who was succeeded in it by Mr. Thomas Chamberlain, his only son, the present possessor of it.

There has not been any court held for this manor for many years.

GREAT MAYTHAM is a manor in the southern part of this parish, which was antiently held by a family who took their name from it. Orable de Maytham, who with her sister Elwisa, held much land in these parts, appears to have been possessed of it in the reign of Edward I. Soon after which it was become the property of John de Malmains, who died possessed of

it anno 10 Edward II. In the 20th year of the next reign of Edward III. the heirs of Thomas Malmayns, of Hoo, held this manor by knight's service. Soon after which the Carews, of Beddington, in Surry, were come into the possession of it. Nicholas Carew, esq. of that place, owned it at the latter end of the reign of Richard II. and in this name it continued till the reign of Henry VIII. when by the attainder of Sir Nicholas Carew, by act of parliament in the 31st year of that reign, it came into the hands of the crown, whence it was granted, with other lands in this parish, immediately afterwards, to Thomas, lord Cromwell, earl of Essex, on whose attainder next year, anno 32 king Henry VIII. it came again to the crown, and was again granted, the year after, to Sir Thomas Wyatt, to hold in capite by knight's service, who that same year, with the king's licence, alienated it to Walter Hendley, esq. and his heirs. He was afterwards knighted, and made king's serjeant-at-law, and dying in the 6th year of king Edward VI. without male issue, his three daughters became his coheirs, and this manor, by the marriage of Helen, the second daughter, with Thomas Colepeper, esq. of Bedgebury, became his property, whose lands were disgavelled by the act of the 2d and 3d year of Edward VI. His grandson Sir Anthony Colepeper, of Bedgebury, included this manor in a settlement which he made of it in 1613; and it was sold, under the limitation of that settlement, by one of his descendants, in 1714, to James Monypenny, esq. descended from an antient family of this name at Pitmilly, in Scotland, who bore for their arms, Vert, a dolphin erect, or. He in 1721 began the foundation of a seat here, within this manor and within the borough of Maytham, though not on the demesne lands of it, which he named MAYTHAM-HALL, which his eldest son Robert Monypenny, esq. finished in 1760, and resided here till his death in 1772. He died unmarried, and was succeeded in both manor and seat by his only

surviving brother James Monypenny, esq. the present possessor of them, who now resides here. There is no house on this manor, nor any court held for it.

LOWDEN MANOR, formerly called also Little Maytham, as being situated within the borough of that name, was in the reign of Edward I. held by Elwisa de Maytham, as half a knight's fee. In the 20th year of Edward III. it was in the possession of the family of Aucher, for Henry Aucher then paid aid for it as holding it by knight's service, as did his grandson Henry Aucher, esq. of Losenham, in the 4th year of king Henry IV. at the marriage of Blanch, the king's sister, and his grandson, of the same name, leaving an only daughter and heir Anne, she, in the reign of king Henry VII. carried this manor in marriage to Walter Colepeper, esq. of Bedgebury, whose grandson John Colepeper, esq. of Salehurst, in Sussex, alienated it in 1565 to John Wildgose, gent. of that place, and his descendant Robert Wildigos, esq. sold it in 1637 to Mary Barker, widow, who gave it by will to Samuel Sandys, of Ombersley, in Worcestershire, and he in

1663 conveyed it to George Kadwell, esq. of Gatehouse, in Rolvenden, whose descendants Felix, John, and George Kadwell, the sons under age of Thomas Kadwell, esq. becoming possessed of this manor of Lowden, and other lands, of the nature of gavelkind, lying in Rolvenden, Benenden, and Sandhurst. They by their guardians prayed a writ of partition, which was executed by the sheriff, and this manor of Lowden, with its appurtenances, was allotted to the eldest of them./w Felix Kadwell, esq. of this parish, dying in 1748, without male issue, by will gave this manor, with the farm and lands called Lowden, in tail male, to his grandson Jeremiah Curteis, eldest son of Samuel Curteis, gent. by Mary his wife, his eldest daughter

/u Roll in the Exchequer, called the Roll of Blanch Lands.

/w Cl. 565. Trin. term 1 Jac. 2/di.

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and coheir, (who died in her father's life-time) leaving three sons, Jeremiah, before-mentioned; Samuel, and Felix Kadwell Curteis; and one daughter Sarah). % ")." Jeremiah Curteis before-mentioned, was of Rye, gent.

and died s. p. upon which it came to his next brother Mr. Samuel Curteis, gent. now of Tenterden, who is the present possessor of it.

There is no house now remaining on this manor; but the scite of the antient mansion, and the moat round it, are still visible. A court baron is held for it.

FRENSHAM, as it is now usually called, through its more proper name is Fresingham, or Fersingham, as it was sometimes written, was antiently accounted a manor, though it has long since lost all pretensions to one. It had been, in the 20th year of Henry III. as appears by the Testa de Nevil, in the possession of a family of the same name. John de Fresingham, or Fersingham, which name was afterwards contracted to that of Frencham, held it then, and paid aid for it, as holding it by knight's service, at the marriage of Isabel, that prince's sister; and in his descendants it continued till the latter end of the reign of Edward III. when it went by sale to Northwood, though there was a family of the name of Frencham remaining here so late as queen Elizabeth's reign, as appears by their wills in the Prerogative-office, Canterbury. In the name of Northwood it remained till that of king Edward IV. and then, as appeared by the old rolls of this manor, it was conveyed to Sir John Guldeford, of Halden, whose son Sir Richard Guldeford settled it on his second son Geo. Guldeford, esq. of Hemsted, whose son Sir John Guldeford alienated it to Mr. John Fowle, of Sandhurst, who gave it to his second son Alexander Fowle, and he sold it to Sir Edward Hales, knight and baronet, who died possessed of it in 1654, and was succeeded by his grandson Sir Edward Hales, bart./x from one of whose

/x Philipott, p. 296. See more of the Hales's under Tunstall.

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descendants it passed by sale to Mr. Gilbert, afterwards chief baron of the exchequer, who bequeathed it by will to Phillips Gybbon, esq. of Hole, since which it has passed, in like manner as that seat, to John Beardsworth, esq. the present possessor of it. This manor is

held of the manor of Swanscombe, by castle-guard rent to the castle of Rochester, and is called, in the rolls of that manor, Fraxingham.

FRENSHAM, alias THE GATEHOUSE, is a seat here, situated on Lain-green, which seems to have been once the antient mansion and scite of the above-mentioned manor, from which it has been alienated many years since. It was once the property of the family of Pointz. Sir John Pointz owned it in 1610. His son Sir Robert Pointz, of Iron Acton, in Gloucestershire, K. B. sold it in 1640 to George Kadwell, esq. who had resided here as tenant to it, as had his father Thomas Kadwell, who died in 1631. This family was originally spelt Caldwell, and afterwards Cadwell; one of them, John Caldwell, was of this parish in the reign of Henry VIII. and was a great occupier of lands in this parish and Benenden, as appears by the inrolments in the Augmentation-office; they bore for their arms, Azure, a cross formee, fitchee, between eight estoiles, or. George Kadwell, esq. before-mentioned, who purchased this seat, dying in 1660, left a son Thomas Kadwell, who succeeded him in it, and afterwards rebuilt the mansion of it, where he kept his shrievalty for this county in 1677. He died in 1880, leaving three sons, of whom Felix Kadwell, esq. the eldest, succeeded him here, and died in 1748, having had a numerous issue, of whom only two daughters survived, who became his coheirs; of whom Elizabeth, the eldest, married Josias Pattenson, gent. of Biddenden, and Mary married Samuel Curteis, gent. of Tenterden. Josias Pattenson left several children, of whom Kadwell Pattenson, esq. the eldest, succeeded to this seat on his grandfather's death, and died s. p. in 1750, leaving his widow surviving;

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since married to the Rev. Mr. Williams, but this seat, with several other estates in this parish, devolved to his brother Mr Josias Pattenson, of Brook-place, in Ashford, who is at present entitled to it.

Since the Kadwells resided here, more than a third part of the house has been pulled down, and yet there is a large house remaining.

FORSHAM, alias Nether Forsham, lies in the southern part of this parish, and was once accounted a manor. It had formerly owners of the same name; for Osbert de Forshamme possessed it in the 18th year of king Edward I. Sir John de Forsham held it, as appears by old dateless deeds, in very early times. His successor Stephen de Forsham, in the 11th year of king Edward III. found a man-at-arms for guard of the sea coast; the arms they bore, appears by a deed in the Surrenden library, the seal appendant to which has three crosses, fusilly, the legend, S. STEPHANI DE FORSHAM. After this name was extinct here, the Northwoods succeeded to it, and then the Guldefords, from one of whom, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, it was sold to Dyke, of Sussex; from whose descendants, by their trustees, it was alienated, at the latter end of king Charles I.'s reign, to Mr. Thomas Bromfield, merchant, of London; from which name it afterwards passed to the Moyses, in which it continued till Mary, only daughter and heir of William Moyse, gent. of Benenden, carried it in marriage to Moyle Breton, esq.

of Elmes, near Dover, who died possessed of it in 1735, and his grandson the Rev. Moyle Breton, of Kennington, alienated it a few years since to James Monypenny, esq. of Maytham hail, in this parish, who is the present possessor of it.

On this manor there were within memory, the ruins of an antient stone structure, supposed by some to have been the remains of a fort of some strength, and by others to have been only a chapel, for the use of the antient possessors of the mansion of it.

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CHARITIES.

JOHN GYBBON, ESQ. late of Charter-house yard, in Middlesex, by will in 1707, gave to the inhabitants of Rolvenden, three Exchequer annuities, amounting in all to 42l. per annum, in trust, for the churchwardens and overseers for the time being, to expend in the schooling and education of boys and girls of such of the poor inhabitants of this parish, as receive alms, or are excused from paying the parish rates, and to apply the remainder, if any, in apprenticing so many of the poor boys and girls as it would amount to. He further bequeathed two other Exchequer annuities, amounting together to 170l. per annum, to the said inhabitants in trust, for the churchwardens and overseers for the time being, to expend partly in the purchase of wool, flax, and hemp, for setting the poor to work on the linen or woollen manufacture, and paying them for the same; and partly for cloathing boys and girls of the said poor above the age of seven years, and poor men and women of the age of fifty years and upwards. These annuities, by a decree in chancery, in 1763, were converted by sale and transfer into three per cent. consolidated Bank Stock, viz. the former into 921l. 4s. and the latter into 3778l. 15s. now of the annual produce of 113l. 7s. 3d. and of 27l. 12s. 9d.

ALEXANDER WELLER, gent. in 1723, conveyed by deed of gift, a certain field called Well field, to the vicar and churchwardens of Rolvenden, and their successors for ever, in trust, that the rent of it should be applied in the first place to the cleansing, repairing, preserving, restoring, and upon occasion rebuilding the tombstones erected by him in the church yard here; and the remainder, if any, to be distributed yearly on Christmas-day, among the poor of this parish, not receiving alms.

EDMUND GYBBON, gent. in 1677, gave an annual rent-charge of 50s. per annum, issuing out of certain lands in Rolvynden, now in the possession of John Elphen, and payable yearly on the feast of St. Andrew, to be distributed by the minister and churchwardens amongst the poor of this parish, not receiving alms.

LAURENCE PETERS, in 1777, gave by will 100l. to this parish, the interest of it to be laid out, in the first place, to maintain the rails about his grave; and if no such repairs were necessary, then to be distributed one moiety at Christmas, and the other on Good Friday, in good bakers bread and good cheese, to the poor, vested in the vicar and churchwardens, and of the annual produce of 4l.

A PIECE OF LAND, called the Well-field, containing five acres, now of the annual produce of 5l. for the use and benefit of the poor, is vested in the minister and churchwardens.

The poor relieved annually are about fifty; casually twenty.

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ROLVENDEN is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURIS=

DICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is large and handsome, having three isles and three chancels, and a tower steeple with a beacon turret at the west end. In the east window there are remains of good painted glass. Kilburne, p. 131, says, that in the first of the five windows in the great chancel, was the effigies of Carew, esq. in the second, that of Sir John Guldeford; what was in the third was quite defaced; in the fourth was the effigies of Henry Aucher and Elizabeth his wife; and in the fifth that of More; all of them considerable owners of lands in this parish. The font is of an octagon form, on which are these coats of arms: first, a bordure; second, a bend engrailed; third, a saltier, between four martlets; the fourth is hidden by the pews. By a brass plate against the south wall of the south chapel of this church, it appears that it was founded by Edward Guldeford, esq. on the day of St. Tiburtius and Valerianus, martyrs, April 14, anno 1444. In this church lie buried several of the Gybbons's, of Hole, and the Monymenny's. Clement Frencham was buried, as appears by his will, anno 1533, in Skott's chancel. In the church-yard are several tombstones of the Kadwells, and one near them for Kadwell Pattenson, anno 1750.

The rectory of this church was antiently part of the possessions of the eminent family of Cobham, with which it remained till at length it was given, about the beginning of king Richard II.'s reign, being then valued at sixty marcs, by John, lord Cobham, as an addition to the revenues of the college, founded by him at Cobham; which gift was confirmed by pope Urban VI. in his 10th year; and he at the same time confirmed the appropriation of this church to the use of the college, on the death or the cession of the rector of it, reserving, nevertheless, out of the rents and profits

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of it, a competent portion for a perpetual vicar to serve in it, by which he might be fitly maintained, pay his episcopal rights, and support the other burthens incumbent on it. In which state this appropriation, with the patronage of the vicarage, remained till the reign of Henry VIII. when the master and brethren of the college of Cobham foreseeing their approaching dissolution, in the 30th year of it, with the king's consent, sold the scite with all the lands and possessions belonging to it, to George, lord Cobham, and they were, by an especial clause in the act, anno 31 Henry VIII. excepted out of it to the lord Cobham and his heirs. Notwithstanding which, it appears that this church, with the patronage of the vicarage, came into the king's hands, who by his dotation charter, in the 33d year of his reign, settled them both on his new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, where they continue at this time.

By the survey taken in 1649, after the dissolution of the dean and chapter, this parsonage appears to have consisted of a barn, house, &c. and sixty-eight acres and two roods of land, at the improved rent of 120l. per annum, let by the late dean and chapter, anno 14 Charles I. to Edmund Hamond, esq. for

twenty-one years, at 7l. 12s. The present tenants of the parsonage are Mr. Thomas and James Goble.

The vicarage is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly value of forty-four pounds, the yearly tenths of which are 1l. 11s. 4d. In 1578 here were communicants three hundred and sixty. In 1640 it was valued at sixty pounds. Communicants four hundred and thirty three.

There is an augmentation of ten pounds per annum paid to this vicarage by the dean and chapter of Rochester. There are about seven acres and an half of glebe land belonging to it.

/y In this charter they are said to have belonged to the late priory of Rochester.

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CHURCH OF ROLVENDEN.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Dean and Chapter of Rochester William Reede, A. B. June 9,
1591, obt. 1617.

Samuel Cooper, A. M. Oct. 9,
1617, resigned 1618.

Thomas Higginson, June 4, 1618.

Richard Gyles, ejected August,
1662./z

The King, by lapse. Thomas Fishenden, A. M. Feb.
16, 1687, obt. April 21,
1737./a

..... Davis, obt. August 1740.

Daniel Chadsley, obt. Sept. 22,
1768./b

Dean and Chapter of Rochester Thomas Morphett, A. M. 1769,
the present vicar./c

/z Calamy's Life of Baxter, p. 286.

/a He lies buried in the middle isle,
and was likewise rector of Newenden.

/b He lies buried in this church-
yard.

/c He had a second induction to this
vicarage, Jan. 1, 1773, on being pre=
sented to the rectory of Newenden,
which he holds with this vicarage and
the chapel of Smallhith.

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THE HUNDRED OF TENTERDEN.

THIS hundred contains within its bounds THE TOWN AND PARISH OF TENTERDEN, and part of the parish of EBENEY, containing the borough of Reading, the church of which is in another hundred.

This hundred was antiently accounted one of the Seven Hundreds, and was within the jurisdiction of the justices of the country, from which it was separated by Henry VI. who, on account of the impoverishment of the port and town of Rye, in Sussex, by his letters patent, in his 27th year, incorporated the town and hundred of Tenterden, by the name of the bailiff and commonaltie of the town and hundred of Tenterden, and granted that the same should be a member annexed

and united to that town and port, and separated from the county of Kent, and that the bailiff and commonalty of this town and hundred should have for ever, on their contributing to the burthens and exigencies of that port and town from time to time, /d many franchises, privileges, and freedoms, and all other liberties, freedoms, and free customs which the barons of the five ports had before that time enjoyed. In which state this town and hundred remained till the 42d year of queen Elizabeth's reign, when the name of their incorporation was changed to that of the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the town and hundred of Tenterden, by which it continues to be governed at this time.

THE CORPORATION consists of a mayor, twelve jurats, and as many common-councilmen, a chamberlain, and town clerk; the jurisdiction of it being exclusive from the justices of the county. The mayor is chosen yearly on August 29. The election used to be in the town-hall; but that being burnt down by some prisoners in the prison-room over it, it was afterwards made under one of the great old oaks, which are not far from the place, on the other side of the street, where it stood. A neat and elegant hall was finished in 1792, adjoining the Woolpack Inn, in which the mayor has been elected as heretofore, and it is occasionally used as an assembly room by the inhabitants. The mayor is coroner of both the town and hundred; there is no sheriff; the commoners must be resciant, and are chosen by the mayor and two of the jurats; the jurats are all justices of the peace. They hold sessions of oyer and terminer, but cannot try treason. At the sessions holden at Tenterden, August 10, 1785, two men were convicted of burglary, and executed near Gallows-green the 27th following. Both the charters of this corporation being destroyed by the fire of the court-hall in 1660, an exemplification of them was procured anno 12 George III.

/d Jeake's Charters of the Five Ports, p. 69, 97, 119, 126.

The liberty of the court of the bailiwick of the Seven Hundreds, claimed a paramount jurisdiction over this hundred, till the incorporation of the town of Tenterden, and the annexing this hundred to it in the reign of Henry VI. since which the mayor and jurats have been lords of the royalty of it, and continue so at this time.

The parish is divided into six boroughs, each having a borsholder chosen yearly, these are Town Borough, Castweasle, Boresile, Shrubcote, Dumborne, which includes all Smallhyth, and Reading, which is wholly in the parish of Ebene.

THE PARISH of Tenterden lies too near the marshes to be either healthy or pleasant, excepting that part where the town is situated near the northern boundaries of it, on what may be called for this country, high ground; it is about five miles across each way. The soil of it is various, the northern part being sand, towards the east it is a wet stiff clay, and towards the south and west towards the marshes a deep rich mould. The generality of the

lands in it are pasture, but there are about one hundred acres of hop-ground dispersed in different parts of it; there is very little wood, and that mostly between the town and Smallhyth, a hamlet formerly of much more consequence, as will be further mentioned hereafter, situated at the southern boundary of it, on the road into the Isle of Oxney, close to the river Rother, which separates that part of this parish from the island. About a mile and a half eastward is the hamlet of Reading-street, built adjoining the high road to Apledore, close to the marshes below it, on the passage over the Rother into Ebenev, and the Isle of Oxney.

On Saturday, Nov. 1, 1755, between ten and eleven o'clock in the forenoon (being at the same time that the great bason at Portsmouth was disturbed) several ponds in this parish and neighbourhood, without any sensible motion of the earth, were greatly agitated,

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the water of them being forced up the banks with great violence, fretting and foaming with a noise similar to the coming in of the tide, so as to terrify many who were near them; some of these waters flowed up three times in this manner, others circled round into eddies, absorbing leaves, sticks, &c. and it was observed that only those ponds were affected, that had springs to supply the waters of them.

THE TOWN OF TENTERDEN is situated nearly in the centre of the parish and hundred. It stands on high ground, neither unpleasant nor unhealthy; the greatest part of it is built on each side of the high road leading from the western parts of Kent and Cranbrooke through this parish south-east to Apledore. A small part of it is paved, where there is a small ancient market-place, built of timber; but the market, which is still held on a Friday, is but little frequented, only two millers, and seldom any butchers attending it. It is a well-built town, having many genteel houses, or rather seats, interspersed throughout it, among which are those of the Curteis's, a numerous and opulent family here, who bear for their arms, Argent, a chevron between three bulls heads, caboshed; the Haffendens, who have been long resident here, and in Smarden and Halden, in this neighbourhood. Bugglesden, in the north part of Boresile borough, in this parish, was very antiently, and till within these few years, their property and residence. Richard Haffenden now resides in a new house, built by his father, called Homewood, at the west end of this town, and in the south part of Boresile borough. They bear for their arms, Chequy, sable and argent, on a bend, sable, three mullets, or; the Staces, who have been resident here from the beginning of the last century, as appears by their wills in the Prerogative-office, Canterbury, in several of which they are stiled gentlemen;

/e See their descent in the Heraldic Visitation for Kent, anno 1619, and MSS. in the Heralds-office, C. 16. f. 79. b.

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the Blackmores, possessed of Westwell house, a handsome seat at the south east end of the town, built

by James Blackmore, esq. in 1711, one of whose descendants afterwards becoming possessed by gift of the seat of Briggins, in Hertfordshire, removed thither, where they have continued ever since, and this of Westwell-house is now occupied by Mr. James Blackmore, the uncle of Thomas Blackmore, esq. of Briggins, who died possessed of it in 1789, having been thrice married. He left by his two first wives three sons and two daughters; his third wife Anne, daughter of Mr. Tatnall, of Theobalds, now survives him. They bear for their arms, Argent, a fess between three blackmoors heads sideways, coupéd at the neck, sable; and several others, most of whose wealth, as well as that of the inhabitants of this town in general, has arisen from its near neighbourhood to Romney-marsh, where most of them have some occupation in the grazing business.

The church stands on the north side of the town, which, with the rest of the parish, consists of about three hundred houses, and two thousand inhabitants, of which about five hundred are dissenters, who have two meeting-houses here, one of Presbyterians, the other of Methodistical Baptists.

At the east end of the town is Craythorne-house, which formerly belonged to the Bargraves, and then to the Marshalls, who sold it to the late Mr. John Sawyer, who built a new house here, in which he afterwards resided, and his assigns now possess it. A branch of the family of Whitfield had once their residence in a large house at the east end likewise of this town. John Whitfield resided here, as did his son Herbert, who died in 1622; they were descended from an antient family in Northumberland, and bore for their arms, Argent, on a bend, plain, between two cotizes, ingrailed sable, a mullet, or. At length the heirs of Sir Herbert Whitfield, sold this seat to Wil-

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liam Austen, esq. of Hernden, in this parish. Sir Robert Austen, bart. the last of that name, resided in it, and it now belongs to his heirs, and is made use of as a boarding school for young ladies.

There is a large fair held in this town on the first Monday in May yearly, for cattle, wool, merchandise, and shop goods of all sorts, to which there is a great resort from all the neighbouring country. Most of the road, leading from the town to Smallhyth, particularly the upper part of it, known by the name of Broad Tenterden, is said to have been lined with buildings on each side, and to have been the most populous part of the parish.

THERE ARE several places in this parish worthy notice, the first of them is HALES-PLACE, at the north-west end of this town, which was for many generations the residence of a branch of the family of Hales, who removed hither from their original seat, of the same name, in the adjoining parish of Halden. Henry Hales, who lived in the reign of Henry VI. was born here, and married Juhan, daughter and heir of Richard Capel, of Tenterden, by which he greatly increased his estate in this parish. He had by her two sons, of whom John Hales, the eldest, was of the Dungeon, in Canterbury, esq. and was one of the

barons of the exchequer. He had four sons, Sir James Hales, one of the justices of the common pleas, who was of the Dungeon, where his descendants continued many generations afterwards; Thomas, who was seated at Thanington, whose descendant Robert was created a baronet in 1666, and was ancestor of the present Sir Philip Hales, bart. Edward, the third son, inherited this seat and his father's possessions in this parish; and William, the fourth son, was of Rectulver and Nackington, in this county. Edward Hales, esq. the third son, who inherited this seat and estate at Tenterden, resided at it, and left a son Sir Edward Hales, who was created a baronet on the

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29th of June, 1611. He removed his residence from hence to the neighbouring parish of Woodchurch, in which parish he possessed the antient seat of the Herlackendens, in right of his wife Deborah, only daughter and heir of Martin Herlackenden, esq. of that place. His son Sir John Hales, having married Christian, one of the daughters and coheirs of Sir James Cromer, of Tunstal, became possessed of the antient seat of the Cromers in that parish, where he resided, and died in his father's life-time, in 1639, whose son Edward Hales succeeded to the title of baronet on his grandfather's death, in 1654, whose heir he was, and resided at Tunstal. His son Sir Edward Hales, bart. having purchased the mansion of St. Stephen's, near Canterbury, resided there, as his descendants have ever since; and from him this seat and estate at Tenterden at length descended down to his great-grandson Sir Edward Hales, bart. now of St. Stephen's, who about forty-eight years ago pulled down the greatest part of this antient seat, and fitted up a smaller dwelling or farm-house on the scite of it, which, together with the antient offices or out-buildings of the mansion still remaining, continues part of his possessions.

HERNDEN, formerly spelt Heronden, was once an estate of considerable size in this parish, though it has been long since split into different parcels. The whole of it once belonged to a family of the name of Heronden, whose arms, as appears by the antient ordinances in the Heralds-office, were, Argent, a heron volant, azure. At length one part of this estate was alienated by one of this family to Sir John Baker, of Sissinghurst, whose descendant Sir John Baker, knight and baronet, died possessed of it in 1661; but the capital mansion and other principal parts of it remained some time longer in the name of Heronden, one of whom, in the reign of Charles I. alienated some part of it, now called Little Hernden, to Short, a family whose

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ancestors had resided at Tenterden for some time. In the Heraldic Visitation of this county, anno 1619, is a pedigree of this family, beginning with Peter Short, of Tenterden, who lived in the reign of Henry VIII. They bore for their arms, Azure, a griffin passant, between three estoiles, or. At length one of them sold this part of it to Curteis, whose grandson Mr. Samuel Curteis is now in the possession of it. But the remain-

der of Hernden, in which was included the principal mansion, situated about a quarter of a mile southward of the town, was at the same time conveyed by sale to Mr. John Austen, the second son of William Austen, esq. of this parish, and elder brother of Robert, created a baronet anno 1660. He afterwards resided here, and dying in 1655, s. p. gave it by will to his nephew Robert Austen, esq. the second son of Sir Robert above-mentioned, by his second wife. He afterwards resided here, and had two sons, Robert and Ralph; the eldest of whom, Robert Austen, esq. resided here, and left three sons, William, of whom hereafter, and Edward and Robert, both of whom afterwards succeeded to the title of baronet. William Austen, esq. the eldest son, inherited Hernden, and in 1729, suffered a recovery of this, as well as all other the Kentish estates comprised in his grandfather's settlement of them, to the use of him and his heirs. He died in 1742, and by will devised it to Mr. Richard Righton, who afterwards resided here, and died possessed of it in 1772, and was buried, as was his wife afterwards, under a tomb on the south side of the church-yard; upon which it came into the hands of his son Benjamin Righton, esq. of Knightsbridge, who in 1782 conveyed Hernden, a farm called Pixhill, and other lands in this parish and Rolvenden, to Mr. Jeremiah Curteis, gent. of Rye, in Sussex, who finding this antient mansion, which seems, by a date remaining on it, to have been built in the year 1585, being the 28th of queen Elizabeth's reign, in a ruinous

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condition, pulled it down; but the scite of it, together with the lands belonging to it, still remain in his possession.

PITLESDEN, or Pittelesden, as it was antiently spelt, is situated near the west end of this town. It was once a seat of some note, being the residence of a family of that name, who bore for their arms, Sable, a fess, between three pelicans, or, in whose possession it continued till Stephen Pitlesden, about the reign of Henry VI. leaving an only daughter and heir Julian, she carried it in marriage to Edward Guldeford, esq. of Halden, whose descendant Sir Edward Guldeford, warden of the five ports, leaving an only daughter and heir Jane, she entitled her husband Sir John Dudley, afterwards created Duke of Northumberland, to the possession of this manor, and they, in the 30th year of Henry VIII. joined in the conveyance of it to Sir Thomas Cromwell, lord Cromwell, afterwards created Earl of Essex, who passed it away by sale to that king, and it remained in the hands of the crown till king Edward VI. in his 7th year, granted it, with the pond of water, wear and fishery, with the dove-house belonging to it, and all its appurtenances, to Sir John Baker, one of the privy council, to hold in capite by knight's service, in whose family it continued till Sir John Baker, bart. of Sissinghurst, in the reign of king Charles I. conveyed it by sale to Mr. Jasper Clayton, mercer, of London. At length, after some intermediate owners, it came into the possession of Mr. William Blackmore, gent. of this place, who at his death devised it to his daughter Sarah, who entitled her hus-

band Mr. John Crumpe, of Frittenden, to the possession of it for her life, but the remainder, on her death, is vested in her brother Mr. Thomas Blackmore, gent. now of Tenterden.

/f Philipott, p. 337. See Coll. Peer. vol. ii. p. 302.

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LIGHTS, formerly called Lights Notinden, is a small manor here, which together with another called East Asherinden, the name of which is now almost forgotten, though there was a family of this name of Asherinden, or Ashenden, as it was afterwards spelt, who were resident in this parish, and were, as appears by their wills, possessed of lands here called Ashenden, so late as the year 1595. These manors belonged partly to a chantry founded in this parish, and partly to the manor of Brooke, near Wye, which was part of the possessions of the priory of Christ-church, in Canterbury; in which state they continued till the reign of Henry VIII. when, on the suppression both of that priory and of the chantry likewise, they were granted by that king to Sir John Baker, his attorney-general, whose descendant Sir John Baker, of Sissinghurst, knight and baronet, died possessed of them in 1661. How long they continued in his descendants, I do not find; but the former is now become the property of Mr. William Mantell, and the latter belongs to Mr. William Children, who has lately built a house on it, in which he resides.

FINCHDEN is a seat here, situated on the denne of Leigh, at Leigh-green, which was formerly in the possession of a family, who were ancestors of the Finch's, whose posterity still continued till very lately in the possession of it. They were antiently called Finchden, from their seat here; one of them, William de Fyncheden, was chief justice of the king's bench in the 45th year of the reign of Edward III. though his name in some old law books, which appear to be of that time, is written contractedly Finch, which probably was the original name, though I do not find any connection between this family and the descendants of Vincent Herbert, alias Finch, seated at Eastwell and elsewhere in this county; excepting

/g Dugd. orig. chron. series, p. 50.

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that they bear the same coat of arms. In later times I find William Finch, gent. of this place, died possessed of it in 1637, and in his direct descendants this seat continued down to Mr. William Finch, gent. who resided in it, and died possessed of it in 1794, s. p. leaving his brother Mr. Richard Finch, of Tenterden, his next heir.

ELARDINDEN is an estate, which was formerly of some account here, and is parcel of the manor of Frid, or Frith, in Bethersden. It was antiently part of the possessions of the noble family of Mayney. Sir John de Mayney, of Biddenden, died possessed of it in the 50th year of Edward III. and in his descendants it continued till the reign of Henry VI. when it was alienated by one of them to William Darell, esq. whose descendant George Darell, esq. conveyed it by

sale in the 17th year of king Henry VIII. to Sir John Hales, of the Dungeon, in Canterbury, one of the barons of the exchequer, who gave it to his third son Edward Hales, esq. of Tenterden, in whose descen= dants it has continued down to Sir Edward Hales of St. Stephens, near Canterbury, the present possessor of it.

THE MANORS OF GODDEN AND MORGIEU are situated in the south-west part of this parish. The former of them was once in the possession of a family of that name, one of whom, Roger de Godden, paid aid for it in the 20th year of king Edward III. as one knight's fee, which he held here of Stephen de la Hey. Soon after which it seems to have passed into the pos= session of the family of Aucher. How long it conti= nued in this name I have not seen; but in the 36th year of Henry VI. the executors of Walter Shiryng= ton, clerk, chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, hav= ing founded a chantry in the chapel near the north door of St. Paul's cathedral, London, which, from the founder, bore the name of Shiryngton's chantry, they purchased both these manors towards the endow=

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ment of it./h These manors remained part of this foun= dation till the suppression of it, in the 1st year of Ed= ward VI. when coming into the hands of the crown, they were granted by the king, the year afterwards, to Sir Miles Partridge, to hold in capite by knight's service, and he sold them, in the 6th year of that reign, to Thomas Argal; and from his descendant they passed into the possession of Sir John Colepeper, afterwards created lord Colepeper, who died possessed of them in 1660; upon which they came to his se= cond son John, who on his elder brother's death without male issue, succeeded to the title of Lord Colepeper, and dying in 1719 without issue, be= queathed these manors to his wife Frances, daughter of Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Hollingborne, who by will devised them to her nephew John Spencer Cole= peper, esq. of the Charter-house, being the last of the vast possessions of the different branches of this fa= mily dispersed over this whole county. He, in 1781, alienated them to Mr. Richard Curteis, of Tenterden, the present possessor of them.

KENCHILL is a seat in this parish, which was for= merly the property of the family of Guldeford, one of whom, Sir Richard Guldeford, knight-banneret, and of the garter, possessed it in the reign of Henry VIII. His son Sir Edward Guldeford, warden of the five ports, leaving an only daughter Jane, she carried it in marriage to Sir John Dudley, afterwards duke of Nor= thumberland, and he, about the 30th year of king Henry VIII.'s reign, conveyed it to that king, who, in his 36th year, granted it to Thomas Argal, to hold in capite by knight's service, on whole decease his son Thomas Argal had possession granted of it, in the 6th year of queen Elizabeth. At length, after some in= termediate owners, it came into the possession of Ro= bert Clarkson, esq. of London, who sold it in 1687 to

/h See Dugd. Hist. St. Paul's, p. 132.

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Mr. John Mantell, grazier, of Tenterden, who was one of the instances of the quick accumulation of riches from Romney-marsh; for in fourteen years he had acquired sufficient to become the purchaser of this and other estates, which rented at 800*l.* per annum. He devised Kenchill by will, together with the manor of East Asherinden, already mentioned before, Dumborne, and other lands in this parish, to his son Reginald, who died possessed of them in 1743, and lies buried in this church-yard. They bear for their arms, Argent, a cross between four martlets, sable, as borne by the family of Horton Monks, excepting, that the latter bore the cross engrailed; and leaving no issue, he gave them to his nephew Mr. Edward Mantell, of Mersham, who left several sons and daughters, who afterwards joined in the sale of their respective interests in them to Mr. William Mantell, the then elder brother; by which means he became entitled to the entire fee of Kenchill, with the manor of East Asherinden, and resided at the former of them. He married Anne Marshall, of Mersham, and died in 1789, leaving issue several children. The Rev. Mr. Thomas Mantell, the younger brother, re-purchased Dumborne, of which he is now possessed, having married in 1788 Miss S. Horne, by whom he has one daughter.

THE HAMLET OF SMALLHYTH, commonly called Smallit, is situated somewhat more than three miles from the town of Tenterden, at the southern boundary of this parish, close to the old channel of the river Rother, over which there is a passage from it into the Isle of Oxney. The inhabitants were formerly, by report, very numerous, and this place of much more consequence than at present, from the expressions frequently made use of in old writings of those *infra oppidum* and *intra oppidum de Smallhyth*; the prevalent opinion being, that the buildings once extended towards Bullen westward; no proof of which, however,

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can be brought from the present state of it, as there remain only three or four straggling farm-houses on either side, and a few cottages in the street near the chapel. The sea came up to this place so lately as the year 1509, as is evident by the power then given of burying in this chapel-yard the bodies of those who were cast by shipwreck on the shore of the sea *infra predictum oppidum de Smalhyth*; which are the very words of the faculty granted for that purpose.

At this place A CHAPEL was built, and was soon afterwards licensed by faculty from archbishop Warham, anno 1509, on the petition of the inhabitants, on account of the distance from their parish church of Tenterden, the badness of the roads, and the dangers they underwent from the waters being out in their way thither; and was dedicated to St. John Baptist. The words of it are very remarkable: And we William, archbishop aforesaid, of the infinite mercy of Almighty God, and by the authority of St. Peter and St. Paul the apostles, and also of our patrons St. Alphege and St. Thomas, remit, &c.

Divine service still continues to be performed in this chapel, which is repaired and maintained, and the sa=

lary of the chaplain paid out of the rents of lands in this parish and Wittersham, which are vested in trustees; who pay him the annual produce of them, the rents of them being at this time 52l. 10s. per annum, though it is set down in Bacon's Liber Regis, as only of the clear yearly certified value of forty five pounds. The present curate is Thomas Morphett, appointed in 1773.

CHARITIES.

JOHN WOOD, by will in 1560, gave an annuity of 40s. per annum, out of certain lands in Tenterden, now belonging to Sir Edward Hales, bart. payable to the churchwardens, towards the repair of the church; which gift is confirmed by a decree of the court of chancery; the lands being in the occupation of Richard Farby.

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LADY JANE MAYNARD GAVE by will in 1660, thirty acres of land in Snave and Rucking, let at 24l. per annum, for putting out poor children apprentices, whose fathers are dead or otherwise disabled by sickness; the overplus to be given to poor, honest and aged widows of this parish, that have not been nor are likely to become chargeable to it.

MRS. ANNE SHELTON, widow, by will in 1674, gave nine acres of land in Brookland and Brenset, now let at twelve guineas per annum, to the vicar and churchwardens to put out one or more children, born in Tenterden, apprentices to some honest handicraft trade.

DAME FRANCES NORTON, widow, sister of Judith, wife of Robert Austen the elder, of Heronden, esq. gave by deed in 1719, an estate, of 35l. per annum, in Hollingborne, for the joint benefit in equal moieties of this parish and Hollingborne. Since which, by a commission of charitable uses, in 1748 a farm of 15l. per annum, in Hucking, has been purchased and added to it; the division of the profits of which between them, and the application of them, has been already fully related under the description of the parish of Hollingborne, in the fifth volume of this history, p. 473.

AN ANCESTOR of the family of Heyman, of Somerfield, many years since founded the free school in this town, for teaching the Latin tongue gratis, to so many poor children of this parish as the mayor and jurats should think proper, who are trustees of it, and appoint the master; but at present there are no children on this foundation.

WILLIAM MARSHALL, clerk, about the year 1521, gave 10l. per ann. to be paid the master of this school, out of a messuage and twelve acres of land, in this parish, now belonging to Sir Edward Hales, bart. which was confirmed by a decree in the Exchequer, anno 4 queen Anne, and then in the occupation of Thomas Scoone.

JOHN MANTELL, gent. in 1702, gave 200l. which was laid out in the purchasing of a piece of fresh marsh land, containing ten acres, in St. Maries, let at 10l. per annum, to be paid to the master of this school.

The south chancel of the church is appropriated to the use of this school.

TENTERDEN is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mildred, is a large handsome building, consisting of two isles and

three chancels, having a lofty well-built tower at the

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west end, which standing on high ground is seen from the country for many miles around it. There are eight bells in it, and a set of musical chimes. The two isles and chancels are all ceiled; the north isle is curiously ceiled with oak and ornamented. There are three galleries in the church. On the front of the steeple are the arms of St. Augustine's monastery, and likewise on a beam over the altar. In the north window a coat, Two chevrons, gules, on a canton, gules, a lion passant, or. In the south window, at the bottom, Or, a saltier, between four mullets, sable; and another, Gules, a bend sinister azure, fretted argent. The monuments and gravestones in this church, as well as the tomb-stones in the church-yard, are so numerous as to be far beyond the limits of this volume. Among them are those belonging to the families of the Austens, Curteis's, Blackmores, Haffendens, and other families mentioned before, as the modern possessors of estates and manors in this parish.

Thomas Petlesden, esq. by will in 1462, appears to have been buried in the chancel of St. Catherine, and gave one hundred marcs to the steeple here, to be paid out of his land, &c. as long as it was a werking./i

Till within these few years there hung a beacon, (a very singular instance remaining of one) over on the top of this steeple. It was a sort of iron kettle, holding about a gallon, with a ring or hoop of the same metal round the upper part of it, to hold still more coals, rosin, &c. It was hung at the end of a piece of timber, about eight feet long. The vanes on the four pinnacles were placed there in 1682. There was formerly a noted dropping stone, in the arch of the door-way going into the bell-loft, which has ceased to drop for many years. By the dropping of it, part of a stone, or two stones rather, were carried

/i Wills in the Prerogative-office, Canterbury.

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off, leaving a considerable rift or hollow where the stones were joined. Upon the water drying in 1720, where it fell underneath, the stone hardened and grew slippery, being probably of the nature of the stelastic water in the Peak of Derbyshire, at Poolshole.

There is a noted saying, that Tenterden steeple was the cause of the Goodwin Sands – which is thus accounted for: Goodwin, earl of Kent, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, was owner of much flat land in the eastern part of it, near the isle of Thanet, which was defended from the sea by a great wall, which lands afterwards became part of the possessions of the abbot of St. Augustine's, near Canterbury, still retaining the name of Goodwin, their former owner; and the abbot being at the same time owner of the rectory of Tenterden, the steeple of which church he had then began building, had employed during the course of it so much of his care and attention to the finishing of that work, that he neglected the care and preservation of that wall, insomuch, that on Nov. 3,

1099, the sea broke over and ruined it, drowning the lands within it, and overwhelming it with a light sand, still remaining on them, the place retaining to this time the name of the Goodwin Sands, and becoming dreadful and dangerous to navigators. Thus this steeple is said to be the cause of the Goodwin Sands. This is the common tradition; how far consistent with truth, so far as relates to these sands, will be taken notice of in its proper place./k

THE CHURCH of Tenterden was part of the ancient possessions of the monastery of St. Augustine, to which it was appropriated in 1259, on condition of a proper portion being assigned for the maintenance of a perpetual vicar of it; and the official of the archbishop, on an inquisition concerning this vicarage, made

/k See Kilb. Surv. p. 263, and another story of it in Fuller's Worthys, Kent, p. 65.

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his return that it then consisted in all tithes, obventions, and oblations belonging to the church; except the tithes of sheaves, corn, and hay, of which latter the vicar should receive yearly four loads from the abbot and convent, and that it was then valued at eighteen marcs and more per annum.

The abbot of St. Augustine took upon himself, about the year 1295, to constitute several new deaneries, and apportioned the several churches belonging to his monastery to each of them, according to their vicinity; one of these was the deanry of Lenham, in which this church of Tenterden was included, but this raising great contests between the archbishops and them, it ended in stripping the abbot of these exemptions, and he was by the pope declared to be subject to the archbishop's jurisdiction in all matters whatsoever, which entirely dissolved these new deaneries./l

This church had a manor antiently appendant to it, and on a quo warranto in the iter of H. de Stanton, and his sociates, justices itinerant, anno 7 Edward II. the abbot was allowed year and waste, and cattle called weif, in his manor of Tentwardenne among others; and those liberties, with all others belonging to the abbot and convent, were confirmed by letters of inspeximus by Edward III. in his 36th year, and likewise the additional privilege of the chattels of their own tenants condemned and fugitive, within their manor here.

In which state this church continued till the general suppression of religious houses, when it came with the rest of the possessions of the abbey of St. Augustine, anno 30 Henry VIII. into the hands of the crown, after which the king, by his dotation charter in his 33d year, settled both the church appropriate of Tenterden, with the manor appendant and all its rights

/l Dec. Script. col. 1697 et seq. See Lenham, vol. v. p. 442.

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and appurtenances, and the advowson of the vicarage, among other premises, on his new-founded dean and chapter of Canterbury, with whom the inheritance of the parsonage remains. After the death of Charles I.

on the dissolution of deans and chapters, this parsonage was surveyed in order for sale; when it appears to have consisted of one great barn, newly erected, on a close of pasture of five acres; together with all the tithes of corn within the parish; and several rents, out of lands and tenements in Tenterden, amounting to 26s. 8d. taken in right of the parsonage, which had been let in 1640 to Sir Edward Hales, at the yearly rent of 20l. 6s. 8d. but that they were worth over and above that rent seventy-eight pounds. That the lessee was bound to repair the premises, and the chancel of the church, and provide for the dean and officers, or pay the sum of 33s. 4d. The present lessee of it is Sir Edward Hales, bart. of St. Stephens, but the advowson of the vicarage the dean and chapter retain in their own hands.

In 1259 this vicarage was valued at thirty marcs, and in 1342 at forty-five marcs. It is valued in the king's books at 33l. 12s. 11d. and the yearly tenths at 3l. 7s. 3½d. In 1588 there were communicants five hundred and eighty-six. In 1640 it was valued at 120l. per annum. Communicants six hundred. It is now double that value.

There is a modus claimed throughout the parish, in the room of small tithes.

CHURCH OF TENTERDEN.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Dean and Chapter of Canterbury. George Elye, alias Heely, April
26, 1571, obt. 1615.

John Sympson, S. T. P. Jan. 16,
1615, resigned 1619.

Walter Pargiter, A. M. July 5,
1619, obt. 1626.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Dean and Chapter of Canterbury. Isaac Bargrave, S. T. P. Jan.
30, 1626, resigned 1727./m

Richard Seliard, A. M. April
16, 1627.

John Gee, obt. 1639./n

Humphry Peake, S. T. P. Oct.
18, 1639./o

..... Barnes, in 1649./p

George Haws, ejected in 1662./q

Nathaniel Collington, A. M. Nov.
7, 1662, obt. 1682.

Jonathan Maud, A. M. Feb. 27,
1682, obt. 1709.

Robert Turner, A. M. Dec. 6,
1709, obt. 1723.

Theophilus Delangle, July 31,
1723, obt. June 29, 1763./r

Mathew Wallis, A. M. Dec.
1763, obt. Nov. 1771.

William Taswell, A.M. Nov.

1771, vacated the same year./s

Joseph Mathew, July 10, 1772,
obt. 1796.

John Luxmore, D. D. April 28,

1796, the present vicar./t

/m In 1626 he had a dispensation to hold with it the vicarage of Eythorne. He died in 1642, dean of Canterbury, in which cathedral he lies buried.

/n He was probably the son of John Gee, minister of Dunsford, in Devonshire, and was first beneficed at Newton, near Winwick, in Lancashire, whence going to London he became a professed Roman Catholic; but at length being moved by his father's and archbishop Abbot's letters, he was reunited to the church of England, and lies buried in this church. He wrote several tracts. See Wood's Ath. Ox. vol. i. p. 501.

/o He had been rector of Acryse, and was afterwards preb. of Canterbury.

/p Parl. Surveys, Augtn. off.

/q Calamy's Life of Baxter, p. 286.

/r In 1756 a dispensation passed for his holding this vicarage with the rectory of Snargate.

/s Minor canon of Canterbury. He was never instituted, the dean and chapter consenting that he should exchange it with the archbishop, for the vicarage of Rainham.

/t Prebendary of Canterbury, and rector of St. George the Martyr, Queen's-square, London

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THE HUNDRED OF BLACKBORNE

IS the last of the Seven Hundreds left undescribed, as well as the last in the Lath of Scray, lying the next north-eastward from that of Tenterden. It was anciently called likewise Blacetune.

THIS HUNDRED CONTAINS WITHIN ITS BOUNDS THE GREATEST PART OF THE PARISHES OF

1. HALDEN.
2. SHADOXHURST.
3. KENARDINGTON.
4. APLEDORE; and the whole of the parish of
5. WOODCHURCH.

And the churches of those parishes, and likewise a part of the parishes of BETHERSDEN, SMARDEN, and WAREHORNE, the churches of which are in other hundreds. One constable has jurisdiction of it.

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HALDEN,

USUALLY called High Halden, to distinguish it from the manor of Halden, in Rolvenden, of eminent account, and in ancient records written Hathewolden, lies the next parish north-eastward from Tenterden. So much of it as is in the borough of Omenden, is in

the hundred of Barkley, and the residue in this hundred of Blackborne. The court of the bailiwick of the Seven Hundreds claims over part of this parish, and the manor of Lambyn, alias Halden, over other parts of it.

THE PARISH of Halden is situated very obscurely, in as unpleasant a part as any within this county; it is about three miles long and two broad, and has about one hundred houses in it. It is so little frequented as hardly to be known beyond its own neighbourhood. The village is nearly in the centre of the

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parish, with the church and parsonage close to it on the east side. The soil is a deep stiff clay. The turnpike road from Tenterden to Bethersden and Ashford, leads through it, which, as well as the rest of the roads throughout it, are hardly passable after any rain, being so miry, that the traveller's horse frequently plunges through them up to the girths of the saddle; and the waggons sinking so deep in the ruts, as to slide along on the nave of the wheels and axle of them. The roads are all of great breadth, from fifty to sixty feet and more, with a breadth of green sward on each side; the hedges being filled with oak trees, whose branches hang over to a considerable extent, and render the surface near them damp, and the prospect always gloomy. In some few of the principal roads, as from Tenterden hither, there is a stone causeway about three feet wide, for the accommodation of horse and foot passengers; but there is none further on till near Betheriden, to the great distress of travellers. When these roads become tolerably dry in summer, they are ploughed up and laid in a half circle to dry, the only amendment they ever have. In extreme dry weather in summer, they become exceedingly hard, and by traffic so smooth as to seem glazed, like a potter's vessel, though a single hour's rain renders them so slippery, as to be very dangerous to travellers. The country here is low, flat and dreary, and very wet and miry, as is this whole hundred and the country northward of it, as far as the quarry hills; the farm-houses and cottages are thinly scattered about, and meanly built of timber and plaister. There is a great deal of oak coppice wood interspersed throughout the parish, having many fine large trees of the same kind in them.

At the west end of the village is a house, called Halden-place, now belonging to Mr. James Blackmore, of Tenterden. Brickhill-house, in this parish, was for many years the seat of the Pauls, who bore

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for their arms, Argent, two bars, azure, a canton, sable, several of whom lie buried in this church-yard; the last of them, Mr. Anthony Paul, died in 1758, without male issue, and his eldest daughter and coheir Judith carried it in marriage to Mr. Henry Bagnall, rector of Frittenden, on whose death in 1761, it became vested in his two daughters and coheirs; one of them married Mr. H. Friend, rector of Frittenden, and the other Mr. Bowles, of Linton, and they are now entitled to it. Cranton-house, in the north west

part of it, now belongs to Mr. James Haffenden, gent. of Tenterden, and there were formerly more gentlemen's seats in this parish, all which are fallen to decay, and there is not one now residing in it.

There is a large moat north-westward from the church, which seems very antient; but there has never been any bricks, or any other marks of a building having been here. The land of it was purchased of the late Mr. James Haffenden, by the Rev. Mr. Hodson, of Sandhurst.

Edward Jordan, a learned physician, was born here, and died in 1632./a

THERE ARE several subordinate MANORS within this parish, but there are no courts held for any of them. One of them is TIFFENDEN, formerly written Tepindene, situated in the southern part of this parish, and was antiently of such note as to be recorded in Domesday, which very few estates in these parts of the Weald were. It was then part of the possessions of Hugo de Montfort, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in it:

In Blacheburne hundred, Hugo de Montfort himself holds half a yoke in Tepindene, which Norman held of king Edward, and it was taxed at half a yoke. There are two villeins, with half a carucate. It was always worth, and is worth one hundred pence.

/a See Wood's Ath. vol. 1, col. 578.

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Hugo de Montford, before-mentioned, was the son of Thurstan de Bastenberg, a Norman, who accompanying the Conqueror, was with him at the fatal battle of Hastings, and for his services was rewarded with many lordships in different counties, and among them with this of Tepindene. Robert his grandson, in the 12th year of the reign of William Rufus, favouring the title of Robert Curthose, in opposition to king Henry I. to avoid being called in question, he obtained leave to go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, leaving his possessions to the king; by which means this manor came into the hands of the crown. How it passed from thence afterwards, I cannot find; but in much later times it came into the possession of the family of Austen, of Tenterden, in which it remained till Sir Sheffield Austen, bart. about forty years ago, alienated it, together with a farm in Woodchurch, and a considerable quantity of woodland, to Sir Windham Knatchbull, bart. of Mersham, whose uncle and heir Sir Edward Knatchbull, bart. of that place, afterwards, as such, became possessed of it, and his son of the same name is the present owner of it.

The scite where the antient mansion stood, is still visible, with a large moat round it, but there has been no house on it for a great length of time.

THE OLD HOUSE, formerly called HALDEN-HOUSE, is situated at a small distance northward from the church, which, though it was the habitation of the Scots, of Halden, yet seems to have been the property of the Maneys, one of whom, Sir Anthony Maney, of Linton, appears to have demised to John Scot, of this place, his capital house, with the park

and lands belonging to it, in this parish and Bethersden, for a term of years, with a covenant of renewal for a further length of time, at forty marcs per ann. John Scot before-mentioned, died possessed of this seat in the 21st year of king Henry VI. His grand=

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son Henry Scot, of Halden, died here in 1512, and was buried in the church porch, bearing for his arms, Argent, a cross-plate, fitchee, sable. He left two sons, of whom Henry, the eldest, succeeded him at Halden; and Thomas, the second son, marrying the daughter and heir of Conghurst, of Hawkhurst, inherited that seat, where his posterity remained many years. Henry Scot, the eldest son, from whom descended those of Hayes and Beckenham, resided here in the reign of king James I. and in his descendants it continued till Raynold Scot sold this seat, soon after the death of king Charles I. to Sir Edward Hales, knight and bart. whose descendant Sir Edward Hales, bart. sold it to John Jorden, and he alienated it in 1673, to Mr. Thomas Marshall; several of which name lie buried in this church. At length Mr. John Marshall, gent. of Tenterden, having mortgaged it to the Rev. Ralph Drake Brockman, he took possession of it. They died in 1781, within a few days of each other; but letters having passed between them, which were considered in law, as binding upon the heirs of the former and the executors of the latter; the equity of redemption and fee of this estate was conveyed, in 1782, by Thomas and William, the sons and coheirs of John Marshall, before-mentioned, to Mr. Brockman's executors, and his son, James Drake Brockman, esq. of Beechborough, is the present owner of it.

HALES-PLACE is an antient well-timbered mansion, situated about a mile eastward from the church, and is eminent for having been the original seat of the family of Hales, in this county. Nicholas Hales was resident here in the reign of Edward III. as were his descendants till about the reign of Henry VI. when they removed to the adjoining parish of Tenterden. After which it seems to have continued in this family till it was at length sold to Waterman, in whose de=

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scendants it remained down to Mr. Richard Waterman, who lately resided in it.

CHARITIES.

A FIELD OF THREE ACRES, called the Poons field, in this parish, of the annual produce of 2l. 6s. has been applied for the use of the poor from time immemorial.

A PIECE OF LAND at Apledore, the rent of which was regularly received and applied to the use of the poor till 1725, since which the rent has been neither received nor acknowledged, but is of the annual produce of 2s. 6d.

ONE MR TILDEN founded A CHARITY SCHOOL here. The land with which it is endowed lies in Biddenden, of the value of 20l. per annum, and is vested in ten trustees. There are about fifty scholars, of whom about fifteen are boarders, who are taught reading and writing. The poor children of the parish are taught gratis.

The poor constantly relieved are about fifteen, casually thirty.

HALDEN is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, consists of two isles and three chancels. The steeple is at the west end, the bottom of which is in form, five parts of an octagon, which part of it is built of upright timber planks, set close to each other; the upper part is shingled, with a pointed top, it was built in king Henry the VIth.'s reign. There are five bells in it.

It is a rectory, and is part of the antient possessions of the see of Canterbury, his grace the archbishop being the present patron of it. It is valued in the king's books at 19l. 4s. 7d. the yearly tenths being 1l. 18s. 5½d.

In 1578 here were communicants two hundred and twenty-six. In 1640 it was valued at eighty pounds per annum. Communicants eighty. It is now in most years of the yearly value of 160l. and in some 200l. There are five acres of glebe land.

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CHURCH OF HALDEN.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

The Archbishop. Paul Chapman, A. M. May 19, 1596, resigned 1600.

William Lawrie, A. M. July 26, 1600, obt. 1626.

Richard Taylor, A. M. Feb. 20, 1626./b

John Craford, clerk, obt. 1683.

John Walker, clerk, A. M. June 15, 1683, obt. 1689.

Abraham Walter, A. M. July 1, 1689, obt. 1712.

Francis Jeffrys, LL.B. Nov. 8, 1712, resigned 1713.

Thomas Payne, A. M. Oct. 19, 1713, obt. 1759./c

Benjamin Burridge, Oct. 29, 1759, obt. March 17, 1780.

Daniel Wilcox, A. M. Sept. 8, 1780, the present rector.

/b He lies buried in the high chancel. See Walker's Suff. of the Clergy, pt. ii. p. 378.

/c He had been chaplain to the English factory at Constantinople, and was archdeacon of Brecknock. He was the son of William Payne, D. D. rector of St. Mary's, Whitechapel, and prebendary of Worcester.

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WOODCHURCH

IS the next parish south-eastward from Halden, and is within the court of the bailiwick of the Seven Hundreds, which claims paramount over the denne

of Ilchenden, being a great part of it; though the manors of Apledore and of Wye claim over some parts of it.

THIS PARISH, which stands rather on high ground, is about five miles in length from north to south, and three miles and an half in breadth. The soil of it is in general a stiff clay, though in the southern part of

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it there is some light land, inclining to sand. It is exceedingly covered, throughout most of it, with oaken coppice wood, and the face of the country here, as well as the roads, are much like those of Halden, last described. The village is near the centre of the parish, built mostly round a green, with the church on the north-west side of it, and the parsonage-house. In the south-west part of the parish is Shirley-house and farm, which formerly belonged to the family of Clarke, and afterwards to the Harlackendens, from whom it was purchased by Anne Blackmore, widow of John Blackmore, esq. of Tenterden, who died in 1717; and their grandson Thomas Blackmore, esq. of Hertfordshire, now owns it, with other adjoining estates in this parish. Below this farm southward is a large tract of marshes, called Shirley, or Sherles moor, being about three miles in length and two in breadth, lying in Woodchurch, Apledore, Eboney, and Tenterden, containing 1245 acres, and is what is called the Upper Levels, the waters of which sew through Scots-float into Rye harbour. It is allowed to be the richest land for fattening cattle in all these levels. It belongs to several different proprietors, among whom Sir Edward Hales, bart. Thomas Blackmore, esq. the dean and chapter of Canterbury, Richard Curteis, and the heirs of William Henley, esqrs. are the most considerable.

Sir Edward Hales, bart. and Richard Hulse, esq. are lessees of the dean and chapter of Canterbury, for lands in this level, which formerly belonged to the priory of Christ-church there.

About three quarters of a mile northward from the church, is Redbrooke-street, at which formerly resided a family named At-hale, possessed of lands in this and the neighbouring parishes.

THE MANOR OF TOWNLAND, alias WOODCHURCH, is subordinate to that of Apledore, and was part of those lands and estates assigned for the defence

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of Dover-castle, to the constable of which it was allotted, and made a part of his barony, which was usually stiled from him, the Constabularie, being held by him of the king in capite by barony, by the service of maintaining a certain number of soldiers from time to time for the defence of the castle. Of him and his heirs this manor was held in capite by the service of ward to the castle. Ralph de la Thun held this manor and other lands in Woodchurch, by the above service, in the 43d year of Henry III. in which year he died possessed of it, and from him it acquired the name of Thunland, or Townland, as it was afterwards called. After him Richard de Tunland became possessed of it, whose grandson John Ate Towneland

paid aid for it in the 20th year of Edward III. and in his descendants it continued down to Thomas Townland, who died possessed of it in the 7th year of Henry IV./d After which it passed by sale into the family of Norton, whence it was sold, about the beginning of king Henry VIII.'s reign, to the prior and convent of Leeds, who were then possessed of it, as appears by the receipt in the exchequer anno 8 of that reign, Mich. Rot. 35; and it remained part of their possessions till the dissolution of the priory, in the 31st year of that reign, when it came into the hands of the crown; from whence it was granted that year to Thomas, lord Cromwell, earl of Essex, on whose attainder next year, this manor, among the rest of his estates, became forfeited to the crown, where it staid but a small time, for the king, in his 36th year, granted it to Sir Thomas Moile, chancellor of his court of augmentation, who in the 4th year of Edward VI. alienated it to Thomas Ancos, who afterwards sold it to Thomas Lucas, gent, who died possessed of it in the 3d year of queen Elizabeth, hold=

/d There are divers inquisitions taken on their deaths, viz. anno 6 Edward III. anno 47 Edward III. anno 9 Richard II.

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ing it in capite by knight's service. He was descended from William Lucas, gent. of Ashford, who is recorded in Fuller's history, among those gentry who were returned as such, and qualified to bear arms, by the commissioners anno 12 Henry VI./e By the inquisition taken after his death, it was found, that Thomas Godfrey was his nephew and next heir. He died in the 7th year of that reign, and was succeeded by his brother James Godfrey, who two years afterwards alienated it to Mary, the widow of Sir John Guldeford, of Hemsted, who in the 19th year of that reign sold it to John Shellie, whose son John Shelley, esq. of Michelgrove, was created a baronet in 1611; and in his descendants, baronets, this manor continued till the reign of Charles II. How long it continued in this name, I do not find; for it was now become but of very little note. At length, after some intermediate owners, it became the property of Mr. Gabriel Richards, and since his decease of Mr. William Evans, the present possessor, who resides in it.

THE PLACE-HOUSE, or Woodchurch-house, is a seat situated at a small distance eastward from the church, and was the habitation of a family who took both their surname and original from it. Anchitel de Woodchurch was possessed of it about the time of the Conqueror, and gave for his arms, Gules, three swords, erected in pale, argent. His grandson Roger de Woodchurch, is the first that is mentioned in the antient deeds, without date, of this estate, and his grandson Sir Simon de Woodchurch, is in the register of those Kentish gentlemen who accompanied king Edward I. in his victorious expedition into Scotland, where he was knighted, with many others of his countrymen. But in him the name, though not the male line, determined; for by matching with Susan, daughter and heir of Henry le Clerk, of Munfidde, in the parish of

/e See likewise Chauncy's Herts, p. 534.

Kingsnoth, who brought a large inheritance into his family; his successors, out of gratitude to those who had added so much splendour, and annexed so plentiful a revenue to their name, altered their paternal appellation from Woodchurch to Clerke; and in several of their deeds subsequent to this match were written, Clerke, alias Woodchurch. He left two sons, Simon, who died without male issue; and Clerke Woodchurch, heir to his mother's lands, as well as to his elder brother at this place, on his failure of male issue; which latter left a son Peter Clerke, alias Woodchurch, who inherited this seat on his father's death, and in his descendants it continued down to Humphry Clarke, for so they then wrote their name, who resided at Buckford, in Great Chart. He sold this seat, with the estate belonging to it, to Martin Harlackenden, esq. of this parish, whose successor Walter Harlackenden resided here in the reign of James I. and his descendant Geo. Harlackenden, esq. of Woodchurch, sold it to Winifred Bridger, widow, and Laurence her son, the latter of whom at his death devised it to his son John, who dying s. p. his sister Mrs. Winifrid Bridger, of Canterbury, succeeded to it, and dying in 1776, unmarried, by will gave it to the Rev. William Dejovas Byrch, of Canterbury, and Elizabeth his wife. He died in 1792, and she in 1798, having surviving issue an only daughter Elizabeth, since deceased, who married Samuel Egerton Brydges, esq. of Denton, who is now in his late wife's right became entitled to it.

Great part of this house has been pulled down, and the remainder of it makes but a very mean appearance, and is inhabited by several different persons.

HENDEN is an estate in this parish, which from having had for a length of time the same owners as that last-described, was once almost accounted an ap=

/f See Vistn. co. Kent, 1619. Collins's Bar. vol. i. p. 280.

pendage to it. This place is supposed (for there are no records existing of it) to have been the original seat of the Hendens, who were in much later times seated at Biddenden-place, in this neighbourhood, as has been mentioned before, where they continued till within these few years. How long they remained possessors of it, cannot therefore be traced; but in the reign of king Richard II. the Capells, of Capells-court, in Ivychurch, were become owners of it; in the 15th year of which reign Richard Capell died possessed of it. At length, after it had continued in his descendants for some generations, it went by the marriage of a female heir into the family of Harlackenden, of this parish, where it remained till Deborah, daughter and heir of Martin Harlackenden, entitled her husband Sir Edward Hales, knight and baronet, to the possession of this estate, together with others in this parish and neighbourhood, and in his descendants it has continued down to Sir Edward Hales, bart. of St. Stephen's, the present owner of it.

HARLACKENDEN, usually called Old Harlackenden, situated within the borough of that name (which ex=

tended likewise over part of the adjoining parish of Shadoxhurst) was for some hundred years the paternal demesnes of that name and family, as appeared by a tomb in this church, the inscription on which, long since obliterated, shewed that one of them lay interred there soon after the conquest. Philipott says, the proportion and shape of the characters were much like those in use in the reigns of king Henry IV. and V. which he thinks was occasioned by this tomb having been renewed by one of this person's successors and descendants in one of the above reigns, and the former one might have been in old characters, suitable to the time in which it was first erected. There are none now remaining on it. Kilburne says, it was for William Harlackenden, anno 1081. They bore for their arms, Azure, a fess, ermine, between three lions

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heads erased, or; which arms were painted in an upper window of Grays-Inn hall, and appeared to have been of long standing there. In his descendants, residents here, many of whom lie buried in this church, this seat continued down to Thomas Harlackenden, esq. of Woodchurch, who procured his lands to be disgavelled by the acts of 31 Henry VIII. and 2 and 3 Edward VI. He died in 1558.^{/g} At length his descendant George Harlackenden, esq. of this place, alienated it to Winifrid Bridger, widow, and Laurence her son, whose heirs, in the 9th year of queen Anne, procured an act to vest it in trustees, and they accordingly sold it, in 1711, to dame Sarah, widow of Sir Paul Barrett, sergeant-at-law. She died that same year, and by the limitation in her will,^{/h} this estate devolved to her grandson Sir Francis Head, bart. son of her first husband Francis Head, esq. who died possessed of it in 1768. After which his widow, lady Head, by virtue of her jointure, came into the possession of it. She died in 1792, and it then devolved to the daughters and coheirs of her late husband Sir Francis Head, and to their heirs, in the like proportions as the Hermitage, in Higham, and his other estates in this county, in which state it remains at present.^{/i}

HENHURST is an estate in the north-east part of this parish, which formerly belonged to a family of the same name, whose more antient seat was at Henhurst, in Staplehurst, of which this was but a younger branch. They were likewise often written in old deeds both Henhurst and Enghurst, and continued owners of this place until the reign of king Henry VII. and then Sir Thomas Henghurst dying without issue male, his

^{/g} See Philipott p. 370. Harl. MSS. No. 433-259. Wood's Ath. vol. ii. col. 841.

^{/h} See more of her, vol. vi. p. 440.

^{/i} See more of the family of Head, and the coheirs of Sir Francis, under Higham, vol. iii. p. 489.

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daughter and sole heir carried it in marriage to Humphry Wise, whose daughter and heir Agnes entitled her husband Mr. Robert Master to the possession of it, who bore for his arms, A lion, rampant, holding in his paws an escallop shell. His son Mr. Thomas Master

resided here, but his son Giles Master quitted this residence and removed to Canterbury, where he died in 1644. At length it descended to Sir Harcourt Master, alderman of London, who became possessed of it for the term of his life, by the will of his father's eldest brother's daughter, Mary Master. He died in 1648. Since which it has continued in his descendants, one of whom, Harcourt Masters, esq. of Greenwich, owns it at this time.

HENGHAM, now usually called Great Hengham, corruptly for Engeham, its original name, lies enveloped by woods, about a mile and an half northward from Woodchurch. It was once accounted a manor, and was in early times possessed by a family of the same name, who resided at it, and were stiled sometimes Engham, alias Edingham, in antient deeds, relating to their possessions in different parts of Romney-marsh, the latter being probably their original name, and the former one an abbreviation of it.^{/k} Alanus de Engham resided here in the reign of king John, and married the daughter of Townland, of this parish, as did his descendant Moses de Engham, alias Edingham, who by marriage with Petronell, daughter of Alan de Plunderen, greatly increased his estate in Woodchurch; and probably of kindred to this family was Odomar Hengham, esq. who died in 1411, and lies buried in the body of Canterbury cathedral. They bore for their arms, Argent, a chevron, sable, between three pellets; on a chief, gules, a lion passant, guardant, or. A branch of this family became possessed of Singleton, in

^{/k} Philipott, p. 371. There are pedigrees of this family both in the Heraldic visitations of 1574 and 1619.

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Great Chart, where they rebuilt the mansion, and afterwards resided; but the last residence of the Eng-hams, in this county, was at Gunston, where they flourished till the beginning of this century. At length Robert Engham, of Woodchurch, leaving two daughters his coheirs, this manor, about the latter end of the reign of Henry VIII. was carried in marriage by Mary, the eldest of them, to Thomas Isley, who leaving five daughters his coheirs, Mary, married to Francis Spelman; Frances, to William Boys, esq. Elizabeth, to Anthony Mason, esq. Anne, to George Delves, esq. and Jane, to Francis Haut, esq. they, in right of their respective wives, became jointly entitled to it. This occasioned a partition of this estate, which was afterwards called by the name of Great and Little Hengham; the former having the antient mansion and manor annexed to it. This part was afterwards alienated to William Hales, esq. of Nackington, who possessed it in the reign of king James I. and in 1640, passed it away by sale to Thomas Godfrey the younger, esq. of Lid, who conveyed it to Clerke, whence it was sold in the reign of king Charles II. to John Grove, gent. of Tunstall, whose descendant Richard Grove, esq. of London, who died unmarried in 1792, by will devised it to Mr. William Jemmott and Mr. William Marshall, the former of whom, on a partition of his estates, became the sole proprietor of it, and continues so at this time. A court baron is held for this manor.

THE OTHER PART of this manor, now called Little Hengham, which lies adjoining to it southward, is now the property of the heirs of Abbot, the Whitfields, and the Combers.

PLERYNDEN, now corruptly called Plunden, is situated in the north-west part of this parish, in the midst of a wood, and in the denne of the same name. It had in early times owners, who took their surname from it and continued so till Petronell, daughter and

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heir of Alan de Plerynden, who bore for his arms, Per chevron, in chief, two mullets, in base, a martlet, as they appear, carved in stone, on the roof of Canterbury cloysters, carried it in marriage to Moses de Engham, in whose descendants it remained till Vincent Engham, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, passed it away by sale to William Twysden, esq. of Chelmington, whose descendant Sir Thomas Twysden, bart. of Roydon-hall, in East Peckham, about the beginning of queen Anne's reign, sold it to Mr. John Hooker, of Maidstone, who died possessed of it in 1717, and devised it to his second son John, of Broadoak, in Brenchley, gent. who dying unmarried in 1762, devised it to his youngest and only surviving brother Stephen Hooker, gent. of Halden, and he alienated it to John Children, esq. of Tunbridge, whose son George Children, esq. of that place, is the present owner of it.

CHARITIES.

RICHARD BROWNE, late of Woodchurch, by will in 1562, gave to the poor of this parish a rent charge of 4l. 10s. per annum, on every Trinity Sunday for ever, out of a messuage called Webbes, in this parish, of the clear annual produce of 3l. 8s.

SIR EDWARD HALES, of Woodchurch, by deed in 1610, gave to the poor yearly rents out of a farm, called the Legg farm, in Kenardington.

PHEBE GOBLE, of Woodchurch, by will in 1692, gave to the poor 2l. per annum, to be paid by her heirs for ever, out of a farm, called the Bonny Cravat, in Woodchurch, (now an ale-house) the first Sunday after Old Lady-day.

THERE IS A SCHOOL, for reading and writing, supported by contribution, in this parish.

The poor constantly relieved are about ninety, casually 45.

WOODCHURCH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Limne.

The church, which is dedicated to All Saints, is large and handsome, consisting of three isles and three chancels, with a spire steeple, shingled, at the west end, in which hang six bells. The windows in the high

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chancel are small and elegant. There are some very small remains of good painted glass. In this chancel is a stone, with the figure in brass, of a priest praying, and inscription for master Nicholas de Gore, in old French; and another stone, with inscription in brass, for William Bengé Capellanus, obt. 1437. In this church are many tombs and gravestones of the family of Harlackenden, which have already been mentioned before. In the south chancel there is a handsome tomb,

of Bethersden marble, for Sir Edward Waterhous, chancellor of the exchequer, and privy counsellor to queen Elizabeth, in Ireland, third son of John Waterhous, esq. of Whitechurch, in Buckinghamshire, obt. s. p. 1591, his arms on his tomb, Or, a pile engrailed, sable, quartered with other coats. Kilburne says, in the east window of this chancel, were the arms of Ellis; and in the east window of the north chancel, were several effigies of the Clerkes; and in the north window of it, those of William Harey; all long since gone. The font in this church seems very antient, being of Bethersden marble, square, and standing on four pillars.

This church was part of the antient possessions of the see of Canterbury, and continues so at this time, his grace the archbishop being the present patron of it.

It is a rectory, valued in the king's books at 26l. 13s. 4d. and the yearly tenths at 2l. 13s. 4d. In 1640 it was valued at one hundred and ten pounds. Communicants three hundred and forty-nine. In 1729 at two hundred and thirty pounds per annum.

Among the Lambeth MSS. is a decree of archbishop Peckham, concerning the tithes of Woodchurch, anno 1281./l There are about two acres of glebe land.

/l See Ducarel's Repertory, p. 122.

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CHURCH OF WOODCHURCH.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

The Archbishop. John Bancroft, S. T. P. resig.
1633./m

Edward Boughan, A. M. presented April 13, 1633, and in
1640./n

Stephen Mun, obt. April 1684.

Thomas Huxley, S. T. B. May
1684, obt. 1685.

John Love, A. M. Oct. 1685,
obt. 1688.

Henry Hughes, inducted Jan.
1689.

Henry Hughes, obt. 1704./o

Edward Brooke, Sept. 30, 1704,
obt. Feb. 28, 1729.

John Geekie, LL. D. March 3,
1729, resigned 1730./p

Herbert Randolph, A. M. 1730,
obt. Sept. 1, 1755./q

Nicholas Carter, S. T. P. Sept.
1755, obt. Oct. 23, 1774./r

John Courtail, inducted April 6,
1775, the present rector./s

/m He was consecrated bishop of Oxford June 10, 1632, and dying in 1640, was buried at Cuddesdon. See Rym. Foed. vol. xix. p. 544. Le Neve's Fasti, p. 228.

/n See an account of him in Wood's Ath. Ox. vol. ii. p. 188. Rym. Foed. vol. xix. p. 544. Walker's Suff. of

the Clergy, pt. ii. p. 203. He acted in this parish as a justice of the peace, for which he was petitioned against by Presbyterian inhabitants, anno 1640, and removed from this benefice; but was restored again on the restoration. See Rushworth, vol. v. p. 169. He was author of several works, a list of which is in Wood's Ath.

/o Son of the former.

/p He resigned this rectory for Chevening. See Southfleet, vol. ii. p. 440. and Chevening, vol. iii. p. 126.

/q Also rector of Deal, and one of the Six Preachers in Canterbury cathedral, where he lies buried.

/r In 1755 he had a dispensation to hold this rectory with that of Ham, and was likewise perpetual curate of Deal chapel. He was father of the justly celebrated and learned Mrs. Elizabeth Carter.

/s And vicar of Burwash, in Sussex, by dispensation.

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SHADOXHURST

IS the next parish eastward. So much of it as is within the borough of Old Harlackenden, is in the hundred of Blackborne, and lower division of the lath of Scray, and western division of this county, and within the bailiwick of the Seven Hundreds. A small part on the northern side of it, consisting of only three houses, is in the hundred of Chart and Longbridge, upper division of the lath of Scray, and in the eastern division of this country; and the residue, on the south-east side of it, is in the lath of Shipway, hundred of Ham, and eastern division likewise of this county.

The court of the bailiwick of the Seven Hundreds claims paramount over the greatest part of this parish, and the manor of Tinton over some of the southern part of it.

This parish is but little frequented, being very obscurely situated in a low flat country, the whole of which is much covered with coppice woods, which makes it very dreary and unpleasant. The soil is a deep miry clay, and the roads are much the same and equally bad as those of Halden and the intermediate country. The village is situated nearly in the centre of the parish, round a green, with the church at the south east end of it. There are about twenty two houses in the parish, and the rents of it are about three hundred pounds per annum.

THE MANOR OF SHADOXHURST is subordinate to the court of the bailiwick of the Seven Hundreds. It was antiently the inheritance of a family called Forstal, and sometimes written At-Forstal, who were of no mean extraction in this county; for in several antient deeds John and Richard At-Forstal are mentioned among the witnesses to them, and it is probable they were possessors of this manor, though the private deeds

belonging to it are of no longer date than the reign of Henry V. in the 3d year of which John Forstal passed this manor away by deed to Stokys, vulgarly called Stokes, in whose descendants it continued many years, until it was at length sold to Avery Randolph, who had an estate likewise about Burham, near Maidstone; ^t and from whose son Edward, about the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign, it went by sale to Sir John Taylor, who, in the 25th year of queen Elizabeth, passed it away to John Taylor, esq. of Wilsborough, whose ancestors had resided at Homestall, in this parish, as early as the reign of Henry III. from whom descended those of this name of Romney, Wilsborough, Maidstone, and other places in this county, and those of Ireland likewise. They bore for their arms, Argent, on a chief, sable, two boars heads, couped of the first. ^u From John Taylor above-mentioned, this manor came down to Sir Thomas Taylor, bart. of Maidstone, so created in 1665, whose only son of the same name died under age, on which his trustees, under his will, sold it to John Cooke, esq. of Swifts, in Cranbrooke, who by will devised this manor, with the rest of his estate in Shadoxhurst, to be sold for the benefit of his younger children, in pursuance of which it was sold to Sir Charles Molloy, of Greenwich, who had married Ellen his eldest daughter. He died possessed of it in 1760, s. p. and devised it by will to Charles, the second son of George Cooke, esq. of Lincolns-inn-fields, who has since, pursuant to his uncle's will, taken on him the name of Molloy, and is the present possessor of it.

CRIOLS-COURT, now usually called Crayals, is an estate in this parish, which was once the patrimony of the eminent family of Criol, and was one of the several seats of theirs in this county, which took their name

^t His will, proved in 1561, is in the Prerog. off. Cant.

^u There is a pedigree of this family in the Heraldic Visitation of 1619.

from them. Bertram de Criol died possessed of it in the 23d year of king Edward I. and his son John dying in the 34th year of that reign s. p. left Joane his sister his next heir, then married to Sir Richard de Rokesle. His eldest daughter and coheir Agnes, married Thomas de Poynings, and by it entitled that family to this among the great inheritance which devolved to her in right of her mother; and in their descendants this estate continued down to Sir Edward Poynings, a man much in favour with king Henry VII. and VIII. under both of whom he enjoyed many important offices of trust and honor. Though he left several natural children, yet it being found by the inquisition taken after his death in the 14th year of the latter reign, that he died not only without legitimate issue, but without any collateral kindred, who could make claim to his estates; this, among others of them, escheated to the crown, ^w whence it was granted by Henry VIII. to Mr. William Taylor, gent. of Shadoxhurst, after whose death, anno 16 of that reign, without male issue, it came at length by entail to John Taylor, of Winchelsea, who left an only surviving daughter and heir Anne, who

marrying Mr. William Whitfield, gent. of Patricborne, entitled him to this estate of Criols-court; from whom it was, about the beginning of king Charles I.'s reign, alienated to More, and thence not many years afterwards to Thomas Taylor, esq. owner of the manor of Shadoxhurst, as before-mentioned, and afterwards in 1664, created a baronet. Since which it has descended, in the like series of ownership with that manor, to Charles Cooke Molloy, esq. the present proprietor of them.

MINCHEN-COURT, vulgarly so called, but in old records written Minikens-court, is an estate here, which was formerly part of the possessions of St. James's, af-

/w See more of the Criols, Rokesles, and Poynings, vol. ii. of this history, p. 143, 151.

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terwards called St. Jacob's hospital, in Thanington, almost adjoining to the suburbs of Canterbury, founded before the reign of king John, for leprous women, of which one Firmin, if not the founder, was at least a considerable benefactor to it, at whose request, in the beginning of that reign, this hospital, and its possessions, with the consent of archbishop Hubert, were taken under the custody and protection of the prior and convent of Christ-church, in Canterbury./x This hospital was not dissolved till the 5th year of king Edward VI. notwithstanding which, this estate of Minchen court had been long before that alienated from it, and in the very beginning of Henry VIII.'s reign was become vested in the crown; for that king in his 2d year granted it to Robert Tatteshall, esq. to hold of his manor of East Greenwich by fealty only; and from him immediately afterwards it came by purchase to Sir Edward Wotton, whose grandson Thomas, lord Wotton, dying in the 6th year of king Charles I. his four daughters became his coheirs; of whom Catherine, the eldest, carried this estate in marriage to Henry, lord Stanhope, son and heir of Philip, lord Chesterfield;/y upon whose death she became again possessed of it, and quickly after transferred it by sale to Mr. Thomas Harfleet, of Canterbury. How it passed afterwards, I cannot find; but in the year 1703, by the foreclosure of a mortgage, it came into the possession of Mr. John Courthope, whose descendant Alexander Courthope, esq. of Horsemonden, dying unmarried in 1779, by will gave this among the rest of his estates in this county to his nephew John Cole, esq. of that parish, the present owner of it.

CLAYPITS is a manor situated in the eastern part of this parish, near Bromley-green, which was formerly

/x See more of this hospital and its foundation, in Battely's Somner, p. 41; pt. ii. and p. 173.

/y See more of the Wottons and Stanhopes, under Boughton Malherb, vol. v. of this history, p. 400, 403.

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in the possession of the family of Hall, of Kennington. Sir Wm. Hall, of that place, died possessed of it in the reign of king James I. and was succeeded in it by his eldest son Nevil Hall, esq. who owned it at the restoration of king Charles II. After which it passed by sale

into the family of Twysden, of East Peckham, baronets, one of whom alienated it not many years ago to Mr. John Horne, who by will devised it to his wife Mrs. Catherine Horne, of New Romney, for life. It was afterwards, in 1787, sold to William Deedes, esq. of St. Stephen's, whose eldest son of the same name, at Hythe, is the present possessor of it, together with the adjoining manor of Bishopswood.

CHARITIES.

ROBERT FARLEY gave to the poor of this parish, by will in 1590, 10s. yearly for ever, out of a piece of land here, called Checquers.

MICHAEL POONETT, by will in 1604, gave a piece of land, called Bishopscroft, to the poor for ever, now of the annual produce of 30s.

The poor constantly relieved are about fifteen, casually ten.

SHADOXHURST is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Limne.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is a very small mean building, consisting of one isle and one chancel. At the west end is a wooden building, with a small turret, in which hang three bells. The whole seems in a ruinous state.

In the north windows of the isle are some remains of good painted glass; in one of them are two figures crowned, in one compartment, and in the other a priest kneeling, offering a cup to another figure, who is sitting and crowned. In the other window is the Virgin Mary, and an angel with ave Maria. And there are some little remains of painted glass in the east window of the chancel.

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Sir Charles Molloy, captain of the Royal Caroline yacht, lies buried under a tomb in this church yard; but there is a superb and elegant monument of white marble, with his bust, and the figure of a boy weeping over it, and different emblems of war round him, erected to his memory, against the north wall of the chancel. In the church, on each side of the chancel, are hung up his banners, sword, helmet with his crest, &c. He bore for his arms, Argent, a lion, rampant, between three trefoils slipt, sable. In the chancel is a memorial for John Sewell, rector, anno 1591.

This church is a rectory, and has been long part of the possessions of the crown, and remains so at this time, the king being the present patron of it.

It is now a discharged living, of the clear yearly value of thirty-eight pounds, the yearly tenths of which are 15s. 3½d. In 1578 here were communicants seventy-nine. In 1640 there were sixty, and the yearly value of it was seventy pounds.

There was an old writing, with several of the parishioners hands, by which they acknowledged eightpence in the noble due to the rector of Shadoxhurst, for all acre wood; and Sir Roger Twisden, in his treatise concerning the Weald, says, it is to be observed that the usual paying of tithe-wood in any parish, or in many, does not make it due, if it can be shewed that the parishes paying stand in the Weald. And fur-

ther says, that he himself has known the rector of Shadoxhurst to claim tithe wood in some cases, and quotes the above writing in confirmation of it. But there has not been, for a long time, any tithe paid for wood in this parish.

This rectory was augmented in 1767 by the governors of queen Anne's bounty, with two hundred pounds, in consequence of an addition of the like sum from Mrs. Ursula Taylor's legacy, paid to them by Sir Philip Boteler, bart. with which sums were

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purchased lands in Shadoxhurst of sixteen pounds per annum.

The glebe land consists of three small woods, containing together about nine acres.

CHURCH OF SHADOXHURST.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS

The Crown. William Baldwin, S. T. P. July 20, 1617, obt. 1626.

William Stone, May 20, 1626, resigned 1631.

Charles Hutchenson, A. M. Sept. 20, 1631, resigned 1631./z

William Langley, A. M. July 30, 1636, resigned 1639./a

Nicholas Gent, Feb. 15, 1639./b

Timothy Wilson, A. M. Aug. 18, 1676./c

Isaac Satur, A. B. Nov. 24, 1690, resigned 1717.

John Lamb, April 1, 1717, ob. Dec. 1733./d

Henry Bagnal, jun. A. M. 1734, obt. 1761./e

Blemell Pollard, Aug. 4, 1761, obt. 1764.

Robert Polhill, July 13, 1764, the present rector./f

/z Rym. Fœd. vol. xix. p. 359.

/a Ibid. vol. xx. p. 137.

/b Ibid. p. 398.

/c He was then rector of Kingsnoth.

/d He lies buried in the chancel of this church, where he has a monument to his memory.

/e And rector of Frittenden, by dispensation in 1737.

/f And vicar of Goudhurst, by dispensation that year.

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KENARDINGTON.

THE next parish southward from Shadoxhurst, a small part of the parish of Woodchurch only intervening, is Kenardington, frequently called and written for shortness, Kenarton, a name supposed to be taken from

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one Cyneward, the Saxon owner of it. Most part of it is in the hundred of Blackborne, and the residue, being the south-east part of it, in the hundred of Ham, east division of the county, and within the liberty of the justices of the corporation of Romney Marsh. The manor of Apledore claims over the southern part of this parish.

This is a small parish, lying at the edge of Romney Marsh, the church here dividing the marsh from the upland, or Weald of Kent. The western and northern parts of it are covered with coppice woods. The greatest part of it, together with the village and church, is situated upon high ground; but the southern part of it is low, and within the levels of the Marsh. Below the hill on which the church stands, and adjoining to it south-east, are the remains of some ancient fortifications, of earth, with a breast-work thrown up, and a small circular mount; and in the adjoining marsh below it, is another, of a larger size, with a narrow ridge or causeway seemingly leading from one to the other.

These works seem to have been thrown up during the wars between king Alfred and the Danes, perhaps about the year 893, when a division of them sailed up the river Limene, or Rother, and entrenched themselves in the adjoining parish of Apledore.

THE MANOR OF HORNE, alias KENARDINGTON, was part of those lands assigned for the defence of Dover castle, to John de Fienes, who was constable of that important fortress, and together made up his barony, which from him was called the Constabularie, being held by him in capite by barony, by the service of maintaining a certain number of soldiers for the defence of that castle, and of him and his heirs this manor was held in capite by castle-guard service from time to time. In the reign of king John it was so held by the family of Normanville, or de Normania. His descendant Sir Thomas de Normanville, died in the 11th year of king Edward I. possessed of this manor, with that of

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Cockride, in Bilsington, which he held in capite by knight's service, together with the advowson of the church, which, on his death without issue male, came to his only daughter and heir Margaret, who afterwards married Sir William de Basing, and entitled him to this estate, as well as a large inheritance in Rutlandshire. He was a descendant of Solomon de Basing, who was sheriff of London in the last year of king John, and of Adam de Basing, lord-mayor of London anno 36 Henry III. whose habitation was where Blackwell-hall now stands, and from whom the street, and ward thereto adjoining, had the denomination of Basinghall-street and Basing ward; and several of them were afterwards sheriffs of London. He was one of those Kentish gentlemen who accompanied the above-mentioned king in his victorious expedition into Scotland, where he was knighted with many others of his countrymen, and was sheriff in the 7th and 8th years of Edward II. bearing for his arms, Azure, a cross, crusuly voided, a baton, gules. His descendant Sir John Basing afterwards became at length possessed of it, and died s. p. in the 24th year of Henry VI. upon which Alice his sister, married to Thomas Mackworth,

esq. of Mackworth, in Derbyshire, became his heir, and entitled her husband to her inheritance both here and in Rutlandshire, on part of which, the manor of Normanton, he and his descendants afterwards resided, bearing for their arms, Party, per pale indented, sable, and ermine, a chevron, gules, or. His great grandson, George Mackworth, about the beginning of king Henry VII.'s reign, alienated his interest in this manor and advowson to Wise, whose descendant Thomas Wise, in the 24th year of Henry VIII. conveyed them to Roger Horne, whose ancestors had resided at a seat of their own name in the adjoining parish of Apledore ever since the reign of king John, their mansion there

/g Rot. Esch. ejus an. N. 37.

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being called from them Hornes-place. One of them, Ralph de Horne, was one of the recognitores magnæ assisæ, or justices of the great assize, in the reign of king John, persons of no small account before the institution of justices of the peace. His descendant William Horne, of Hornes-place, was one of the conservators of the peace in the 1st year of king Richard II. They bore for their arms, Argent, on a chevron, gules, between three bugle horns, sable, as many mullets, or. At length his descendant Henry Horne, esq. dying in the 7th year of queen Elizabeth, anno 1565, left an only daughter and heir Benet, afterwards married to Richard Guldeford, gent. son of Sir John Guldeford, of Hemsted, by his second wife, who in her right became possessed of them, but being indicted for not taking the oath of supremacy to the queen, they fled the realm and were attainted of treason, and their lands became forfeited to the crown, their attainder, among others, being confirmed by act of parliament, where they seem to have remained till the death of the latter in 1597; he dying at Roan, in France, in 1586, and she at Brussels in 1597, and were both buried at those places, when the queen granted the fee of this manor and advowson that year, to Walter Moyle, gent. of the Middle Temple, London, who died s. p. in 1599, and was succeeded in this estate by his nephew Capt. Robert Moyle, whose grandson John Moyle, esq. of Buckwell, leaving an only daughter and heir Mary, she carried it in marriage to Robert Breton, esq. of the Elmes, near Dover, whose grandson Moyle Breton, esq. of Kennington, dying possessed of it a few years ago, left two sons his coheirs in gavelkind, the Rev. Moyle Breton, of Kennington, and Mr. Whitfield Breton, and they are now jointly as such entitled to

/h See Rot. Esch. 16 and 18 Elizabeth.

/i Two acts passed relating to the sale of this estate, one anno 13 George I. and the other anno 3 George II.

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this manor, with the advowson of the church of Kennington.

There is a fee farm of forty pounds per annum, payable out of this manor. It is one of the lordships of Romney Marsh, which entitles the owner to sit as one of the lords there, for the management of the walls and the sewers within it.

CHARITIES.

MARGARET LOWES, of this parish, in 1557, gave to the poor 40s. per annum. out of twenty-eight acres of land called the Plummer-land, between the feasts of All Saints and Christmas-day; and 5s. on the same days, out of the Smith farm, in this parish.

A PERSON UNKNOWN gave by deed half an acre of woodland in this parish, now of the annual produce of 7s.

ANOTHER UNKNOWN PERSON gave three quarters of an acre, called Church-land, in this parish, now of the annual produce of 12s.

The poor constantly relieved are about forty-five, casually fifteen.

THIS PARISH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Limne.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a small mean building, consisting of one isle and one chancel, having a small pointed turret at the west end, in which hangs one bell. There are no inscriptions in it. The font in this church is remarkably mean, being composed of brick and tile only.

This church was formerly much larger, but having been burnt by lightning in 1559, the present one was erected out of the ruins of the former, the foundations of which are still visible, especially those of another isle on the north side of it; Roger Horne, lord of this manor, being a good contributor, if not at the whole charge of the building of it.

This church is a rectory, the patronage of which has always been accounted an appendage to the manor of Kenardington, and it continues so at present, being

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in the joint patronage of the Rev. Mr. Moyle Breton and Mr. Whitfield Breton, lords of that manor.

It is valued in the king's books at 12l. 1s. 0¹/₂d. and the annual tenths at 1l. 4s. 1¹/₄d. In 1578 here were communicants eighty-two. In 1640, eighty-seven, and it was then valued at sixty pounds per annum.

Among the Lambeth MSS. is a composition between the prior, &c. of St. Martin Dover, and the rector of this parish, on account of tithes within the bounds of this parish and those of Apoldre, in the 2d year after archbishop Becket's death; and another between those parishes, on the like account, in 1228.

CHURCH OF KENARDINGTON.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

The Queen. Laurence Collinson, A. B. Dec. 5, 1590, obt. 1623.

William Style, esq. and Mary his wife, hac. vice. Richard Bristowe, A. M. July 5, 1623, resigned 1632.

Robert Moyle, gent. Richard Lightfoot, A. B. Oct. 23, 1632, resigned 1663.

Thomas Godfrey, esq. and Mary his wife. John Collington, A. M. Feb. 4, 1663, obt. 1682.

Thomas Godfrey, esq. Samuel Pratt, clerk, March 10,

1682, resigned 1693.
Gideon Maude, A. M. Feb. 26,
1693./l
Richard Tysoe, A. M. obt. June
6, 1746./m
Moyle Breton, esq. Curteis Whitwick, A. M. Oct.
27, 1746, obt. 1753./n
Robert Breton, LL. B. March 6,
1754, resigned 1768./o
Whitfield Breton, gent. Moyle Breton, S. T. P. Feb. 5,
1768.
Himself patron. Ibid. 2d induction, Dec. 22,
1777, the present rector.

/k Before vicar of Godmersham.
/l And rector of Hothfield.
/m And rector of Ludsdown.
/n Vicar of St. Mary Bredin, Canter=
terbury, and rector of Bonnington.
/o In 1754 a dispensation passed for
his holding Boughton Aluph vicarage
with this rectory.

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APLEDORE

LIES the next parish south-westward, and is the last
to be described in the lower division of the lath of Scray
and western division of the county; though it should
seem, by the entry in Domesday, that it was antiently
accounted in the lath of Shipway, or Limowart, as it
is there called. That part of it which is upon the Rhee
wall, to Redhill, is in the liberty of the town and port
of New Romney, and the jurisdiction of the justices of
that town and port; and the residue of it is in this
hundred, some small part of which is in the liberty of
Romney Marsh, and jurisdiction of the justices of that
corporation./p

It was written by the Saxons, Apuldre, in Domes=
day, Apeldres, and now and for a long time since,
Apledore, and takes its name from its low and damp
situation near the channel, which formerly flowed up to
it from the sea.

THE SITUATION of Apledore was formerly very
different from what it is at present, having been in an=
tient time a maritime town, to which the sea flowed up,
and large fleets frequently navigated; but the river
Rother, or Limene, as it was then called, having long
since directed its course from this channel, it has been
for ages past left dry and destitute, both of salt and
fresh water, and covered with pastures and cattle, the
stream of it flowing by a far different one into the sea;
the only water near it at this time being the small ri=
vulet or dyke, which passes between the main land and
the Isle of Oxney, at the east end of which it now runs,
just below Apledore, and encompassing the eastern side
of that island, where, though an inconsiderable stream,

/p Kilb. Survey, p. 12. See Somner's etymology of Apledore,
in his Rom. Ports, p. 65.

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it takes the name of Apledore channel, and passing the

White Kemp sluice, flows into Rye haven, where it meets the sea.

This river Rother, or Limene, instead of its present course, formerly flowed by Newenden to Maytham, and so along by Smalhyth and Reading between the main land and the Isle of Oxney to the town of Aple-dore, where, instead of turning its course to the south-ward, as it does now, towards Rye haven, it kept on close by Apledore still eastward, along by where the Rhee-wall now is, where the remains of the old trench, in which this river flowed between Apledore and Old Romney, being about four miles, is plainly traced, being of large extent and breadth, though long since become dry and converted into pasture ground.

This river did not forsake its antient course all at once, but at times and by degrees, as appears by the continued means taken to prevent it, as well as against the inundation of the sea, so early as king Henry I.'s time; and there happened one not long afterwards, which is mentioned both by Matthew Paris and Westminster. The former, in his relation of this violent rage and ferment of the sea, in 1250, and the inundations consequent, says, that at Winchelsea above three hundred houses, and some churches, were by its violence overturned; but the very year in which this change of course happened, appears to have been in the 15th year of Edward I. when, as Camden says, the sea, raging with the violence of winds, overflowed this tract, and making a dreadful destruction of people, cattle, and houses, caused this river to forsake its old channel, and opened a new and nearer way, as at present, into the sea at Rye. And though every means were used afterwards by frequent commissions to view and see to the repair of these broken walls, yet by future tempests, one of which in particular happened in the 8th year of Edward III. all thoughts of the river's ever returning to its old channel, seem to have been

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given up; and three years afterwards, the king by his letters patent granted this old trench or channel, leading from an arm of the sea, called Apuldre, towards the town of Romene, to the different owners of the soil, with licence for them to obstruct, dam, and stop it up, as it had by reason of the sands and other matter flowing in, been so filled up, that ships could not pass by it; and reciting, that there was another trench leading from the said arm to Romene, lately made by force of the sea, by which ships passed to that town, as they had before used to do by the former one, and was more proper and sufficient./q

Whilst the river continued navigable to this town in its antient state, the Danes, in the time of king Alfred, anno 893, with an intent to plunder this country, entered the mouth of it, and went up this channel with a fleet of two hundred and fifty fail of ships as high as Apledore, to which at that time the Weald, or great forest of Andred, extended itself eastward. There are strong appearances remaining to support this opinion; and that the tract of land called the Dowles, in the south-east part of this parish, nearer to Romney, a further notice of which will be taken hereafter, was once covered with wood; among others, that the dean and

chapter of Canterbury have a parcel of land in the western part of the Dowles, which are said in the records of that church to lie in Apuldore wood; and that at the depth of from three to six feet, there have been frequently found in different parts of this tract of land, oak leaves, acorns, birch, and willow, and the stalks of brakes, &c. in high preservation, and likewise large trees of various kinds and sizes, lying in different directions, and sometimes across one another; and what is worth observation, they appear to have been cut

/q Dugd. Imb. p. 44. Somn. Roman Ports, 56. Reg. Roff. p. 678. Somn. Cant. p. 147. Willis's Mitred Abbeyes, vol. i. p. 240, 243.

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down with an ax or sharp instrument, and not with a saw; strong proofs that these Dowles were once part of the forest before-mentioned, and covered with trees and wood.

At Apledore the Danes entrenched themselves on the site of a small half-built fort, inhabited by a few boors, which they demolished, together with the village, and built one of a larger size and strength, and kept their rendezvous here for some time. What became of this castle afterwards, I do not find; but it is probable that it was ruined by the French in 1380, who then burnt this town, and tradition reports, that on the ruins of this castle the present church was built; and the situation of it renders it very probable.

THE SOIL of this parish is for the greatest part moorish, boggy, and fenny; though some of the upper or northern part of it is sandy, with some coppice wood on it. It is about two miles and an half in length, and about two in breadth. It contains forty-eight houses, and three hundred and twenty inhabitants, and near two thousand acres of land. The village is situated very low, close to the marshes in the southern part of it, near a quarter of a mile from the eastern part of the Isle of Oxney, with the church standing close on the eastern side of it. The houses are but meanly built, and mostly inhabited by graziers, lookers, and smugglers. The vast quantity of marshes which lie contiguous and come close up to it, make it very unhealthy, and this is rendered much more so, by a large tract of swamp, called the Dowles, lying about a mile south eastward from the village, within the marsh; they are about two miles long and more than one wide, containing about four hundred acres. One part of it is hardly ever free from water, unless for a month or so at the end of a very dry summer; the other part has some few spaces of sound ground, but is wholly overflowed during the

/r Roman Ports, p. 51. See Sax. Chron. anno 393.

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winter, and in a year when fodder is scarce, or the season backward, is of great service to the farmers, for the grass, having no want of rain, springs early, and in great plenty, and affords excellent feeding for the larger stock. There are some thoughts of draining this tract of land, which, if it can be effected, will render it a most fertile and valuable parcel of pasture, the soil of the whole of it appearing to be very rich. The large

quantity of stagnating waters continually on this tract of land, which is almost an entire swamp, engenders such noxious and pestilential vapours, as spread sickness and frequent death on the inhabitants of this and many of the adjoining parishes for some distance round it; the sickly countenances of them plainly discovering the unwholesome air they breath in.

King Edward III. in his 32d year, granted to the prior and convent of Christ-church, in Canterbury, a weekly market at their manor here, which has been long disused, and a yearly fair on the 11th of January. There are now two fairs held annually here, on Jan. 11, and June 22.

THE PLANT, called morsus diaboli, floribus albis et subrusis, or devils bit, with white and blush coloured flowers, grows about Apledore.

THE MANOR OF APLEDORE was in early times possessed by one Eadsy, a priest, who, on his turning monk, had licence granted him by king Cnute, and Ælgife his queen, in the year 1032, to dispose of it as he pleased, and he accordingly gave it to the convent of Christ-church, in Canterbury; and it remained part of the possessions of that church at the time of the conquest; and when archbishop Lanfrance soon afterwards divided the revenues of his church, Apuldore, in this division, fell to the share of the monks, and was allotted for their subsistence, or de cibo eorum, as the record of the

/s See Somner's Gavelkind, p. 213. Thorn. Chron. in Dec. Script. col. 2223.

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monastery mentions it. In Domesday it is thus entered, under the title of Terra monachorum Archiepi, i. e. the land of the monks of the archbishop.

In Limowart lath, in Blacheborne hundred, the archbishop himself holds Apeldres. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was taxed at two sulings, and now for one. The arable land is eight carucates. In demesne there are three carucates, and thirty-seven villeins, with forty-one borderers having eleven carucates. There is a church, and six fisheries of three shillings and four-pence. There are two acres of meadow, and wood for the pannage of six hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth six pounds, now sixteen pounds and seventeen shillings and six-pence.

In the 10th year of Edward II. the prior of Canterbury obtained a charter of free-warren for his manor of Apuldre among others. Thomas Goldstone, prior of Christ-church, in king Henry the VI.th's reign, among other beneficial acts to his convent, wholly rebuilt the court lodge of Apledore, with its offices, which had been burnt down. After which it continued part of the possessions of this priory till its dissolution in the 31st year of Henry VIII. when it was surrendered into the king's hands, who by his dotation charter, in his 33d year, settled it on his new-founded dean and chapter of Canterbury, with whom the inheritance of it still remains.

A court leet and court baron is held for this manor yearly, by the dean and chapter, which claims over all this parish, excepting such part of it as is in the bo-

rough of Great Kenarton, and extends itself over the two boroughs of Townborough and Hothborough, the borsholders of which are there chosen, and not at the court leet held for the hundred of Blackborne; nor do the inhabitants of these borough, owe any service to the court leet of that hundred, only at that court a

/t See Willis's Mitred Abbeyes, vol. i. p. 246.

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constable may be chosen out of either of these boroughs for that hundred./u The court-lodge, together with the demesne lands belonging to it, have been from time to time demised by them on a beneficial lease for a term of years. The Digges's were formerly lessees of them, afterwards the Culpeper's, then the Westrow's, from whom the interest of the lease passed to the Hulse's, with whom it still continues; the present lessee being Richard Hulse, esq. of Blackheath.

HORNES-PLACE, or Hornes-farm, as it is now called, is an estate in the north-east part of this parish, the mansion of which was for a great length of time the residence of a family of that surname, and continued so till they removed to the adjoining parish of Kenardington in the reign of Henry VII. on their purchasing that manor, on which they likewise fixed their name. Michael Horne, who was sheriff anno 7 Henry IV. held his shrievalty here, and probably it may be his tomb now remaining under an arch in the south chancel of this church, though now much sunk into the ground. At length this family, as has been related before, ended in a female heir Benet, daughter of Henry Horne, esq. who carried this estate in marriage to Richard Guldeford, gent. who being attainted, this, among the rest of his lands, were confiscated to the crown, and the queen soon afterwards granted Hornes-place, in Apledore, with the lands belonging to it, to Philip Chute, esq. captain and standard-bearer at Bullen, who afterwards resided here, and in his descendants it continued down to Sir George Choute, or Chute, bart. who dying in 1721 s. p. gave it with the rest of his estates, by will, to Edward Austen, who afterwards succeeded on the death of Sir Sheffield Austen to the title of baronet. He resided at Boxley abbey, where he died in 1760, and by his will devised it, in

/u Kilb. Surv. p. 13. Among the Harl. MSS. in the British Museum, are several custumal & tenent de Apledore ad Eccl. Cant Spect. No. 1006.

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like manner with that seat and the rest of his estates, to his cousin John, son of Nicholas Amhurst, esq. who was afterwards of Boxley abbey./w He sold his interest in this with the other estates adjoining, devised to him as above-mentioned, for the term of his life, to William Dunning, esq. who is now in the possession of them.

This estate is now called Great Horne, to distinguish it from an estate called Little Horne, in the adjoining parish of Kenardington. Great Horne seems, from the extensive foundations, and the quantity of stones dug up, to have been very considerable. The only part of the antient structure now remaining is, what was the chapel, which adjoined to the mansion-

house, and seems to have been once an elegant and uniform building; underneath it is a vault, in which there is a well.

FRENCHAY is a manor here, which had once, as appears by old evidences, owners of that surname, but it was more noted for having had the family of Haut for its owners, from the reign of king Edward III. until that of king Henry VIII. when Jane, the youngest daughter and coheir of Sir William Haut, of Bishopsborne, entitled her husband Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington-castle, to it, who was attained in the first year of queen Mary. He left a son George, who in the 13th year of queen Elizabeth was restored in blood by act of parliament, and in the 24th year of that reign had a grant of this manor from the queen. He was succeeded in it at his death, in 1624, by his eldest son Sir Francis Wyatt, who passed it away by sale in the next reign of king Charles I. to Thomas Floyd, or Fludd, esq. of Gore-court, in Otham, who in the year 1636 alienated it to Sir Edward Hales, knight and baronet, of Tunstall, in whose descendants it has conti=

/w See a further account of Sir Edward Austen, and his devise of his estates, and the entails created under his will, under Boxley, vol. iv. p. 339.

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nued down to Sir Edward Hales, bart. of St. Stephens, the present owner of it.

The abbot and convent of St. Augustine, were in the reign of king Henry III. anno 1247, possessed of lands here, in the demesne of Horyngbroke and Sherle moor, consisting of marsh and woodland. In which year the controversy between that abbot and the prior and convent of St. Martin, Dover, who had the appropriation of this parish, concerning the tithes of these lands, was settled; that so long as the abbot, &c. held them in their own hands, they should be free from tithes; but that whenever they were let to ferme, that then the prior and convent of Dover should receive them as of the tenants who occupied them, and not as of the estate, with this reserve, that the portion of sheaves and rents of money belonging to the abbot, should remain to him freely without tithes./x

There are no parochial charities. The poor constantly relieved are about sixty, casually sixteen.

APLEDORE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Limne.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, stands on a knoll of ground close to the eastern side of the village, and, by report, was erected on the scite of the antient castle, demolished by the French in 1380, probably within a very small time afterwards, the ruins furnishing many materials for the building of it. Before this the church, by report, stood in a field adjoining to Redhill bridge, which is about midway between Apledore and Reading, on the road leading to Tenterden, the field where it stood being called Church-field at this time. The present building is but a mean one, consisting of three isles and three chancels, with a square tower at the west end, which seems more antient than the rest of the church. In it hang six bells and a

small one. The font is an octagon, on which are three coats of arms; first, A cross; second, Two keys in saltier; third, Three swords in the same manner. On the steeple at the west end, on the outside over the door, on the north side, A cross; in the middle, France and England; and on the south side, Canterbury impaling Warham. Henry Goulding, of Apledore, who lies buried in the south pace, was, by his will, in 1569, a good benefactor to the fabric of it; as was Thomas Knelle, who was buried in our Lady's chancel. In the south chancel is an antient tomb, remaining under an arch, now much sunk into the ground, supposed to be one of the family of Horne.

This church formerly belonged to the priory of St. Martin, in Dover, to which it was given by archbishop Langton, in the beginning of king Henry III.'s reign, and was not long afterwards appropriated to it, together with the appendant chapel of Ebene; both which were confirmed by the chapter of Christ-church, in Canterbury, with the deduction of a competent portion of sixteen marcs to the vicar of it, for his maintenance./y

This church, in the 8th year of king Richard II. was valued at twenty pounds, and in this state it continued till the dissolution of the above priory in the 27th year of Henry VIII. when this priory, whose revenues did not amount to the clear yearly value of two hundred pounds, was suppressed, and, together with all its possessions, became vested in the crown; after which that king, by his indenture in his 29th year, granted both the appropriation and advowson of the vicarage, to archbishop Cranmer, and his successors, part of whose possessions they remain at this time.

The lessees of this parsonage seem to have been the same as of the demesnes of the manor mentioned before. The present lessee is Richard Hulse, esq. The

/y See Ducarel's Repertory, p. 27.

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vicarage of the church of Apledore, with the parochial church or chapel of Ebeney annexed, of which the archbishop is patron, is valued in the king's books at twenty-one pounds, and the yearly tenths at two pounds. In 1640 it was valued at one hundred pounds. Communicants in Apledore one hundred and fifty, in Ebeney eighty./z

The lessee of the rectory has been paid, time out of mind, four shillings per acre for wheat, and two shillings per acre for Lent corn, in lieu of all rectorial tithes. The vicar receives six-pence per acre for all uplands, and twelve-pence an acre for all moor-lands in the parish, whether sowed or not, which is supposed to be in lieu of all vicarial tithes, and to comprehend the tithe of hay likewise.

Among the Lambeth archives are several litigations concerning tithes, between this church and those of Bruckland, Snargate, and Kenardington; and a composition between the abbot and convent of St. Augustine, and the prior and convent of St. Martin, concern-

ing tithes of lands in Horingbroke and Sherle, anno 1247. See Ducarel's Repertory, p. 29.

CHURCH OF APLEDORE, with the CHAPEL OF EBENEY annexed.

PATRONS,
Or by whom presented. VICARS.

The Archbishop. John Walsall, S. T. P. March 5, 1590, resigned 1608./a
Samuel Walsall, S. T. B. Feb. 8, 1608, resigned 1611./b
Robert Newman, S. T. P. Feb. 1, 1611, obt. 1612.

/z See Augtn. office, deeds of purchase and exchange, box D. 75.

/a Prebendary of Chichester, one of the Six Preachers in Canterbury cathedral, and rector of Easling, and died in 1617. Lel. Coll. vol. v. p. 210.

/b Son of the former. He afterwards commenced S. T. P. was rector of Wilburgham Parva, in Cambridge-shire, and master of Benet college in 1617. Lel. Coll. ibid.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

The Archbishop. Richard Sheldon, S. T. P. Nov. 27, 1612./c

John Richards, in 1646.

John Vaughan, in 1655./d

The King. Francis Drayton, Jan. 17, 1660, obt. 1697./e

The Archbishop. John Johnson, A. M. 1697, obt. Dec. 15, 1725./f

Joseph Disney, A. M. April 19, 1726, obt. August 3, 1777./g

Richard Podmore, LL. B. Dec. 3, 1777, the present vicar./h

/c He appears to have continued vicar in 1639. He had been a convert from the church of Rome, and was of the family afterwards possessed of Aldington, in Thurnham, in this county.

/d Buried in this church.

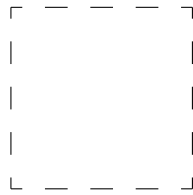
/e Afterwards rector of Wittersham, by dispensation. He died at St. Stephens, near Canterbury, to which he had retired a few years before his death.

/f And vicar of Cranbrooke by dispensation.

/g Likewise vicar of Cranbrooke by dispensation.

/h In 1777 a dispensation passed for his holding this vicarage with that of Cranbrooke.

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THE LATH OF SHIPWAY

IS the next eastward from that of Scray. It is sometimes spelt, though corruptly, Shepway, and is called in the Book of Domesday, Limowart and Linnuart=lest. It is wholly within the division of East Kent,

AND CONTAINS WITHIN ITS BOUNDS THE FOLLOWING HUNDREDS:

1. FELBOROUGH.
2. WYE.
3. CALEHILL.
4. CHART and LONG=BRIDGE.
5. LONINGBOROUGH.
6. FOLKESTONE.
7. HEANE.
8. STOWTING.
9. BIRCHOLT FRANCHISE.
10. STREET.
11. WORTH.
12. NEWCHURCH.
13. HAM.

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14. ALOESBRIDGE.
15. ST MARTINS POUNT=NEY.
16. LANGPORT, and
17. OXNEY.

And likewise the CORPORATIONS of ROMNEY MARSH, FOLKE=STONE, LID, NEW ROMNEY, and HYTHE.

THE FOUR HUNDREDS of Felborough, Wye, Calehill, and Chart and Longbridge, with the township of Ash=ford, were once esteemed part of the Lath of Scray, but they have been long since separated from it, and accounted as part of this lath.

The neutral hundred of Bircholt Barony, so stiled in antient records, from its being exempt from the juris=diction of any lath whatever, being surrounded by those parishes which are included in this lath, will be described in course with those lying adjoining to it.

THE HUNDRED OF FELBOROUGH,

WRITTEN in Domesday, Feleberge and Ferle=berge, lies the next adjoining hundred eastward to that of Faversham.

IT CONTAINS WITHIN ITS BOUNDS THE PARISHES OF

1. CHILHAM.
2. MOLASH.
3. CHARTHAM.
4. GODMERSHAM, and part
of

5. CHALLOCK.

And the churches of those parishes. Two constables have jurisdiction over it.

- - -

CHILHAM

LIES upon the river Stour, about six miles southward from Canterbury. It is called in Domesday, Cilleham; in Saxon, Cyleham; which signifies the cold place; and some think this place was antiently called Julham, or Juliham, i. e. the village or dwelling of

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Julius, in regard to Julius Cæsar, the Roman emperor, who had several conflicts with the Britons in and near it.

THE PARISH of Chilham is situated exceedingly pleasant, in a fine healthy part of the county, about six miles southward from Canterbury, and nine from Ashford, the high road leading through it, a little below which the river Stour runs along the eastern part of the parish, on which there is a corn mill, long known by the name of French Mill, belonging to Mr. Wildman, and on the height above it the noted mount of earth, usually called Julliberries grave. On an eminence, almost adjoining to the opposite or west side of the road, is the village, built mostly on the summit of the hill, round a small forstal, having the church and vicarage, a neat modern built house, on the north side of it, and the antient castle, with the stately mansion and park of Chilham. On the opposite side from which there is a most beautiful view over the spacious Ashford vale, through which the river Stour directs its course; a vale which comprehends within it a most beautiful scene, ornamented with seats, parks, towns, and churches, in the various parts of it, bounded by the majestic tower of Ashford church in front, the fine down hills, the summits of which are well clothed with foliage on one side, and the extended range of Wye and Braborne downs on the other, all together forming a most rich and luxuriant prospect.

The parish is nearly circular, between three and four miles across. The ground in it is very unequal and hilly, the soil of the hills being mostly chalk, and the vales clay. There is some coppice wood in the south west part of it towards Molash, where it becomes, among the hills, which are bold and romantic, a barren and flinty country. About a mile northward from Chilham church is the common, or small heath, called Old Wives lees, over which the branch of the turnpike road goes which leads for the Ashford road above-mentioned to Faversham. Near the lees is Lower

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Emsin, and adjoining the Blean woods. There are about one hundred and twenty houses, and seven hundred and twenty inhabitants in this parish.

The market mentioned to be granted below, has been disused time out of mind, and the fair on the Assumption has likewise been long disused, but there is one held here yearly on Nov. 8, for cattle, &c.

THE MANOR OF SELGRAVE in Faversham, having fallen to Sir Dudley Diggs, by escheat, and being also

purchased by him of the heir of Sir Christopher Cleve, he, by a codicil to his will in 1638, devised it to charitable uses, ordering that it should be let to some tenant, who should pay over and above the quit-rents, twenty pounds per annum; and so soon as that sum should be raised, then that the lord of Faversham, or in his absence, the mayor, with the advice of four of the jurats, and the lord of Chilham, or in his absence, the vicar of Chilham, with the advice of four of the best freeholders, should chuse a young man, and a young maiden, of good conversation, between the ages of sixteen and twenty four; and these two young men and two young maidens, on the 19th of May yearly, should run a tye at Chilham, and the young man and young maid who should prevail, should each of them have ten pounds.

This running is still kept up; several young men and maids run at Old Wives-lees, in this parish, yearly on the first of May, and several others at Sheldwich-lees on the Monday following, by way of trial; and the two which prevail at each of those places run for the above-mentioned ten pounds on Old Wives-lees, on the 19th of May, among a great concourse of the neighbouring gentry and inhabitants, who constantly assemble there on this occasion.^{/i} The late Mr. Heron, as lord of Chilham, endeavoured to put an end to this diversion, but found it out of his power.

^{/l} See vol. vi. of this history, p. 482.

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CAMDEN says, it was the current opinion among the inhabitants, that Julius Cæsar encamped here in his second expedition against the Britons, and that thence this parish acquired its name of Julham, i e. Julius's station, or house; and if he mistook not, they had truth on their side.^{/k} Meaning this to be the place where Cæsar, in his Commentaries, says, that having marched about twelve miles he discovered the Britons, who were advanced to the banks of a river, and begin from a rising ground to oppose the Romans and give them battle; but being repulsed, they retired to a place fortified both by art and nature in an extraordinary manner. Camden surely seems to be mistaken here; for this place is full sixteen statute miles in a direct line from Deal, which is nearly seventeen miles and a quarter by the Roman estimation; too great a difference, we must suppose, for Cæsar to be mistaken in. It is more probable, that this was the place where the Britons, the next day after the attack, which they under the command of Cassivelaun, had made on the Romans, immediately after Cæsar's return from fortifying his camp, had posted themselves, on the hills at some distance from the Roman camp, and harassed from thence their cavalry and attacked their foragers under C. Trebonius, rushing on them so suddenly from all parts, as even to fall in with the legions and their standards. If their post for this purpose was here, the spot of it must have been at Shillingheld wood, where there are large and extensive remains of strong fortifications and entrenchments, and where the Romans afterwards, from the works already made there, and the eligibility of its situation, placed one of their

castra stativa, or more lasting encampments, to which probably the scite, where the antient castle of Chilham stands, might be an exploratory fort.

/k Camd. Brit. p. 238. Lamb. Peramb. p 306.

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In the conflict before-mentioned between the Romans and Britons, Quintus Laberius Durus, the tribune, was slain, and is supposed to have been buried under the long barrow of earth upon the chalk-hill, close on the south-east side of the river here, near French Mill, almost midway between Swerdling-downs and Shillingheld, and declining towards the latter. This is now vulgarly called Julliberries grave, and is supposed to take its name from him, and to be a corruption from the words Jul. Laber. or Julii Laberius, i. e. the grave of Julius's tribune Laberius. It is in its present state, from north to south, one hundred and forty-eight feet, and in breadth forty-five feet. At the north end it has been cut away to dig for chalk, and has been reduced perhaps forty or fifty feet, or more. Archdeacon Battely, in his *Antiq. Rutup.* says, it was more than one hundred and eighty feet long, more than forty broad, high seven or eight, rising to the summit in like shape as our present graves, and placed in length east and west, and differing from them only in size. Heneage, earl of Winchelsea, a nobleman curious and well versed in the knowledge of antiquities, searched by digging into this barrow, but found nothing to ascertain its origin, whether it was Roman or Saxon, whether it belonged to Laberius, or Cilla, from whom this village is by some supposed to take its name.

The present keep or castle of Chilham has not the least remains of Roman antiquity visible in or about it. The construction of the whole is plainly Norman, composed of flint, chalk, and much asheler Caen stone mixed with them. It is of an octagon form, with a square building on the east side, in which is a wooden circular staircase. It is three stories high, the uppermost of which seems to have had the grandest apartments on it; but there are no door-ways, arches, windows, or pillars left of its time of building, to form any judgment of its original state; the ivy, with which it is venerably covered, and the modern uses it

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has been altered and fitted up to, having disguised and altered every part of it. There are two wells in it, one filled up with rubbish, the other now used for the supply of the mansion. The whole area within the ditches is eight acres, and is of an oval shape. The keep or castle stands close to the north-west side of it, on an eminence, below which the ditch is very deep, and the side of it almost perpendicular. From the top of the castle there is an extensive view of the country for many miles round, excepting towards the south-west, where the adjoining hills rise much above it.

CHILHAM was of eminent account in the earliest times, and from its situation was most probably, in the time of the antient Britons, fortified, and held by them as a place of strength against the Romans, who had several encounters in and near it with them; and af=

terwards, when that nation had gained a more permanent footing in this island, was more strongly fortified by them, and made use of as one of their castra stativa, or more lasting encampments; and many Roman remains have been from time to time discovered in it, in the spot where the present mansion of the castle now stands, with the plain appearance of a much more ancient building under the foundations of it. This appeared when Sir Dudley Digges pulled down the old mansion of Chilham, and dug the foundations deeper for the present house, when the basis of a much more ancient building was discovered, and many culinary vessels of the Romans were found at a considerable depth. After the Romans had deserted Britain, the Saxon chiefs seem to have kept possession of it, and to have had a fortress or castle on or just by the scite of the present one; and in the time of the heptarchy, Wided, king of Kent, who reigned at the latter end of the 7th century, resided at it, and made it a place of

/I An engraving of the ichnography of it is added to this volume.

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much greater strength and defence; and Bede notices that the villæ regiæ of the Saxons were mostly placed upon or near the places where the Romans had before made their stations and principal fortified encampments. After which, as this kingdom made but an inconsiderable figure, historians have made little mention of the several princes who reigned, or their transactions in it, so that there is no following account of this place till the invasion of the Danes, who in one of their incursions, probably in either the year 838 or 851, in both which they took and plundered Canterbury, sacked and demolished this castle, which seems after this to have remained desolate till the time of the Conqueror; though the scite and domains belonging to it appear by the record of Domesday to have been, in the reign of king Edward the Confessor, in the possession of Sired de Cilleham, a noble Saxon, who had large possessions in different parts of this county, and was in the battle of Hastings, on the side of king Harold, by which he forfeited this estate to the Conqueror, who soon afterwards granted it to his half-brother Odo, bishop of Baieux, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the book of Domesday:

In Feleberge hundred, Fulbert holds of the bishop, Cilleham. It was taxed at five sulings. The arable land is twenty carucates. In demesne there are two carucates, and thirty eight villeins, with twelve cottagers having twelve carucates. There is a church, and six mills and an half, of six pounds and eight shillings, and two fisheries of seventeen pence, and pasture of eighteen shillings and seven pence.

In Canterbury city there are thirteen houses belonging to this manor, paying fifteen shillings, and nine acres of meadow. Wood sufficient for the pannage of twenty hogs.

In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was valued at forty pounds, and afterwards at thirty pounds and forty shillings. Sired held it of king Edward.

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Four years after which, on the bishop's disgrace, Chilham, among the rest of his possessions, became forfeited to the crown. After which this place was given to Fulbert, the former tenant of it before-mentioned, and with other lands then granted to him, made up together the barony of Fulbert, or Fobert, as it was vulgarly called from him, being held of the king in capite by barony, the tenant of them being bound by his tenure to maintain a certain number of soldiers from time to time for the defence of Dover castle, on which account he took the name of De Dover, making Chilham the caput baroniæ, or chief seat of this barony, thence called THE HONOR OF CHILHAM, /m on which the other manors which comprehended it were dependant, which word honor, in antient times, usually signified the lordship or fee of an earl or baron, and in process of time, honor and barony came to be used as words of the same import; so that what is said of an honor, is also to be understood of a barony created by the king himself, the chief lord of the whole realm, and could be holden immediately of no other lord. He died in the reign of king Henry I. His descendant Robert de Dover, died, as it seems, before the 6th year of king John's reign, possessed of this castle and honor, and was succeeded by Roese his daughter and heir, during whose time that king came and resided at Chilham castle, in order to treat of a reconciliation with archbishop Langton. She married first Richard, son of Roger de Chilham, afterwards called Richard de Dover; secondly, Richard le Fitzroy, natural son of king John, and lastly, William de Wilton. By inquisition taken after her death, anno 56 Henry III. she was found to die possessed of the manors of Chilham, Northwood, Kingston, and Rudelingweald, all belonging to the barony of Chilham, to which barony

/m See Lamb. Peramb. from pat. anno 15 Johan. p. 1, m. 8.

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were appendant the five churches of Rudelingweald, Kingston, Northwood, Charlton, and Hothfield, in this county. Richard de Dover, her son, died afterwards s. p. and John, earl of Asceles, or Athol, in Scotland, son of Isabel his sister, by David de Strabogie, earl of Athol, was found to be his heir; though her second husband Alexander Baliol, in her right, took possession of this castle and manor, which by the courtesy of England he held during his life. She died at Chilham in 1292, and was buried in the undercroft of the cathedral of Canterbury, where her monument yet remains, with her effigies lying at full length on it, and three shields of arms, two of them, three cinquefoils, two and one; and the other, the arms of the Isle of Man. He died in 1305, anno 34 king Edward I. and it appears that he had summons to parliament among the barons of this realm on his possession of this barony, and in right of it, as he had several times afterwards, the writs being directed, Alex. de Balliolo Dno de Chilham. /n And in the 19th year of the above reign, he and his wife Isabel, obtained a grant of a market here, on a Tuesday weekly, and a fair on the Assumption of the blessed Virgin

Mary.

John, earl of Athol, above-mentioned, having been guilty of several acts of treason in the wars of Scotland, against king Edward I. was in the 34th year of that reign, hanged at London, and in order to make his punishment exemplary and public, in proportion to the greatness of his birth, he was hanged upon a gallows fifty feet high, and taken down when half dead, and beheaded, and his body thrown into the fire; a punishment so inhuman, as rarely to be practised in this kingdom, and his lands were confiscated

See Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 462. 525. Rymer, tom. ii. p. 74, 248, 343.

Camden, p. 238. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 95.

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to the crown, where this castle and manor staid till king Edward II. in his 5th year, granted the fee of it, together with the hundred of Felebergh, among other lands, to Bartholomew de Badlesmere, who, from his greatness and possessions was stiled, the rich lord Badlesmere of Ledes; but in the 15th year of that reign, having joined with the discontented barons, and refusing queen Isabel entrance into his castle of Leeds, his lands were seized, and he himself, being soon afterwards taken, was executed. Upon which the king, in regard of the eminent services of David de Strabolgie, son of John, earl of Athol, before-mentioned, granted him that year, being his 15th, for the term of his life, the castle, manor, and honor of Chilham, part of the possessions of Isabel de Dover his grandmother; and on his being restored to the possession of this honor, he was frequently summoned among the barons of this realm, by reason of it, to parliament. On his death, anno 1 Edward III. they reverted again to the crown, whence they were granted the next year, to Giles de Badlesmere, son of Bartholomew above-mentioned, the process and judgment against his father having been reversed, and two years afterwards he had a grant of free-warren in all his demesne lands here and elsewhere, and a confirmation of the grant of the market and fair in his manor of Chileham. He died s. p. in the 12th year of that reign, leaving his four sisters his coheirs; and upon the division of their inheritance, Margery, the wife of William, lord Roos, of Hamlake, had this castle and manor, among others, assigned to her for her share of it. At length his descendant Thomas, lord Roos, afterwards becoming a firm friend to the house of Lancaster, was attainted anno 1 Edward IV. and this castle and manor, among the rest of his estates, became confiscated to the crown, where it did not re-

See Dugd. Summ. to Parliament, Preface.

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main long, for the king that year granted it to Sir John Scott, of Scotts-hall, one of his privy-council, for the term of his life, who in the 16th year of that reign, had a confirmation of the market and free-warren, and in the 22nd and 23rd year of it he had an exemplification of all the various liberties in Chilham and Whitstaple. He died in 1485, anno 3 king Ri-

chard III. and then it again returned to the crown, where it seems to have continued till it was granted by king Henry VIII. to Thomas Manners, lord Roos, afterwards created earl of Rutland, who in the 30th year of that reign conveyed it back again, by sale, to that king, by the description of the honour, castle, lordship, and manor of Chylham, with all its rights, members, and appurtenances, /q all which the king, in his 32d year, granted to Sir Thomas Chene, treasurer of his houshold and warden of the five ports, to hold to him and his heirs male in capite, by knight's service; and in the 4th year of Edward VI. he had a grant from the king of the same, to him and his heirs, by the like tenure. He resided here during the former reign, having added much to the grandeur of the buildings, but afterwards preferring his manor of Shurland, in the Isle of Shepey, for his future residence, he pulled down the greatest part of this seat of Chilham, and removing the materials to Shurland, completed a noble mansion there, at which he resided afterwards; and Lambarde, in his Perambulation, says, that in Leland's time, (who died in 1552) the building here at Chilham was not only commodious for use and beautiful for pleasure, but strong for defence and resistance, and continued so till the materials were removed to Shurland. His only son Henry, afterwards knighted and created lord Cheney, of Tuddington, anno 3 Elizabeth, levied a fine of all his lands, and in the 10th year of it sold this castle and manor to Sir Thomas Kempe, of Wye, whose son

/q Augtn. off. deeds of purchase and exchange, box A. 35.

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of the same name, of Ollantigh, leaving four daughters his coheirs, Anne, married to Sir John Cutts; Dorothy, to Sir Thomas Chicheley; Mary, to Sir Dudley Diggs, and Amy, to Sir Henry Skipwith; they, in right of their wives, became entitled jointly to this estate, and the three others soon afterwards conveying their respective shares, Sir Dudley Diggs and his lady became possessed of the entire fee of it.

Sir Dudley Diggs pulled down the antient mansion of Chilham, and on entire new foundations began to erect the present magnificent structure, which seems to have been finished for his residence about the year 1616. He succeeded in 1637, to the office of master of the rolls, and dying here in 1638, was buried in the church of Chilham. He was descended from Roger de Mildenhall dictus Digge, who lived in the reign of king John, whose son John Digge lived in the reigns of king Henry III. and Edward I. and having founded the house of the Friars Minors, in Canterbury, lies buried there, bearing for his arms, Gules, on a cross, argent, five eagles displayed, sable. James Digges, his descendant, marrying two wives, his issue by his first, succeeded to the family possessions and seat of Diggescourt, in Barham, under the description of which a further account of them may be seen; by his second wife he had one son Leonard Digge, the famous mathematician in the reigns of king Edward VI. and queen Mary, whose grandson was Sir Dudley Digges above-mentioned, a man of eminent abilities, and author of several political discourses, whose character is well

drawn up in his life, printed among the Oxford writers in Wood's Ath. Oxon. in which he says, after many encomiums on his public and private virtues, that the wisest men reckoned his death among the public calamities of those times. He left several sons

/r Vol. i. col. 618. See his speeches in parliament among the Harleian MSS.

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and daughters, of whom Thomas Digges, esq. the eldest son, succeeded him here, and in the 1st year of king James I. levied a fine of the barony of Fobert, otherwise called the honor and castle of Chilham, with appurtenances, and of the manors of Chilham, Herst, and Juvenis, alias Young. He died in 1687, leaving several children, of whom Sir Maurice Digges, the eldest son, was created a baronet in 1665, who died s. p. in 1666, in his father's life-time, as did his other sons, s. p. all but Leonard the youngest, who remained at his father's death the only surviving son and heir, and afterwards resided at Chilham castle, of which he died possessed in 1717. John Digges, esq. his eldest son, possessed this estate, and dying s. p. in 1710, was succeeded in it by Col. Thomas Digges, his brother and heir, who in 1724, conveyed the honour, manor, and castle of Chilham, with its appurtenances, and the several manors, lands, and premises possessed by him in this and the adjoining parishes, to Mr. James Colebrooke, of London, who died possessed of them in 1752. He left three sons, the eldest son, Robert Colebrooke, esq. married first Henrietta, eldest daughter of lord Harry Powlet, since duke of Bolton, who died s. p. and secondly, Elizabeth Thresher, who is still surviving, but s. p. He died in France in 1784, and was deposited in the family mausoleum adjoining to Chilham church. James, the second son, left two daughters his coheirs; Mary, married to John Aubrey, esq. and Emma, to Charles, earl of Tankerville. He was first knighted in 1759, and that year created a baronet, with remainder to his brother George, late an eminent banker, who on his death in 1761, succeeded to the title of baronet, and became chairman of the East-India company, and is still surviving. Robert Colebrooke, esq. the eldest son, succeeded him here, and resided at Chilham castle, which, together with the honour, manor, and castle, and the several other estates purchased by his father, as above-mentioned, he alie-

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nated in 1775, under the authority of an act of parliament, to Thomas Heron, esq. of Newark upon Trent, who was heir male of the Herons, of Bokenfield, in Northumberland, of that family, which held the land-barony of Heron by antient feoffment, and of the family of the Herons, of Ford-castle, who were barons by summons. He was the son of Robert Heron, the son of John and Jane Crayle, who died at Newark in 1753, and was buried at Westborough, near Newark, leaving four sons and two daughters. Of the sons, John died at Villeneuve St. George, near Paris, in 1753, leaving only two daughters; Thomas was the next eldest surviving son, and the purchaser of Chilham castle,

who had by Anne his late wife (eldest daughter of Sir Edward Wilmot, bart.) one son Robert, of Lincolnshire, who married Amelia, second daughter of Sir Horace Mann, bart. and two daughters, Anne and Elizabeth. Robert was rector of Shawell, in Leicestershire, and vicar of Basingthorpe, in Lincolnshire; and the youngest son Richard, being in 1777 appointed principal-secretary to the earl of Buckinghamshire, lord-lieutenant of Ireland, was sworn of his Majesty's privy council in that kingdom, and in 1778 was created a baronet of Great-Britain, with remainder to Thomas Heron his brother, and his heirs male. They bear for their arms, Gules, three herons, argent./s Mr. Heron afterwards resided at Chilham castle, to which he made considerable additions and improvements, and afterwards in 1792, conveyed this seat, with the estate belonging to it, to Thomas Wildman, esq. who is the present possessor of it, and now resides at Chilham castle.

/s A continuation of his pedigree from the Herons of Bokenfeld; the original whereof, signed by Robert Heron the father, is now remaining in the Herald's office, book 3d, D. 14, p. 95 and 96. And in 1771 his sons, the above-named Thomas, Robert, and Richard, entered in the College of Arms, a continuation of their pedigree; the original of which, signed by them, is now in that office, in book marked 6th, D. 14, p. 83, 84.

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A court leet and court baron is held for the manor of Chilham; at which the several rents due from the denberries in the Weald are likewise collected, the tenants holding them in soccage tenure. The manors and lands now held of the honour of Chilham by knight's service, are the manors of Huntingfield, Shillinghelde, Kyngeston, Denton, Estewer, Herste, Luddenham, Wetherlings, Northecourt, Colebridge, Tapington, Dyvynne, Placy, Yonge, Much Hougham, Little Hougham, Goddislande, Sibberston, and Maxton. The royalty of it, on the river Stour, extends from Shalmsford bridge to the bounds of Godmersham parish.

THE MANOR OF YOUNGS, called in antient Latin records Juvenis, alias Young, the house of which is situated a little more than a mile south-westward from the church, was part of those lands granted to Fulbert de Dover, for the defence of Dover castle, as has been already mentioned, and made up together the barony of Fobert. Of him this manor was again held of that barony by knight's service, by owners who seem to have given name to it. William Juvenis, alias Yonge, held it by the above tenure, as did his descendant Richard Juvenis afterwards in the reign of king John. After this name was extinct here, this manor came into the possession of the Everings, one of whom, Thomas Evering, held it in the reign of Edward III. Soon after which the family of Beverley, seated first at Harbledown, and afterwards at Fordwich, became owners of it. In which name this manor continued till at length it was alienated by George Beverley, in the 4th and 5th years of Philip and Mary, to Robert Barley, in whose descendants it continued till about the middle of queen Elizabeth's reign, when it was sold to Fleet, descended from those of Fleet, in the Isle of

Thanet, who quickly afterwards passed it away to

/t Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 14, 15.

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Shepherd, whose descendant Richard Shepherd, clerk, died possessed of it about 1638, leaving two daughters, Mary and Ruth, his coheirs, who became entitled to it in undivided moieties./u Ruth, the youngest, having married John Browne, they joined in the sale of their share of it to Anthony Hammond, esq. of St. Albans, who afterwards resided here, having married Anne, daughter of Sir Dudley Digges, by whom he had several children christened at Chilham whilst he resided at this manor-house, which at that time was a large mansion, though now reduced to a farm-house. Mary, the eldest coheir, afterwards dying unmarried, John Browne above-mentioned succeeded, in right of his wife, to her moiety of it, and he and Mr. Hammond became joint possessors of it, and afterwards, about the year 1653, joined in the sale of it to Thomas Digges, esq. Since which it has continued in the same owners that the honour of Chilham has, and as such is now the property of Thomas Wildman, esq. of Chilham castle. A court baron is held for this manor.

HERST is a manor here, situated on the south-east side of the Ashford road, adjoining to the manor of Esture and Godmersham, which was likewise part of those lands granted to Fulbert de Dover, and made up part of his barony, as before-mentioned, of which it was held by knight's service, by a family who took their name from it. John de Herste held this manor in the 2d year of king John, as did his descendant Hamo de Herste in the reign of Edward II. and in the 20th year of Edward III. on the aid then levied, the heirs of John de Herste were charged for it, as being held by knight's service, as of the castle of Chilham. How long this name continued here I do not find; but the next owners that I meet with, were the Darells,

/u Court rolls of Chilham, from which most of the following account is taken.

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and in the 30th year of Henry VIII. Thomas Darell, esq. of Scotney, held this manor of the honour of Chilham. His son Thomas Darell, esq. alienated it to Philip Chute, esq. whose son Thomas, before the middle of queen Elizabeth's reign, alienated it to Sir Thomas Kempe, of Wye; who likewise purchased the honour and castle of Chilham. Since which the manor of Herste has continued in the same succession of ownership with it, and is now as such the property of Thomas Wildman, esq.

There was a small turret in Dover castle, adjoining to Caldercotts tower, which belonged to the owners of this manor to defend and repair.

ESTURE, vulgarly called Estower and Estuart, so called from its situation on the river Stour or Sture, is a manor in the south part of this parish, adjoining to Godmersham, which was likewise another part of those lands given to Fulbert de Dover, and became part of his barony of Chilham, or Fobert, as it was

afterwards called from him, of which it was held again by knight's service, by a family of its own name. Stephen de Esture held it in the reign of king John, as did his descendant John de Esture, who lived here in the reigns of king Henry III. and Edward I. as appears by several antient deeds, without date, belonging to it. At length John de Esture leaving an only daughter and heir, she carried it in marriage to Thomas de Valoyns, who, in right of his wife, paid aid for it, in the 20th year of Edward III. being held as of this castle of Chilham. Soon after which it came into the possession of the family of Apulderfield, of Otterpley, in Challock, a younger branch of those of Badmangore, in Linsted, in which it continued till by a female heir Isabel it went in marriage to John Idelegh, whose descendant William Idelegh leaving likewise an only daughter and heir Agnes, she entitled her husband Christopher Ellenden, owner of Ellen=den, in Seasalter and Bleane, to it, and from him this

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manor descended to Thomas Ellenden, whose daughter and heir Mary, about the reign of Henry VIII. marrying Edward Thwayts, he became in her right possessed of it, and in the 31st year of that reign had his lands disgavelled, by the act then passed for that purpose. He died anno 4 Edward VI. and his grandson Thomas Thwayts, whose name is spelt Twayts, alias Twatts, in the escheat rolls, anno 7 Elizabeth; the arms of whose family were formerly in the windows of this church, being Argent, a cross, sable, fretty, argent; quartered with Sable, a lion, rampant, crowned, or, sold this manor, about the middle of that reign to George Moreton, esq. who resided here, being descended from those of Milborne St. Andrews, in Dorsetshire. George Moreton above-mentioned, had three sons; Sir Robert, the eldest, was a captain in the Netherlands, and possessed this manor, where he afterwards resided, and lies buried in Chilham church, as does Anne his wife, daughter of Sir Henry Finch, and sister of John, lord Fordwich, by whom he had two sons, George and Albert, and a daughter Mary, who all died s. p. She was the widow of Levin Palmer, son and heir of Sir Henry Palmer, of Howletts. Sir Thomas, the second son, was a colonel in the army, and left a son Thomas; and Sir Albert, the third, was secretary of state to king Charles II. and married Elizabeth Apsley, by whom he had no issue. /w They bore for their arms, Quarterly, gules and ermine; in the dexter, chief and sinister, base, each a goat's head erased, argent, attired, or. Sir Robert Moreton, of Esture, the eldest son, died in 1637, and was succeeded by his son George Moreton, esq. who, about the year 1642, alienated this manor to Sir Nathaniel Finch, king's serjeant-at-law, who bore the same arms as the Finch's, of Eastwell, as appears by them in the

/w Aubrey's Antiquities of Surry, vol. i. p. 39, and pedigree of Moreton in Herald's office.

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windows of Grays Inn hall, under which he is stiled serjeant to queen Henrietta Maria. He was suc=

ceeded in it by his kinsman John, lord Finch, baron of Fordwich, who died possessed of it in 1661, s. p. leaving his widow Mabella, daughter of Sir Charles Fotherby, dean of Canterbury, surviving, who afterwards by his will became possessed of this manor for her life. She died in 1669, and on her death it came, by the lord Finch's will, to Anne, lady Morgan, his niece, on whose death it came by his entail of it to his niece Elizabeth, wife of Sir Thomas Modyford, knight and baronet, late governor of Jamaica, who bore for his arms, Ermine, on a bend, azure, a mullet, argent, between two garbs, or; and he in her right became entitled to it, and dying about the year 1692, it descended to his son, of the same name, and on his death, by the limitations in lord Finch's will, to Anne Modyford, Mary and Richard Oldfield, and William and Charles Bowles, who about the year 1734 alienated it to Thomas May, esq. of Godmersham, who afterwards took the name of Knight, and died possessed of it in 1781, as did his only son and heir Thomas Knight, esq. of Godmersham, in 1794, and his widow Mrs. Catherine Knight, now of the White Friars, in Canterbury, is the present owner of it.

OLD WIVES LEES is a manor situated in this parish, on the south side of the leas, about a mile eastward from the church. It is now usually called Oldlees, but its more antient and true name was Oldwoods-lees, as appears by various deeds belonging to it, some of which are very antient and without date, and was so called from a family of that name, who continued owners of it till the reign of Henry VI. when the daughter and heir of John Oldwood carried it in marriage to Payne, in whose descendants it continued down to William Payn, who resided here, and dying in 1594, lies buried in this church, bearing

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for his arms, Parted per saltier, sable, and argent, a lion rampant, counterchanged. He left four daughters his coheirs, and upon the division of his estates among them, this manor was allotted to Mary the eldest, as the seat of her father, then married to Mr. Thomas Cobbe, the son of Martin Cobbe, of Limne, fourth son of Thomas Cobbe, of Aldington, in Henry VIII.'s reign, who in her right became possessed of it, and afterwards resided here; and in his descendants, who most of them lie buried in this church, it continued down to Mr. Thomas Cobbe, of Chilham, who alienated it in the beginning of this century to Thomas Belke, D. D. who died possessed of it in 1712, and by his will devised this estate, among others, to his niece Mary, daughter of his brother Anthony, who in 1713 married Mr. Bryan Bentham, gent. of Chatham, whose eldest son Edward afterwards became possessed of it, and in 1772 conveyed it by sale to John Garlin Hatch, of Deal, afterwards of Canterbury, who in 1776 alienated this manor to Thomas Heron, esq. of Chilham castle, as he again did to Thomas Wildman, esq. the present owner of it.

DINGLEY, alias BORELAND, is a small manor, situated in the borough of Boreland, in this parish, the house of it lying about three-quarters of a mile north-

east from the church, which in the reign of king Henry VIII. was in the possession of Sir Matthew Brown, whose son Sir Anthony appears by the king's receiver's roll, in the Augmentation-office, to have been possessed of it in the 30th year of that reign./z After this name was extinct here, it came into the possession of Austen, one of which name, Matthew Austen, died possessed of it about the year 1640; it

/x See pedigree of Payne, Visitation co. Kent, 1619.

/y See more of them, vol. vi. of this history, p. 491.

/z The account of this manor is taken from the court-rolls of that manor.

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afterwards descended down to Thomas Austen, who in 1681 alienated it to Sir John Fagg, bart. who at his death devised it to his second son Charles Fagg, esq. whose great-grandson the Rev. Sir John Fagg, bart. of Chartham, is the present possessor of it.

ENSINGE, otherwise Lower Ensinge, is another small manor here, situated within the borough of Northerne, the house being about a mile and a quarter north-east from the church, which was formerly in the possession of a family of the name of Ensinge, one of whom, Robert Ensinge, in the 30th year of Henry VIII. was in possession of it, and then held it by knight's service of the manor of Chilham, and in one of the windows of Chilham church were formerly the arms of Ensing, Sable, three swords erect, two and one, argent, pomels, or. After this it came into the family of Petit, in which it continued till about the year 1640, when it became divided into moieties, one of which continued in the name of Petit, whence it came to Belke, in which it remained till Anne Belke, widow, at her death in 1734, devised her interest in it by will to her relation Mrs. Elizabeth Master, widow, who in 1744 purchased of Richard Grant the other moiety, and then became possessed of the entire fee of it. She died about the year 1759, and by her last will devised this manor, with the lands belonging to it, to Sir Henry Oxenden, bart. the present owner of it.

SHILLINGHELD is a manor here, situated about a mile north-westward from the church, adjoining to Selling, and was once of eminent account, though now almost sunk into obscurity. The mansion of it stood, for there hath not been any remains of one left time out of mind, in the wood still known by the name of Shillingheld wood, being part of a farm called Stone-style, in Selling. In this wood there still appear among the various intrenchments thrown up in and

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about it, evident marks of large buildings having once been erected in it.

It was part of those lands granted to Fulhert de Dover, for the defence of Dover-castle, as has been mentioned before, and made parcel of his barony of Chilham, called likewise from him the barony of Fobert; of which it was held again by knight's service, by owners who took their surname from it. John de Shyllyngheld held it in the reign of king John, as did

his descendant Guido de Shillyngheld in that of king Edward II. and on the aid levied in the 20th year of Edward III. his heirs paid aid for it. After which it came into the possession of John Clerke, who held it, as appears by the escheat-rolls, at his death in the 41st year of that reign; but soon after that Edmund Mortimer, earl of March, was become possessed of it; and he died possessed of it in the 5th year of king Richard II. when it was found by inquisition that he held it of the king in capite as of his castle of Dover. His two grandsons, Edmund and Roger, both died s. p. and by the inquisition taken after the death of the latter, anno 3 Henry VI. he was found to die possessed of this manor, and that Richard, duke of York, son of Anne his sister, was his next heir. He succeeded accordingly to this manor. But he was slain anno 39 Henry VI. in the battle of Wakefield, fought against the house of Lancaster; and yet the inquisition after his death, by reason of the confusion of those times, was not taken till the 3d year of king Edward IV. when the king was found to be his eldest son and next heir; a in which the duke is said to have died possessed of this manor, which in fact was not so; for the year before his death, a long attainder had passed against him, and others, with the forfeiture of all their hereditaments. About the middle of king Edward IV.'s reign, Cicely, duchess of York, his wi=

/a See more of the Mortimers, vol. ii. of this history, p. 225.

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dow, the king's mother, seems to have come into the possession of this manor, of which she died possessed anno 10 king Henry VII. and it remained in the hands of the crown till king Henry VIII. granted it in his 29th year to Thomas Hawkins, esq. of Boughton, and he had again in the 35th year of that reign new letters patent of it, to hold of the king in socage. Since which it has continued in his descendants to the present time, Thomas Hawkins, esq. of Nash, in Boughton, being now owner of it, as well as of the adjoining farm of Stone-style, in Selling.

DANE, usually called Dane court, is a manor in this parish, situated about three quarters of a mile westward from Chilham church. It was antiently the patrimony of Thomas de Garwinton, of Welle, in Littleborne, and he held it, as appears by antient court-rolls, in the reigns of king Edward I. and II. His great-grandchild William Garwinton, of Welle, dying s. p. in the 11th year of Henry IV. Joane Garwinton was found by inquisition to be his cousin and next of kin, and she having married Richard Haut, a younger branch of those of Bourne, he, in her right became entitled to it. His son Richard lived in the reign of Henry VII. and left an only daughter and heir Margerie, who carried it in marriage to William Isaak, whose descendant, Edward Isaak, in the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign, alienated this manor to Mr. Edward Hales, the third son of Edward Hales, esq. of Tenterden, who, as appears by a date now remaining on this house, rebuilt it in 1580, and resided in it. He died in 1586, and was buried in this church. His son Edward resided at Faversham, where he died

in 1634, leaving his four sons, Edward, Thomas, James, and John, his coheirs in gavelkind, who in 1635 conveyed this manor, with its appurtenances, to Robert Dixon, of Chilham, yeoman, and he in 1650 conveyed it to Robert Sprakeling, gent. of Boughton Aluph, descended from those of St. Laurence, in the

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Isle of Thanet, being of a younger branch of them. In whose descendants it continued down to Robert Sprakeling, gent. who in 1743 conveyed it to James Colebrooke, esq. of Chilham-castle, after which it passed, in like manner with the honor of Chilham, to Thomas Heron, esq. who sold it to Thomas Wildman, esq. the present possessor of it.

DENNE is a manor which lies at the north west extremity of this parish, and seems to have had the same owners formerly that the above-described manor of Dane had, and continued so till Robert Dixon, owner likewise of that manor, alienated it to Clement, whose descendant Richard Clement, gent. devised the manor of Denne by his will, about the year 1736, to his daughter Catherine, Wife of Bryan Taylor, gent. after whose death it was, in 1785, conveyed by sale, under a decree of the court of chancery, to Cyprian Rondeau Bunce, gent. of Canterbury, who afterwards alienated the same to Mr. James Finch, of that city, the present owner of it. A court baron is held for this manor.

CHARITIES.

HENRY PEMBLE, gent. of Chilham, by will in 1599, gave to the poor 10l. with which was purchased a piece of land, containing an acre and an half, in Chilham, which was conveyed in trust, for the churchwardens to bestow the profits yearly upon poor people, who should dwell in this parish.

WILLIAM FOGGE, gent. of Chilham, by will in 1616, gave to the poor 10l. to be laid out in the purchase of land; which, in consequence of a decree by the commission for charitable uses in 1627, was laid out in the purchase of one acre and an half of land, which was conveyed in trust to the churchwardens, for the use of the poor of this parish.

THOMAS PETIT, ESQ. of St. George's, Canterbury, by his will in 1626, devised 50l. to be disposed of to young married people for ever, the poorest, as near as might be, of each of the four parishes of Chilham, Chartham, the parish where he should die, and Chistlet, to be nominated by the several ministers, churchwardens, and overseers of the poor respectively; and that no controversy might be, how many of each parish should be appointed, he willed, that the commissary, or official of the diocese of Canterbury, should from time to time direct how many poor

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couples of young married people of each of the parishes respectively should enjoy this gift; and he ordered that when the trustees originally named, should be reduced to five, they were to convey this land to other feoffees, of this parish, so that there should always be ten feoffees.

SIR DUDLEY DIGGS, by a codicil to his will in 1638, charged his lands in Chilham with 20l. per annum, to be paid every 25th of March, to the churchwardens, for the yearly repair of the little burying-place he had then built; and that then on the 19th of May, they should give to the young men

of Chilham, who should ring a peal in remembrance of him, 20s. for their dinner; which done, whatever should be left, should be distributed between 20 poor men, 20 poor women, and 20 poor children of Chilham, as took no allowance from the common purse; to be nominated by the advice of the lord of the manor, the vicar of the church for the time being, and the steward of the court, or some one of them.

The churchwardens and overseers of the poor of this parish, for the sum of 50l. purchased one parcel of land, called Badlesmere land, in Selling, containing five acres; and another piece, called Womens knole, in Chilham, containing two acres, to the use of the poor of this parish for ever.

A FIELD in Chilham, containing one acre and a quarter, belongs to this parish; but by whom given, or to what use, is unknown.

JOHN FINN, in 1702, sold to the churchwardens all his interest for several long terms of years, in a house and orchard, containing half an acre, in trust for this parish, for the relief of the poor of it. After which, the house becoming so decayed and ruinous, as to be no longer in a condition to be supported, the parishioners rebuilt it at a considerable expence, and kept their poor in it till 1736, when James Colebrooke, esq. of Chilham castle, in consideration of the terms and premises being assigned to him, conveyed to trustees, for the use of the parish, a piece of ground, situated near Burgoine lane, in this parish, on which he had erected for this purpose, a range of buildings, containing eight rooms or different dwelling for the poor of it to dwell in, and to be disposed of from time to time afterwards, in like manner as the other house and land was directed to be disposed of.

LEWIS GOLD, who lived servant with Robert Colebrooke, esq. at Chilham castle, by his will in 1785, gave to this parish 20l. to be laid out at interest for the benefit of the poor of it for ever.

The poor constantly relieved are about fifty, casually forty.

CHILHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Bridge.

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The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a handsome building, consisting of a body and two isles, all covered with lead, and a high chancel, with two chapels, one of which is dedicated to St. Anne, on the south side; there was a chantry on the north side, now pulled down, with a transept, all covered with tile. It has a tower steeple at the west end, on one corner of which is a beacon turret, which till of late was covered with a small spire. There are six bells and a clock in it. The steeple was built about the year 1534, as appears by a legacy towards the building of it. In the chancel is a monument for Margaret, sister of Sir D. Digges, wife of Sir Anthony Palmer, K. B. obt. 1619. He lies buried here, within the altar-rails, obt. 1630. A memorial for Anne St. Leger, mother of Sir D. Diggs, obt. 1636, and several memorials for the Fogges. In the body of the church are memorials for the Cumberlands, Paynes, Cobbes, Belkes, and Bates; in the north transept, for Masters, Petits, Spracklyns, and Cobbe; and in the south one for Dixon. There were formerly in the windows the arms of Ensing and

Thawys, as has been already mentioned, and of Ross and Honywood. In the chapel on the south side of the chancel, probably that of St. Anne, is the burial vault built by Sir Dudley Diggs, for himself and family, and referred to by his will, in it many of this family lie buried; and in the chapel is a monument for Mary Kempe, lady Digges, wife of Sir Dudley, with her genealogy and that of Digges, and another for Sir D. Digges himself, 1638; and on the north side, probably where the old chantry above-mentioned was, is a circular mausoleum, with a cupola at top, built by the Colebrooke family for their use.

The church of Chilham was antiently an appendage appurtenant to the honor and manor of Chilham; but so early as the reign of king Stephen it was separated from it, and in the possession of William

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de lpre, who in 1153 gave it to the priory of Throwley, which was confirmed by king Stephen that year./b

This religious house was an alien priory, established as a cell to the Benedictine abbey of St. Bertin, the capital of Artois, in Flanders, from whence a certain number of monks, who were mostly foreigners, and removeable at pleasure, were sent over, with a prior at their head, who were little more than stewards to their superior abbey, to which they returned the revenues of their possessions annually; for which reason, during the wars with France, as their revenues went to support the king's enemies, these kind of houses were generally seized, and restored again upon the return of peace.

In the 8th year of king Richard II. this church of Chilham was valued at forty pounds, at which time it was become appropriated to this cell, and a vicarage was endowed in it. In which situation both parsonage and vicarage remained till the general suppression of the alien priories throughout England, in the 2d year of Henry V. when this of Throwley was, among others, suppressed, and it seems to have remained in the hands of the crown till king Henry VI. in his 22nd year, settled it on the monastery of Sion, founded by his father. With which this church and vicarage continued till the general suppression of religious houses, this of Sion being one of those greater monasteries dissolved by the act of 31 Henry VIII. by which all such, together with their possessions, were given to the king. This parsonage and vicarage thus coming into the hands of the crown, the king in his 32d year, granted the rectory of Chilham, together with the chapel of Molash, and the advowson of the vicarage of the church of Chilham, with all their ap=

/b The charters of this gift and confirmation were till lately in the treasury of the abbey of St. Bertin, as where several others relating to this church.

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purtenances, together with the manor of Chilham, to Sir Thomas Chene, in manner as has been already mentioned;/c whose only son and heir Henry, lord Cheney, of Tuddington, in the 3d year of queen Elizabeth levied a fine of all his lands, and soon after=

wards seems to have alienated a moiety of the parsonage of Chilham, with all the tithes and emoluments belonging to it, arising on the east of the high road leading from Godmersham, through Chilham town to Faversham; and they are now the property of the Rev. Sir John Fagg, bart. The great tithes of the chapel and parish of Molash seem to have been alienated by him at the same time, as will be further mentioned hereafter; but the other moiety and remainder of the parsonage of Chilham, with all the tithes arising in the parish, on the other or west side of the above-mentioned high road, together with the advowson of the vicarage of Chilham, with the appendant chapel of Molash, was alienated by him, together with the honor and castle, in the 10th year of queen Elizabeth, to Sir Thomas Kempe, since which they have passed together in manner as has been more fully mentioned before, in a like succession of ownership down to Thomas Wildman, esq. the present possessor of this part of the parsonage, and parton likewise of the advowson of the church of Chilham.

The vicarage of Chilham, with the chapel of Molash, is valued in the king's books at 13l. 6s. 8d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 6s. 8d. In 1578 here were communications three hundred and fifty-nine. In 1640 it was valued at eighty-nine pounds. Communicants three hundred and seventy-seven. It is now worth two hundred pounds per annum.

IT HAS BEEN mentioned, that there was A CHANTRY on the north side of this church. It was endowed with twenty-two acres of land, as appears by the roll

/c Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 7. Ibid. pt. 1.

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in the Augmentation-office, of 30 Henry VIII. This chantry was dissolved by the act of the 1st year of king Edward VI. The last incumbent of it, John Castelyn, was living anno 1553, and had then a pension of six pounds./d

By the survey of chantries in the above office, taken in the 2d year of king Edward VI. it appears that Robert Pell gave a house and garden in Chilham, on condition that the stipendiary priest there should live in it.

There was in 1349 A CHAPEL in the castle of Chilham, called the free chapel of the blessed Virgin Mary, of which Margery, lady Roos, daughter of Bartholomew, lord Badlesmere, and widow of William, lord Roos de Hamlake, was patroness, and accordingly that year, at her presentation, the see of Canterbury being then vacant, one Osbertus was admitted by the prior and chapter of Christ-church, personally to serve as a perpetual chaplain in it.

CHURCH OF CHILHAM, with the CHAPEL OF MOLASH annexed.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Sir Thomas Kempe. Ezechias Fogg, gent. 1568, obt
Sept. 22, 1622./e

Sir Dudley Diggs. Thomas Jackson, S. T. P. ind
Dec. 17, 1624.

Thomas Diggs, esq. William Belke, A. M. ind. Oct.
21, 1646, resigned.

Sampson Horne, A. M. ejected
1662./f

Robert Cumberland, A. B. ind.
Feb. 2, 1663, obt. March 9,
1711./g

/d Willis's Mitred Abbeys, vol. ii.
p. 104.

/e He lies buried in the chancel, and
is called gentleman on his gravestone.
He is there said to be descended from
the Fogges of Ripton. He was pos=
sessed of estates in this parish, where
his posterity, many of whom lie bu=
ried in this church, continued many
years afterwards.

/f Ejected by the Bartholomew Act.
See Kennet's Chron. and Calamy's
Life of Baxter, p. 286.

/g He lies buried in this church.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Leonard Diggs, esq. Richard Bate, A. B. inducted
Oct. 9, 1711, obt. March 4,
1736./h

James Colebrooke, esq. Wadham Knatchball, LL. B.
ind. March 8, 1739, obt.
Dec. 1760./i

Robert Colebrooke, esq. Philip Francis, A. M. inducted
June 22, 1761, resig. 1762./k

John Key, patron for this turn. Jarvis Kenrick, A. B. inducted
July 1762, the present vicar.

/h He was likewise rector of Ware=
horne, and was buried in this church.

/i Brother of Sir Wyndham Knatch=
bull, bart. and was chancellor and pre=
bendary of Durham. He rebuilt the
present vicarage-house.

/k He was also rector of Skeyton, in
Norfolk, and resigned this vicarage
for the rectory of Barrow, in Suffolk.
He was author of the translation and
commentaries on Horace, a translation
of Demosthenes, and several other
learned works.

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MOLASH

Is the next parish westward from Chilham; it is a
parish which lies very obscurely among the hills, being
little known, and having very little traffic through it.
The village, which is straggling, is situated near the
western boundaries of it, the parish of Wye joining
close up to it. The church stands close on the north
side of the village; there are about fifty houses, and
two hundred and sixty-five inhabitants, the whole is
much covered with coppice wood, mostly beech, with
some little oak interspersed among it; the country is
very hilly, and the soil of it very poor, being mostly

an unfertile red earth, mixed with abundance of flints.

There is a fair held here on the 16th of July yearly, formerly on the Monday after St. Peter and St. Paul.

THE HONOR of Chilham claims paramount over this parish, subordinate to which is THE MANOR OF BOWER, alias FLEMINGS, which is situated in the borough of Godsole, northward from the church, it took

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the latter of those names from the family of Fleming, who were once the possessors of it; one of whom, John de Fleming, appears by a very antient court-roll of this manor, to have been owner of it, and in his descendants it probably continued for some time; but they were extinct here in the reign of Henry VI. in the 24th year of which, as appears by another antient court-roll, it was in the possession of John Trewonnalle, in which name it continued down to the reign of King Henry VIII. and then another John Trewonnalle alienated it to Thomas Moyle, esq. afterwards knighted, and he owned it in the 30th year of that reign; and in his descendants it remained till the reign of Kings James I. when it was alienated to Mr. Henry Chapman; at length his descendant Mr. Edward Chapman leaving three sons, Edward, Thomas, and James Chapman, they became possessed of it as coheirs in gavelkind, and afterwards joined in the sale of it to Christopher Vane, lord Barnard, who died in 1723, leaving two sons, Gilbert, who succeeded him in the north of England; and William, who possessed his father's seat at Fairlawn, and the rest of his estates in this county, having been in his father's life-time created viscount Vane, of the kingdom of Ireland. He died in 1734, as did his only son and heir William, viscount Vane, in 1789, s. p./l who devised this manor, among the rest of his estates in this county and elsewhere, to David Papillon, esq. late of Acrise, the present possessor of it.

WITHERLING is a manor in this parish, situated likewise in the borough of Godsole. In the antient records of Dover castle, this manor is numbered among those estates which made up the barony of Fobert, and was held of Fulbert de Dover, as of that barony, by knight's service, by a family of its own

/l See a further account of the family of Vane, in vol. v. of this history, p. 48.

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name. Robert de Witherling appears to have held it in the reign of king John, as one knight's see, by the same tenure; in whose descendants it continued down to the reign of King Henry VI. When Joane Witherling was become heir to it, and then carried it in marriage to William Keneworth, whose son, of the same name, passed it away in the reign of Henry VII. to John Moile, of Buckwell, who died possessed of it in the 15th year of that reign, as appears by the inquisition taken after his death, and that it was held of Dover castle. His son John Moyle sold this manor, in the 4th year of Henry VIII. to Hamo Videan, descended of a family of good note in this county.

There is mention made of them in the Parish Register, from the first year of it, 1557, to the present time; but they have been decayed a long time, and their possessions dispersed among other owners; but there is still a green in this neighbourhood, called from them Videan's, (by the common people Vidgeon's) forstal. In his descendants it continued till the reign of King Charles II. when it was conveyed, by a joint conveyance, from that name to Mr. Tho. Thatcher, whose daughter Mary carried it in marriage to Mr. Henry Bing, of Wickhambreux, whose son John Bing/m sold it to Mr. Edward Baker, for the satisfying his sister's fortune, whom the latter had married; and on his dying intestate, this manor descended to his four sons, Thomas Baker, clerk, Edward, Henry, and Bing Baker, who joined in alienating it, about 1771, to Thomas Knight, esq. of Godmersham, whose only son and heir of the same name died possessed of it in 1794, s. p. and by will devised this manor to Edward Austen, esq. then of Rowling, but now of Godmersham, who is the present owner of it. A court baron is held for this manor.

/m See more of the Thatchers and Bings, vol. v. of this history, p. 558, 559.

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CHILES, alias SLOW-COURT, is a small manor in this parish, which some years since belonged to the family of Goatley, which had been settled here from the time of queen Mary. One of them, Laurence Goatley, died possessed of it in 1608. He then dwelt at his house in this parish, called Bedles, and was lessee of the parsonage. Searles Goatley, esq. the last of this family, was brought from Maidstone a few years ago, and buried in this church. Laurence Goatley devised this manor to his third son Laurence, one of whose descendants passed it away to Moter, and in 1661 Alice Moter, alias Mother, of Bethersden, sold it to John Franklyn, gent. of this parish, whose daughter carried it in marriage to Thomas Benson, of Maidstone, and he in 1676, by fine and conveyance, passed it away to Robert Saunders, gent. of that town, as he again did in 1703 to Esther Yates, widow, of Mereworth, whose executors in 1716 conveyed it to David Fuller, gent. of Maidstone, who dying s. p. devised it in 1751 by will to his widow Mary, who at her death in 1775, gave it to her relation, William Stacy Coast, esq. now of Sevenoke, the present proprietor of it.

CHARITIES.

SIMON RUCK, gent. of Stalisfield, and SARAH his wife, by indenture in 1672, in consideration of 35l. granted to Thomas Chapman, gent. and John Thatcher, both of Molash, a piece of land containing three acres, called Stonebridge, in this parish, for the use, maintenance, and relief of the poor of this parish for ever.

THOMAS AMOS, yeoman, of Ospringe, by will in 1769 gave 100l. in trust, to be laid out in the public funds, and the dividends to be yearly paid, on the day of St. Thomas the Apostle, to the churchwardens, to be distributed to the most necessitous poor of Molash; which, with other money of the parish, was

laid out in the purchase of 125l. three per cent. reduced Bank Annuities.

The poor constantly relieved are about nine, casually twenty-five.

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THIS PARISH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Bridge.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter, is a small mean building, consisting of one isle and one chancel, having a pointed turret, shingled, at the west end, in which are three bells. There are several memorials of the Chapmans in this church, and in the isle is a stone, inscribed Pulvis Chapmannorum, under which is a vault, wherein several of them lie. In the chancel there is an antient gravestone, coffin-shaped, with an inscription round, in old French capitals, now, through time, illegible. The font is antient, having on it, Gules, three right hands couped, argent; a crescent for difference. In the Parish Register, which begins in 1558, are continual entries of the Videans, Goatleys, Franklyns, Thatchers, Chapmans, Moyles, and Wildish's, from that year almost to the present time. It is esteemed only as a chapel of ease to Chilham, and as such is not rated separately in the king's books.

The great tithes or parsonage of this parish were formerly a part of the rectory or parsonage of Chilham, and as such belonged to the alien priory of Throwley, on the suppression of which, anno 2 king Henry V. they were given to the monastery of Sion, which being dissolved by the act of 31 Henry VIII. they came, with the rest of the possessions of that house, into the king's hands, whence the parsonage of Chilham, which included this of Molash, was granted next year, together with the honor and castle, and other premises, to Sir Thomas Cheney, whose son Henry, lord Cheney, alienated the whole of them in the 10th year of queen Elizabeth, to Sir Thomas Kempe, of Wye, who in the 21st year of that reign alienated the parsonage or great tithes of this parish to William Walch, who held the same in capite, and he that year sold it to John Martyn, who as quickly

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passed it away to Richard Tooke, whose descendant Nicholas Tooke, in the 25th year of that reign, conveyed it in 1633, by the description of the manor of Molash, and all the glebes and tithes of this parish, to Sir James Hales, in which name it continued some time, till it was at length sold to Sir Dudley Diggs, who devised it to his nephew Anthony Palmer, esq. whose brother Dudley Palmer, esq. of Gray's Inn, in 1653, was become owner of it. It afterwards belonged to the Meads, and from them came to Sir Thomas Alston, bart. of Odell, in Bedfordshire, who lately died possessed of it, and his devisees are now entitled to it.

This church being a chapel of ease to that of Chilham, constitutes a part of that vicarage, the vicar of it being presented and instituted to the vicarage of the church of Chilham, with the chapel of Molash

annexed.

In 1585 here were communicants one hundred and twenty-six. In 1640 there were only forty communicants here.

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CHARTHAM,

CALLED in Domesday, Certeham, lies the next parish eastward from Chilham. The greatest part of it is in the hundred of Felborough, and some small part of it, viz. the manor of Horton, in the hundred of Bridge and Petham.

THE PARISH of Chartham is pleasantly situated, a great part of it in the fertile vale of pastures through which the river Stour takes its course, between a continued series or range of lofty hills, over which this parish extends; the high road from Canterbury to Ashford leads through it, mostly on high ground, from which there is a most pleasing view

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of the vale and river beneath, as well as of the opposite hills, whose summits are cloathed with the rich foliage of the contiguous woods. Though the soil in the valley is rich pasture, yet the hills are poor and barren, those rising from the vale are chalk, further on they are a cludgy red earth, mixed with flints, much covered with coppice woods, and a great deal of rough land, with broom and heath among it, bordering on a dreary country. The parish is large, and is supposed to be about twelve miles in circumference. It contains about ninety-seven houses, and five hundred inhabitants. The village of Chartham is situated close on the side of the river Stour, the houses of it are mostly built round a green, called Chartham-green, having the church and parsonage on the south side of it. On this green was till within these few years, a large mansion house, most of which being burnt down, the remains have since been known by the name of Burnt-house. It was formerly the residence of the Kingsfords, several of whom lie buried in this church, whose arms were, Two bends, ermine. At length William Kingsford, esq. in 1768, sold it to William Waller, who alienated it in 1786 to Mr. Robert Turner, as he did again to Allen Grebell, esq. who sold it in 1795 to Mr. John Gold, the present owner of it. Near it is a handsome modern-built house, formerly the property and residence of Dr. John-Maximilian Delangle, rector of this parish and prebendary of Canterbury, and from him usually named the Delangle house. He died possessed of it in 1729. It was late the property of John Wotton, esq. who died in August, 1798, and devised it to Mary, the wife of Benjamin Andrews, gent. of Stouting, for her life; and after her decease to Thomas Wotton, gent. of the Tile-lodge farm, in Sturry, and his heirs for ever. On the river Stour here, is a paper-mill, belonging to the dean and chapter of Canterbury. In 1763, William Pearson, the lessee by will, gave this

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leasehold estate to his wife Sarah for life, remainder

to his son Thomas Pearson, his executors, &c. Sarah Pearson renewed the lease in her own name in 1765. In 1766 Thomas Pearson sold the lease to his brother James Pearson absolutely, after the death of their mother, and of the said Thomas Pearson, and Elizabeth his wife, or any after-taken wife, without issue of the said Thomas. In 1767 the said Thomas Pearson and Elizabeth, sold all their interest in the premises to David Ogilvy. In the same year the said Thomas and James assigned the premises to the said Ogilvy, by way of mortgage, redeemable by James if Thomas died without issue. In 1768 James became a bankrupt. In 1789, Sarah and James being both dead, Ogilvy renewed the lease in his name. In 1792 Ogilvy, Thomas Pearson, and the surviving assignees, under James Pearson's commission, assigned the premises absolutely, to Edward Pain, paper-maker, of Chartham, (son of Leeds Pain, deceased) who now holds the lease, and occupies the estate.

That part of this village on the opposite side of the river Stour, is called Rattington, being in the borough of that name. The northern part of this parish is mostly high ground, and covered with woods, extending almost up to the high Boughton road to London, through which the boundaries of it are very uncertain, from the different growths of the high wood in them; and there have been several contests relating to the bounds in this part of the parish, on account of the payment of tithes to the rector of Chartham; the lands without the bounds of it on the north side being exempt from all tithes whatever, as being within the king's antient forest of Blean, now usually called the ville of Dunkirk. Among them are the two hamlets, called Chartham hatch and Bovehatch, vulgarly Bowhatch; and near the former a large hoath, the soil of which is sand and gravel, and, from the poorness of it, but of little value. This

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hoath, as well as the lands near it, called Highwood, both claim, as I am informed, an exemption from paying tithes, as part of the manor of Densted.

Among the woods at the north-west boundaries of the parish, is a house and grounds called the Fishponds, which, though now gone to ruin, were formerly made and kept at a large expence, by Samuel Parker, gent. the grandson of Dr. Parker, bishop of Oxford, and rector of this church, who resided here. It is now in the joint possession of Mrs. Bridges, of Canterbury, and William Hammond, esq. of St. Alban's, in this county.

About a mile west from Densted, in the north-west part of this parish, is a stream of water, called the Cranburne, which is a strong chalybeate. It rises among the woods on the south side of the high London road, running through the fish-ponds before-mentioned, and thence into the river Stour, near Whitehall, a little below Tonford.

On the opposite side of the valley, close to the river Stour, is the hamlet of Shalmsford-street, built on the Ashford high road, and the bridge of the same name, of stone, with five arches, repaired at the expence of the hundred of Felborough, over which the above-

mentioned road leads; and at a small distance above it is a very antient corn-mill, called Shalmsford-mill, formerly belonging to the prior and convent of Christ-church, and now to the dean and chapter of Canterbury. There are two more hamlets on the hills of the southern parts of this parish, one at Mystole, and the other at Upperdowne, near it, behind which this parish reaches some distance among the woods, till it joins Godmersham and Petham.

There is a fair annually held at Chartham on St. Peter's day, June 29.

On the chalky downs, called Chartham Downs, adjoining the south side of the Ashford road, about four miles from Canterbury, being high and dry ground,

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with a declivity towards the river Stour; there are a great number of tumuli, or barrows near, one hundred perhaps of different sizes near each other, this spot being described in the antient deeds of the adjoining estates by the name of Danes banks. Several of them have at times been opened, and the remains of bodies, both male and female, with various articles of trinkets, &c. have been found in them. Beyond these, on the contiguous plain, called Swadling downs, still more southward, there are three or four lines of intrenchments which cross the whole downs from east to west, at different places, and there is a little intrenchment in the road, under Denge wood, a little eastward above Julliberies grave.

Various have been the conjectures of the origin of these barrows, some have supposed them to have been those of the Britons, slain in the decisive battle with Cæsar, under Cassivelawn, others that this place was the spot appropriated for the burial of the Roman garrison at Canterbury, whilst others suppose them to have belonged to the Danes, who might be opposed here in their attempts to pass the river Stour, in their further progress into this island.

In the year 1668, in the sinking of a new well at Chartham, there was found, about seventeen feet deep, a parcel of strange and monstrous bones, together with four teeth, perfect and sound, but in a manner petrified and turned into stone, each as big as the fist of a man. These are supposed by learned and judicious persons, who have seen and considered them to be the bones of some large marine animal, which had perished there; and it has been by some conjectured, that the long vale, of twenty miles or more, through which the river Stour runs, was formerly an arm of the sea

Mr. Somner, in "Chartham News," printed in Phil. Trans. No. 272, and in Battely's Somner, p. 186. Dr. Wallis in Phil. Trans. N. 275.

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(the river, as they conceive, being named Stour from æstuarium); and lastly, that the sea having by degrees filled up this vale with earth, sand, and coze, and other matter, ceased to discharge itself this way when it broke through the isthmus between Dover and Calais. Others have an opinion, that they were the bones of elephants, abundance of which were brought

over into Britain by the emperor Claudius, who landed near Sandwich, who therefore might probably come this way in his march to the Thames, the shape of these teeth agreeing with a late description of the grinders of an elephant, and their depth under ground being probably accounted for by the continual washing down of the earth from the hills.

IN THE YEAR 871, duke Elfred gave to archbishop Ethelred, and the monks of Christ-church, the parish of Chartham, towards their cloathing, as appears by his charter then made, or rather codicil; and this gift of it was confirmed to them in the year 1052, by king Edward the Confessor; and it continued in their possession at the time of taking the general survey of Domesday, in the year 1084, in which it is thus entered, under the title of Terra Monachorum Archiepi, i. e. lands of the monks of the archbishop, as all lands belonging to that monastery were.

In Feleberg hundred, the archbishop himself holds Cer-teham. It was taxed at four sulings. The arable land is fourteen carucates. In demesne there are two, and sixty villeins, with fifteen cottagers, having fifteen carucates and an half. There is a church and one servant, and five mills and an half of seventy shillings, and thirty acres of meadow, and wood for the pannage of twenty-five hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and when he received it, it was worth twelve pounds, now twenty pounds, and yet it pays thirty pounds.

The possessions of the priory here were after this augmented by Wibert, who became prior in 1153, who restored to it the great wood of Chartham, con-

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taining forty acres, which the tenants had long withheld. After which, in the reign of king Edward I. THIS MANOR OF CHARTHAM, with its appurtenances, was valued at thirty-four pounds, /o at which time there appears to have been a vineyard here, plentifully furnished with vines, belonging to the priory, as there were at several of their other manors; and in the 25th year of the same reign Robert Winchelsea, archbishop of Canterbury, having fallen under the king's displeasure, dismissed most of his family, and lived privately here at Chartham with one or two priests, and went almost every Sunday and holiday to preach in several of the adjoining churches.

King Edward II. by his charter in his 10th year, granted and confirmed to the prior of Christ-church, free-warren in all his demesne lands in this manor among others, which he or any of his predecessors had acquired since the time of his grandfather, so that the same were not within the bounds of his forest.

The buildings on this manor were much augmented and repaired both by prior Chillenden, about the year 1400, and by prior Goldston, who about the year 1500 rebuilt the prior's stables here and his other apartments with brick. This manor continued part of the possessions of the priory till its dissolution in the 31st year of Henry VIII. when it was surrendered into the king's hands, with whom this manor did not continue long, for the king settled it, among other premises, in his 33d year, on his new-erected dean and

chapter of Canterbury, part of whose inheritance it still continues.

A court leet and court baron are regularly held for this manor by the dean and chapter, but the court-lodge and demesnes of the manor are demised by them on a beneficial lease. At the time of the dissolution, anno 30 Henry VIII. Thomas Thwayts was

/o Battely's Somner, pt. ii. append. p. 50.

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lessee of it. John Baker, esq. of St. Stephen's, near Canterbury, is the present lessee.

THE DEANRY is a large antient seat, situated adjoining to the court-lodge, being part of those possessions belonging to the late priory of Christ-church, in Canterbury, and was formerly the capital mansion of their manor here, being made use of most probably as a place of residence and retirement for the prior himself; and it was most probably to this house that archbishop Winchelsea retired, as has been mentioned before, in king Edward the 1st.'s reign, whilst under that king's displeasure. In which state it remained till the dissolution, when it came, with the adjoining meadows belonging to it, among the rest of the possessions of the priory in this parish, into the hands of the crown, and was next year settled by the king on his new-erected dean and chapter of Canterbury; after which it seems to have been allotted to and made use of in like manner as it was by the priors before, by the deans of Canterbury, for their country residence; in particular dean Bargrave resided much at this mansion, in the windows of which his arms, with the quarterings of his family alliances, in several shields, remained till within these few years. The confusion of the times which immediately followed his death, preventing the residence of any dean here, this mansion seems to have fallen into the hands of the chapter, who soon afterwards leased it out, with a reservation of a part of the yearly rent to the dean and his successors; and it has continued under the like demises to the present time, though there have been several attempts made by succeeding deans to recover the possession of it to themselves. The Whitfields were for some length of time lessees of it, afterwards the Lefroys, then Mr. Lance, and after him Mr. Coast, who greatly augmented and improved this mansion, and resided in it till he sold his interest in it

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to John Thomson, esq. and he conveyed it in 1797 to William Gilbee, esq. the present lessee of it.

There was a large chapel belonging to this mansion, which was taken down in 1572.

DENSTED is a manor, situated among the woods in the northern part of this parish, next to Harbledown, in the ville of its own name, part of which extends into that parish likewise. It was antiently part of the estate of the family of Crevequer, and was given in the 47th year of Henry III. by Hamo de Crevequer, to the priory of Leeds, founded by one of his ancestors, which gift was confirmed, together with the tithes of Densted, to the priory at several different

times, by the several archbishops, and by the priors and convent of Christ-church,^{/p} and the revenue of it was increased here in the 8th year of king Richard II. when Robert Bovehatch being convicted of felony, was found to have held some lands at Densted, which upon forfeiture, were granted by the king to it. The prior and convent continued owners of this manor, with those other lands here, and in king Henry the VIIIth.'s reign, demised it for ninety-nine years to Paul Sidnor,^{/q} in which state it remained till their dissolution in the 32d year of that reign, when it came, with the rest of their possessions, into the king's hands, who granted it in his 37th year, with all the tenements called Densted, belonging to this manor, to John Tuf-ton, esq. to hold in capite by knight's service, who, about the 3d year of king Edward VI. alienated his interest in it to Richard Argall, whose descendant John Argall sold it, about the beginning of king James I.'s reign, to Sir John Collimore, of Canterbury, who in 1620, conveyed it to trustees, to be sold for the payment of his debts; and they conveyed it to Thomas Steed, esq. who in the reign of king Charles I. passed it away to Sir Thomas Swan, of Southfleet; in whose

^{/p} Regist. of Leeds priory. See hereafter under Harbledown.
^{/q} The lease is in the Augmentation office.

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descendants it continued, till at length the widow of Sir William Swan, at her death, devised it, among his other estates, alike between his and her own relations, one of whom marrying John Comyns, esq. afterwards knighted, and chief baron of the exchequer, he became in her right possessed of this manor, being descended from the Comyns's, of Dagenham, in Essex, in which county he resided, and bore for his arms, Azure, a chevron, ermine, between three garbs, or. On his death in 1740, he devised it to his eldest nephew and heir John Comyns, esq. of Highlands, in Essex, (son of his brother Richard, serjeant-at-law) who died possessed of it in 1760, leaving by his second wife, an only son, Richard-John Comyns, esq. whose heirs conveyed it by sale to Thomas Lane, esq. one of the masters of chancery, who died possessed of it in 1773, on which it descended to his two sons Thomas and William, and the former having purchased the latter's interest in it, died, leaving his widow surviving, who is now in the possession of this estate for her life; but the reversion of it in fee, after her death, is vested in the younger brother above-mentioned, Mr. William Lane, gent. of London.

A court baron is held for this manor.

The lands belonging to this manor consist of about four hundred acres; the whole of which, excepting seven acres in Highwood which are titheable, is subject only to a composition yearly to the rector of Chartham, in lieu of all tithes whatever.

HOWFIELD is a manor in this parish, lying in the north-east part of it, adjoining to Toniford. It was formerly spelt in antient records both Haghefelde and Hügeveld, and was part of the possessions of the priory of St. Gregory, most probably at its foundation in 1084. However that be, this manor was confirmed

to it, among the rest of its possessions, by the name of Haghefelde, together with the mill of Toniford, by

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archbishop Hubert, who died in 1206; and in this state it remained till the reign of Henry VIII. when, by the act passed in the 27th year of it, this priory was suppressed among other religious houses, whose revenues did not amount to the clear yearly value of two hundred pounds, Christopher Hales, esq. afterwards knighted, and attorney-general, being then lessee of this manor, under a lease for ninety-nine years, from the prior and convent; and he had that year a grant from the king of it in fee, with all privileges and immunities belonging to it, to hold by fealty only. Sir Christopher Hales was likewise master of the rolls, being the son of Thomas Hales, A. M. second son of Henry Hales, of Hales-place, whose eldest son John was ancestor of the Hales's, of the Dungeon, in Canterbury, Tenterden, and other parts of this county. He left three daughters his coheirs, who became jointly entitled to this manor, with a tenement called Bovehoth, and other lands in Chartham. At length the whole interest of it, on a division of their estates, was assigned to the youngest daughter Mary, who entitled her husband Alexander Colepeper, esq. to it. He left an only daughter by her, Anne, who carried it in marriage to Sir John Culpeper, of Wigsell, and he alienated it to the family of Vane, or Fane, in which it was in the year 1638, and in the year following Mary, countess dowager of Westmoreland, widow of Sir Francis Fane, earl of Westmoreland, joined with her son Mildmay, earl of Westmoreland, in the sale of it to William Man, esq. of Canterbury, afterwards knighted, whose ancestors had been settled there from the beginning of king Henry VIII.'s reign. They bore for their arms, Or, a chevron, ermines, between three lions, rampant guardant, sable; and there were of this name of Man, who were aldermen of the ward of Westgate in that

/r Dugd. Mon. vol. ii. p. 374.

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city, as early as king Edward III.'s reign. He in 1688, with his son William Man, esq. conveyed it to John Denew, gent. of Canterbury, whose ancestors were antiently written De New, and bore for their arms, Or, five chevronels, azure; whose grandson John Denew, esq. dying in 1750, s. p. devised it by will to his wife Elizabeth, and she at her death in 1761, gave it to one of her late husband's sisters and coheirs, Elizabeth, married to Mr. Edward Roberts, of Christ's hospital, London; their eldest son Mr. Edward Roberts died possessed of it in 1779, leaving three sons, Edward, George, and William, when it devolved to his eldest son Edward-William Roberts, who sold it in 1796 to George Gipps, esq. of Harbledown, M. P. for Canterbury, who is the present owner of it.

The demesne lands of this manor claimed and enjoyed an exemption from all manner of tithes till almost within memory; but by degrees tithes have been taken from most of them, and at present there are not more than twenty acres from which none are taken.

SHALMSFORD-STREET is a hamlet in this parish, built on each side of the Ashford road, near the river Stour, and the bridge which takes its name from it, at the western boundary of this parish. It was antiently called Essamelesford, and in the time of the Saxons was the estate of one Alret, who seems to have lost the possession of it after the battle of Hastings; for the Conqueror gave it, among many other possessions, to Odo, bishop of Baieux, his half brother, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the record of Domesday:

In Ferleberg hundred, Herfrid holds of the fee of the bishop, Essamelesford. It was taxed at half a suling. The arable land is one carucate. In demesne there is one carucate, and three villeins, with one borderer having one carucate. There are three servants, and eight acres of meadow. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it

/s See pedigree of Man in Visitation co. Kent, anno 1619.

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was valued at sixty shillings, and afterwards forty shillings, now sixty shillings. Alret held it of king Edward.

Four years after the taking of the above survey, the bishop of Baieux was disgraced, and all his lands and possessions were confiscated to the king's use. Soon after which this estate seems to have been separated into two manors, one of which was called from its situation,

THE MANOR OF SHALMSFORD-STREET, and afterwards, from its possessors, the mansion of Bolles, a family who had large possessions at Chilham and the adjoining parishes. At length, after they were become extinct here, which was not till about the beginning of the reign of queen Elizabeth, this manor came into the name of Cracknal, and from that in the reign of king James I. to Michel, one of whose descendants leaving two daughters and coheirs, one of them married Nicholas Page, and the other Thomas George; and they made a division of this estate, in which some houses and part of the lands were allotted to Thomas George, whose son Edward dying s. p. they came to Mr. John George, of Canterbury, who sold them to Mr. Wm. Baldock, of Canterbury, and he now owns them; but the manor, manor-house, and the rest of the demesne lands were allotted to Mr. Nicholas Page, and devolved to his son Mr. Thomas Page. He died in 1796, and devised them to Mr. Ralph Fox, who now owns them and resides here. The court baron for this manor has been long disused.

ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE of the road, about twenty rods from the bridge, stood an antient seat, which was taken down about thirty-five years ago, though there is a malt-house remaining on the scite of it, which has evident marks of antiquity, and of its having been once made use of as part of the offices belonging to it. In the windows of the old house were several coats of arms, that most frequent being the coat and crest of Filmer, with a crescent for difference. This seat, with the lands belonging to it, was for a great length of time owned

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by the Mantles, and continued so till Mary Mantle carried it in marriage to Mr. Stephen Church, of Goodnestone, the present owner of it.

THE MANOR OF SHALMSFORD BRIDGE was the other part of the bishop of Baieux's estate here, described as above in Domesday, and was that part of it which was by far of the most eminent account, and was so called not only to distinguish it from that last-mentioned, but from its situation near the bridge of this name over the river Stour, on the opposite or west side of it next to Chilham, in which parish much of the lands belonging to it lie. It was antiently accounted a member of the manor of Throwley in this county, as appears by the inquisition taken after the death of Hamo de Gatton, owner of that manor in the 20th year of king Edward I. when Roger de Shamelesford was found to hold it as such of him by knight's service. His descendant William de Shalmelesford, who possessed it in the beginning of the reign of Edward II. leaving an only daughter and heir Anne, she carried it in marriage to John Petit, who resided here, and died before the 20th year of the next reign of king Edward III. bearing for his arms, Gules, a chevron, between three leopards faces, argent. In his descendants, who resided at Shalmesford, this manor continued down to Thomas Petit, esq. of Canterbury, who died possessed of it in 1625, leaving his three sisters his co-heirs, who became entitled to this manor in undivided thirds. They were married afterwards, Catherine to Michael Belke; Elizabeth to Giles Master, of Woodchurch; and Dorothy first to William Master, secondly to John Merryweather, and thirdly to Parker, of Northfleet. Michael Belke above-mentioned, whose ancestors were originally of Coperham-Sole, in Sheldwich, having purchased another third of this manor, became entitled to two thirds of it, which continued

Their pedigree is in the Visitations of Kent for 1574 and 1619. Several of their wills are in the Prerog. off. Cant.

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in his descendants down to Dr. Thomas Belke, prebendary of Canterbury, who died in 1712, and his heirs sold them to Mr. Hatch, of that city, who was before possessed of the other third part of this manor, which he had under his father Mr. John Hatch's will, who had purchased it of one of the descendants of Mr. Thomas Petyt, before-mentioned, and thus became entitled to the whole property of it. He died in 1761, and by will devised it to his great nephew, Mr. John Garling Hatch, of Chartham, who sold it to Mr. Joseph Saddleton. He died in 1795 intestate, leaving Elizabeth his widow, and Joseph their only son, who are the present owners of it.

MYSTOLE is a handsome well-built seat, situated on the green of that name, in the south-west part of this parish, about a mile and an half from the church of Chartham. It was built by John Bungey, prebendary of Canterbury, who was rector of this church, and married Margaret Parker, the archbishop's niece, by whom he had several sons and daughters. He bore for his arms, Azure, a lion, passant-guardant, or, between three bezants, and dying here possessed of it in 1596,

was buried in this church. His eldest son Jonas Bun=gey succeeded him here, and in his descendants it con=tinued till it was at length sold to Sir John Fagge, of Wiston, in Sussex, who was created a baronet on Dec. 11, 1660. But before this purchase, there were those of this name settled in this parish, as appears by their wills, and the marriage register-book in the Preroga= tive-office, Canterbury, as early as the year 1534, in both which they are stiled gentlemen. He left a nu= merous family, of whom only three sons survived; Sir Robert, his successor in title; Charles, who will be mentioned hereafter; and Thomas, ancestor of John Meres Fagge, esq. late of Brenset. Sir John Fagge died in 1700, and by will devised this seat of Mystole,

/u See his pedigree in Vistn. co. Kent, anno 1619.

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with his other estates in this and the adjoining parishes, to his second son Charles Fagge, esq. of Canterbury, before-mentioned, who continued to bear the family arms, being Gules, two bends, vair. His only surviv= ing son Charles Fagge, esq. resided here, and married Elizabeth, youngest daughter of William Turner, esq. of the White Friars, Canterbury. His son Sir Wil= liam Fagge, bart. resided at Mystole, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Abraham Le Grand, gent. of Canterbury, who died in 1785. He died in 1791, hav= ing had one son John, and two daughters, Helen, mar= ried to the Rev. Mr. Williams, prebendary of Can= terbury, but since removed to Winchester; and Sarah to Edwin Humphry Sandys, gent. of Canterbury. He was succeeded by his only son the Rev. Sir John Fagge, bart. who married in 1789 Anne, only daugh= ter and heir of Daniel Newman, esq. of Canterbury, barrister-at-law, and recorder of Maidstone. He now resides at Mystole, of which he is the present possessor.

HORTON MANOR, sometime written Horton Parva, to distinguish it from others of the same name in this county, is a manor in that part of this parish which lies within the hundred of Bridge and Petham. It has by some been supposed to have been once a parish of it= self, but without any reason; for it was from the ear= liest times always esteemed as a part of the parish of Chartham.

At the time of taking the survey of Domesday, about the year 1080, this manor was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Baieux, the Conqueror's half-bro= ther, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in it, being then accounted within the bounds of the adjoining hundred of Felborough:

In Ferleberge hundred, Ansfrid holds of the bishop, Hortone. It was taxed at half a suling. The arable land is one carucote. There is in demesne . . . and thirteen villeins having half a carucate. There is one servant, and two mills of one marc of silver, and eight acres of mea=

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dow, and one hundred acres of coppice wood. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth forty shil= lings, afterwards thirty shillings, now one hundred shil= lings. Godric held it of king Edward.

On the bishop's disgrace, about four years afterwards, this manor, among the rest of his possessions, was confiscated to the crown, and was granted thence to the family of Crevequer, of whom it was held by that of Northwood, of Northwood, in this county. John de Northwood died possessed of it in the 14th year of Edward II. In whose descendants it continued down to Roger de Northwood, whose widow Agnes entitled her second husband Christopher Shuckborough, esq. of Warwickshire, to the possession of it, and they afterwards resided here. He bore for his arms, A chevron, between three mullets, pierced. She died in the 6th year of king Henry IV. anno 1404, and he alienated it three years afterwards to Gregory Ballard, whose descendant Thomas Ballard, kept his shrievalty here anno 31 Henry VI. and dying in 1465, lies buried in St. Catherine's church, near the Tower. Robert Ballard was found by inquisition anno 14 king Henry VII. to hold at his death this manor of the king, as of his honor of the castle of Dover, by the service of one sparrow-hawk yearly. They bore for their arms, Sable, a griffin rampant-segreant, ermine, armed and membered, or. At length it descended down to Nicholas Ballard, who in the 4th year of Philip and Mary, passed it away to Roger Trollop, esq. and he sold it, in the 2d year of queen Elizabeth, to Sir Edward Warner, then lieutenant of the tower, who died possessed of it in the 8th year of that reign, holding it of the king in capite by knight's service. Robert Warner, esq. was his brother and next heir, and sold it, in the 16th year of that reign, to Sir Roger Manwood, chief baron of the exchequer, whose son Sir Peter

/w See more of him under St. Stephens, alias Hackington.

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Manwood, K. B. in the reign of king James I. alienated it to Christopher Toldervye, esq. who resided here, and dying in 1618, s. p. was buried in Ash church, near Sandwich, bearing for his arms, Azure, a fess, or, in chief, two cross croslets of the second. By his will he devised it to his brother John Toldervye, gent. of London; on whose death likewise s. p. it devolved by the limitations in the above will to Jane his eldest sister, then married to Sir Robert Darell, of Calehill, who in her right became entitled to it, and from him it has at length descended down to Henry Darell, esq. of Calehill, the present owner of this manor.

The chapel belonging to this manor is still standing, at a small distance south-west from the house. It had more than ordinary privileges belonging to it, having every one the same as the mother church, excepting that of burial, and its offices. It consists of one isle and a chancel, with a thick wall at the west end, rising above the roof, and shaped like a pointed turret, in which are two apertures for the hanging of two bells. It has been many years disused as a chapel, and made use of as a barn.

This chapel, like many others of the same sort, was built for the use of the family residing in the mansion of the manor, which being, as well as the ceremonies of the religion of those times, very numerous, rendered it most inconvenient for them to attend at the parish

church, at so great a distance, in all kind of seasons and weather. But after the reformation, when great part of such ceremonies ceased, and the alteration of the times not only lessened the number of domestics, but even the residence of families, by degrees, at these mansions; these chapels became of little use, and being maintained at the sole charge of the owners of the estates on which they were built, they chose rather to relinquish the privilege of them, than continue at the expence of repairs, and finding a priest to officiate in them.

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In the reign of king Richard II. there was a great contest between John Beckford, rector of Chartham, and Christopher Shuckborough, lord of this manor, concerning the celebration of divine offices in this chapel; which was heard and determined in 1380, before the archbishop's official, that all divine offices might be celebrated in it, exceptis tantum defunctorum sepulchris et exequiis. These were more than ordinary privileges; it being usual, even in chapels which had the right of sepulture granted to them, to oblige the inhabitants to baptize and marry, and the women to have their purifications at the mother church.

There is a composition of 6l. 14s. paid by the occupier of this manor, to the rector of Chartham, in lieu of all tithes whatever arising from it.

CHARITIES.

THERE are no charities or alms-houses belonging to this parish, excepting the legacy by the will of Thomas Petit, esq. of Canterbury, in 1626, to this parish, Chilham, and St. George's, Canterbury, jointly for the benefit of young married people for ever; a full account of which has been given before, under Chilham, p. 141.

There is a school lately set up in this parish, for the teaching of children reading, writing, and arithmetic.

The poor constantly relieved are about forty-five, casually 60.

CHARTHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Bridge.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a large, handsome building, of one isle and a chancel, with a cross isle or transept. It has a tower steeple at the west end, in which are five bells and a clock. Besides other monuments and memorials in this church, there are in the chancel memorials for the Kingsfords; for Margaret, daughter of Sir Samuel Peyton, knight and baronet, wife of Thomas Osbern, esq. obt. 1655; for Jane, daughter of Arthur Barham, esq. wife of Thomas Osbern, esq. obt. 1657; several for the dif-

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ferent rectors, and a monument for Dr. Delangle, 1724; a large grave-stone with the figure of a man in his armour, cross-legged, with his sword and spurs, in full proportion, inlaid in brass, with his surcoat of arms, viz. Three wheat-skreens, or fans, being for one of the Septvans family; and on the north side is an antient tomb, under an arch hollowed in the wall. In the north cross isle is a grave-stone, which has been very lately

robbed of its brasses, excepting the impalements of one coat, being the arms of Clifford. It had on it the figure of a woman, with an inscription for Jane Eveas, daughter of Lewys Clifforht Squyre, obt. 1530. The chancel is very handsome, and there has been some good painted glass in the windows of it, of which there are yet some small remains. In the south chancel the family of Fagge lie buried; in it there is a monument for the late Sir William and his lady, and a most superb monument of excellent sculpture and imagery, having the figures, in full proportion of Sir William Young, bart. and his lady; Sarah, sister of Sir William Fagge before-mentioned, who died in 1746, æt. 18, in the same year in which she was married. He died in the West-Indies in 1788, and was brought over and buried beside her, and the above-mentioned monument which had laid by in the church ever since her death was repaired and placed here.

The church of Chartham was part of the antient possessions of the see of Canterbury, and continues so at this time, his grace the archbishop being the present patron of it.

In a terrier of 1615, it appears there was then here a parsonage-house, barn, gardens, and meadow, in all about two acres; certain closes containing thirty-eight acres, and a little piece of wood-land adjoining to it; some of which glebe-land has since that time been lost, the rector now enjoying nor more than thirty acres of it.

Part of the parsonage-house seems very antient, being built of flint, with ashlar-stone windows and door-

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cases, of antient gothic form. It was formerly much larger, part of it having been pulled down, by a faculty, a few years ago.

An account of the lands in this parish, which claim an exemption of tithes, has already been given before, under the description of the respective lands, as well as of the chapel of Horton, and the composition for tithes from that manor.

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 41l. 5s. 10d. and the yearly tenths at 4l. 2s. 7d. In 1640 it was valued at one hundred and twenty pounds. Communicants three hundred. It is now worth about three hundred and fifty pounds per annum.

CHURCH OF CHARTHAM.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

The Archbishop. John Millys, alias Warham, admitted April 18, 1554, obt. Jan. 16, 1565./x

John Bungey, A. M. collated Jan. 16, 1565, obt. Nov. 20, 1596./y

The Queen, by lapse. Martin Fotherbye, S. T. B. collated June 10, 1596, vacated 1618./z

The King, jure preg. James Cleland, S. T. P. admitted Oct. 7, 1618, obt. 1627./a

/x He had been a monk of Christ-

church, and was one of the prebendaries of that church afterwards, mentioned in the foundation-charter of the dean and chapter there. In 1557 he was rector of Ringwold. See Regist. Parker and Rym. Fœd. vol. xv. p. 382.

/y He was first collated to a prebend of Christ-church, Canterbury, in 1567. Regist. Parker. He resigned the rectory of Lambeth in 1577. Regist. Grindal.

/z Regist. Whitgift. He was chaplain and kinsman to archbishop Whitgift, by whom he was collated to a prebend of Canterbury in 1596. He held the rectory of Adisham with this of Chartham, till his promotion to the see of Salisbury.

/a Regist. Abbot. He held the rectory of Old Romney with this of Chartham.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

The Archbishop. Isaac Bargrave, S. T. P. admitted June 5, 1628, obt. 1642./b

Edward Corbett, A. M. June 13, 1643, resigned 1646./c

The King, sede vac. Thomas Woodruff, A. M. instituted Oct. 3, 1646, ejected 1660./d

John Reading, S. T. P. July 28, 1660, obt. Oct. 26, 1667./e

The Archbishop. Samuel Parker, S. T. P. collated Nov. 6, 1667, vacat. 1686./f

The King, jure preg. James Jeffreys, S. T. P. admitted Nov. 12, 1686, obt. Sept. 4, 1689./g

The Archbishop. Henry Wharton, A. M. collated Sept. 19, 1689, obt. March 5, 1694./h

/b Regist. Abbot. He was dean of Canterbury. See Walker's Suff. of Clergy, pt. ii. p. 5. Wood's Ath. v. i. f. p. 190. After his death, that impudent knave Richard Culmer, commonly called in contempt, Blue Dick, got possession of this rectory. See some account of this man, Wood's Ath. v. i. f. 245.

/c Rushworth, part iii, vol. ii. p. 330, 338. Ath. Oxon. vol. ii. p. 407, f. 68. In the Archdeacon's Regist. he is said to be presented by the honorable and venerable the supreme court of parliament, the true and undoubted patrons; which is the first mention I find of these gentry as patrons.

/d He was an inoffensive man, though a Presbyterian. He was chaplain to the

earl of Warwick, by whose interest he obtained this rectory, and when ejected retired to the earl's house. He frequently affirmed in discourse, that he made 280*l.* per annum of this rectory.

/e Regist. Juxon. He was in 1660, prebendary of Canterbury, and minister of St. Mary's, Dover. He preached a sermon in 1632, at the funeral of Sir Isaac Wake, who was buried in Dover castle. He held the rectory of Cheriton with this of Chartham, and lies buried in this church. Ath. Ox. p. 574, vol. ii. p. 406.

/f Regist. Sheldon. He was afterwards rector of Ickham, prebendary of Canterbury, and archdeacon, and on Oct. 17, 1686, consecrated bishop of Oxford. See Ath. Ox. vol. ii. p. 814.

/g Brother of lord chancellor Jeffrey's. He was likewise rector of Eastchurch, and prebendary of Canterbury. He died at Rochester, and was buried in the Martyrdom of Christ-church, Canterbury. See Ath. Oxon. vol. ii. f. p. 222.

/h Also vicar of Minster, in Thanet. He was buried in Westminster abbey. See Wood's Ath. vol. ii. p. 874. Biog. Brit. vol. vii. p. 4197. His will is in the Prerog. off. Cant. in which may be seen his benefactions to Caius college, Cambridge, and Worsted church, in Norfolk. The above catalogue of rectors, down to himself, was drawn up by him.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

The Archbishop. John M. Delangle, S. T. P. col=
lated June 28, 1695, obt.
1724.*/i*

George Fawler Tillesley, LL. B.
instituted Dec. 26, 1724, ob.
1759.*/k*

Thomas Forster, A. M. insti=
tuted June 15, 1759, obt.
Sept. 13, 1764.*/l*

John Fowell, S. T. P. Oct. 10,
1764, the present rector.*/m*

/i He was likewise prebendary of Canterbury, and lies buried in the chancel of this church. See before.

/k He was suspended June 19, 1742, and this rectory sequestered.

/l He was likewise rector of St. George's, Canterbury, by dispensation in 1760.

/m He had been before rector of Old Romney and of Hunton, and in 1765 a dispensation passed for his holding the rectory of Bishopsborne with the

chapel of Barham, with this of Chart=ham. He is likewise rector of the sine=cure of Eynsford.

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GODMERSHAM

LIES the next parish south-westward from Chart=ham, and is written in antient records, Godmersham, and in Domesday, Gomersham.

IT LIES in the beautiful Stour valley, a situation healthy and pleasant to the extreme, the river Stour glides through it from Ashford, in its course towards Canterbury; Godmersham house and park are the principal objects in it, both elegant and beautiful, the Ashford high road encircles the east side of the park, along which there is a sunk sence, which affords an un-interrupted view of the whole of it, and adds greatly to the beauty of this elegant scene, and leads through the village of Godmersham close to it, the whole village which contains about twenty houses, belongs to Mrs. Knight, excepting one house, as does the greatest part of the parish, excepting the lands belonging to the dean and chapter of Canterbury. There are about

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twenty more houses in the parish, and about two hundred and forty inhabitants in all. The church, and vicarage, a neat dwelling, pleasantly situated, stand at a small distance from the village, on the left side of the road, with the antient manor-house near the former, close to the bank of the river; the meadows in the vale are exceeding fertile, the uplands are chalk, with some gravel among them, the hills rise high on each side, those on the west being the sheep walks belonging to Godmersham-house, the summits of which are finely cloathed with wood, at proper intervals; the opposite ones are the high range of uninclosed pasture downs of Wye and Braborne. Among these hills, in the eastern part of the parish, is the seat of Eggerton, situated in a wild and bleak country of barren lands and flints.

At the southern boundary of the parish, on the Ashford road, is the hamlet of Bilting, part of which is in Wye parish. There was a family of this name who once resided here, as appears by their wills so early as 1460. Richard Mocket, gent. of Challock, died in 1565, possessed of the manor of Biltyng-court, in Godmersham, which by his will he directed to be sold. At length this estate of Bilting came into the possession of the Carters. Thomas Carter, gent. of Bilting, second son of George Carter, gent. of Winchcombe, died possessed of it in 1707, s. p. After which it at length came to his nephew Thomas Carter, gent. of Godmersham, who dying in 1744, left two daughters his coheirs, the eldest of whom Mary, marrying Mr. Nicholas Rolfe, of Ashford, he became in her right possessed of her father's estate at Bilting. After which it became the residence of Mrs. Jane, the sister of the late Mr. Knight, and after her death in 1793, of Thomas Monypenny, esq. who afterwards removing from hence sold it in 1797, to Mr. Richard Sutton, who now resides at it.

There is no fair, nor is there any one alehouse within

this parish.

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From the high road above-mentioned, which runs along the lower side of the western hills there is a most pleasing view over the valley beneath, in which the various beautiful objects of both art and nature combine to make it the most delightful prospect that can be imagined.

BEORNULPH, king of Mercia, in the year 822, gave Godmersham to Christ-church, in Canterbury, to the use of their refectory and cloathing, at the request of archbishop Wlfred, L. S. A. that is, Libere sicut Adisham, endowed with the same liberties and privileges that Adisham, which had been given to that church, originally was. But it appears afterwards to have been wrested from the church, and to have been again restored to it by archbishop Egelnoth, who made a new grant of it in the year 1036, having purchased it of duke Sired, for seventy-two marcs of pure silver, for the use of the monks in Christ-church; in whose possession Godmersham remained at the taking the general survey of Domesday, in which it is entered as follows, under the general title of Terra Monachorum Archiepi, i. e. the lands of the monks of the archbishop, as all the lands belonging to the monastery of Christ-church were.

In Feleberg hundred, the archbishop himself holds Godmersham. It was taxed at eight sulings. The arable land is twelve carucates. In demesne there are two, and sixty villeins, with eight cottagers, having seventeen carucates. There is a church, and two servants, and one mill of twenty-five shillings, and twelve acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of forty hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and when he received it, it was worth twelve pounds, now twenty pounds, and yet it pays thirty pounds.

In the 7th year of king Edward I. the prior claimed a fair here, on the day of St. Laurence, which was allowed; and king Edward III. in his 38th year granted to the prior another fair here on the Thursday and Friday in every Whitsun-week, together with a market

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to be held here on a Tuesday weekly. In the 10th year of king Edward II. the prior obtained a charter of free-warren for this manor; about which time it was, with its appurtenances, valued at thirty-six pounds. The priors of Canterbury frequently resided at the manor-house here, which appears by the present state of it to have been a mansion large and suitable to their dignity. Prior Chillenden, at the latter end of king Richard II.'s reign, made large additions and repairs here, as did prior Sellyng in that of Edward IV. The house is situated on the bank of the river, a small distance northward from the church. It appears to have been a very large mansion formerly. The old hall of it is yet remaining, with the windows, door-cases, and chimney of it, in the gothic stile. Over the porch, at the entrance of the house, is the effigies of the prior, curiously carved in stone, sitting richly habited, with his mitre and pall, and his crosier in his left hand, his

right lifted up in the act of benediction, and his sandals on his feet. This, most probably, represents prior Chillenden, above-mentioned, who had the privilege of wearing those ornaments, granted to him and his successors by pope Urban, and repaired this mansion as before related. In which state this manor continued till the dissolution of the priory in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. when it came, with the rest of the possessions of the monastery, into the king's hands, who in his 37th year, granted the manor, rectory, and advowson of Godmersham, in exchange for other premises, to the dean and chapter of Canterbury, in pure and perpetual alms, at the yearly rent of 10l. 1s. 8d./n being then valued at 80l. 11s. in exchange for which they gave the king seven valuable manors in this and other counties; Canterbury college, in Oxford, and other premises, a scandalous bargain of plunder, like most others of the king's making; and yet in the deed it is

/n Deeds of Purch. and Exch. Aug. off. box E. Kent 37.

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said to have been made through his most gracious favor. Since which this manor has remained part of their possessions to the present time.

The court-lodge, with the demesne lands of this manor, are let to Mrs. Coleman, who resides in it, on a beneficial lease, but the manor itself, with the profits of the courts, &c. the dean and chapter retain in their own hands. A court baron is regularly held for it.

THE MANORS OF FORD AND YALLANDE were a=ntiently part of the inheritance of the family of Va=loigns, one of whom, Robert de Valoigns, died pos=sessed of them and much other land in this neighbour=hood, in the 19th year of king Edward II. and in his descendants they continued till the latter end of king Edward III.'s reign, when Waretius de Valoigns leav=ing by his wife, daughter of Robert de Hougham, two daughters his coheirs, one of them, married to Tho=mas de Aldon, entitled her husband to these manors as part of her inheritance; and in this name of Aldon they continued for some space of time. At length they be=came the property of Austen, or Astyn, as they after=wards spelt their name, and they continued possessors of it, till Richard Astyn, gent. of West Peckham, conveyed them, with all lands and tenements called Halton, in Godmersham and other parishes, to Thomas Broadnax, gent. late of Hyth, though there were descendants of that family, who wrote them=selves gentlemen, remaining here in the beginning of king George I.'s reign, as appears by their wills in the prerogative-office. He afterwards resided at Ford-place, as his descendants, possessors of these manors, afterwards did, without intermission, to Thomas Broadnax, esq./o who in the 13th year of king George I. anno 1727, pursuant to the will of Sir Thomas May, and under the authority of parlia=ment, changed his name to May, and in 1729 kept

/o Several of their wills are in Prerog. off. Canterbury.

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his shrievalty here. In 1732 he rebuilt this seat, and

in 1738, pursuant to the will of Mrs. Elizabeth Knight, widow of Bulstrode Peachy Knight, esq. (who was her second husband, her first being William Knight, esq. of Dean, in that county); and under the authority of another act, he again changed his name to Knight, and in 1742 inclosed a park round his seat here, afterwards called Ford-park, which name it seems since entirely to have lost, this seat and park being now usually called Godmersham-park. Thomas May Knight, esq. before-mentioned, died here, far advanced in years, in 1781, a gentleman, whose eminent worth is still remembered by many now living; whose high character for upright conduct and integrity, rendered his life as honorable as it was good, and caused his death to be lamented by every one as a public loss. He married Jane, eldest daughter and coheir of William Monk, esq. of Buckingham in Shoreham, in Sussex, by whom he had several children, of whom only four survived to maturity, Thomas, his heir, and three daughters, who died unmarried. Thomas Knight, esq. the son, succeeded his father in estates, and was of Godmersham, the seat and park of which he greatly improved. He married Catherine, daughter of Dr. Wadham Knatchbull, late prebendary of Durham, and died in 1794, s. p. leaving her surviving. He bore for his arms, the coat of Knight, vert, a bend fusilly, in base, a cinquefoil, argent, quartered with nineteen others; the second being, Broadnax, or, two chevronels, gules, on a chief of the second, three cinquefoils, argent; and the third, May, gules, a fess between three billets, or. By his will Mr. Knight gave this seat, with the park, the manors before-mentioned, and the lands belonging to it, to his widow Mrs. Catherine Knight, for her life, with remainder to Edward Austen, esq. of Rolling-place. She afterwards resided here, but removing to the White Friars, in Canterbury, she gave up the possession of Godmersham

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house and park to Edward Austen, esq. before-mentioned, who now resides at it.

EGGARTON is another manor, situated on the opposite side of the river, at the south-east boundaries of this parish, among the hills, near Crundal. It was anciently the estate of the noble family of Valence, earls of Pembroke. Aymer de Valence, earl of Pembroke, held this manor at his death in the 17th year of king Edward II. He died s. p. and John, son of John de Hastings, by Isabel his wife, one of the earl's sisters, and John, son of John Comyn, of Badenagh, by Joane, another of his sisters, were found to be his coheirs; and upon the division of their estates, John de Hastings the son seems to have become wholly possessed of it. He died s. p. next year, leaving Joane, wife of David de Strabolgie, earl of Athol, and Elizabeth her sister, sisters and coheirs of John Comyn, of Badenagh, his next of kin. David de Strabolgie, earl of Athol, before-mentioned, died possessed of this manor, as appears by the inquisition taken after his death, in the 1st year of Edward III. leaving it to his son of the same name, who in the 7th year of Edward III. by deed settled it on his kinsman Sir Henry de Hills; which gift was confirmed by the countess his widow, in the 20th year of that reign. Gilbert de Hills, who lies buried

in this church, with the marks of his figure in armour on his grave-stone, was a person of eminence in the age in which he flourished, and from him and Sir Henry de Hills, issued many worthy successors, who were proprietors of this manor till the reign of queen Elizabeth, when it was sold to Charles Scott, esq. eldest son of Sir Reginald Scott, of Scotts-hall, by his second wife. His grandson Thomas Scott, esq. of Eggarton, left a son Thomas, who died s. p. and a daughter Dorothy, married to Mr. Daniel Gotherson, who in her right at length became possessed of this manor, /p though not

/p See pedigree of Scott, Vistr. co. Kent, 1619.

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without several contests at law by some collateral claimers to it. He afterwards sold it to Sir James Rushout, bart. who had been so created in 1661, and bore for his arms, Sable, two lioncels passant, guardant, within a bordure engrailed, or. He died in 1697, and by his will devised it to trustees, to sell for payment of his debts, which they accordingly soon afterwards did, to Peter Gott, esq. of Sussex, whose arms were, Per saltier, argent and sable, a bordure counterchanged. His descendant Maximilian Gott, esq. resided at Eggarton, where he died in 1735; upon which this manor, with the rest of his estates in this county and in Sussex, came to his three sisters, Elizabeth, Mary, and Sarah; and on the death of the former, the two latter became entitled to the whole fee of it, as coparceners; Mrs. Sarah Gott usually residing at this mansion of Eggarton. Mary Gott died in 1768, and by will devised her moiety of her estates to Henry Thomas Greening, gent. of Brentford, in Middlesex, who afterwards, by act of parliament, assumed the name of Gott. Sarah Gott, the other sister, died at Eggarton, in 1772, and by will devised her moiety of her estates to the children of William Western Hugessen, esq. of Proven= der, deceased, to be equally divided between them. /q Mr. Hugessen left three daughters his coheirs, of whom the two surviving ones, Dorothy, was afterwards married to Sir Joseph Banks, bart. and K. B. Mary, to Edward Knatchbull, esq. now Sir Edward Knatchbull, bart. who in their wives right became entitled to one moiety of this estate, they afterwards, together with Henry-Thomas Gott, esq. before-mentioned, possessor of the other moiety, joined in the sale of the entire property of this manor to Thomas Knight, esq. of God= mersham, who purchased it for the residence of his

/q See the suit in chancery concerning this estate in Browne's Cases of Appeals to Parl. anno 1774, v. vii. p. 70, Filmer versus Gott and others.

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sister Jane, since deceased. He died in 1794, s. p. and by his will gave this seat, with the estate and manor, to Edward Austen, esq. before-mentioned.

CHARITIES.

MARTIN MAYE, yeoman, of Godmersham, ordered by will in 1614, that his executors should pay to Thomas Scott, gent. and five others therein mentioned, 100l on condition that they should enter into a bond of 200l. to his executors, to settle 8l.

per annum towards the maintenance of twenty of the poorest persons householders, in Godmersham, that from time to time should be there dwelling; which sum should be a perpetual payment of 8s. per annum to each of them. This charity is now vested in Mrs. Knight.

THOMAS SCOTT, ESQ. of Canterbury, by will in 1635, devised the house which he lately built in Godmersham, and ten perches of land adjoining to it, to such poor persons, born and living in Godmersham, as the heirs of his body, and for want of such heirs as the right heirs of his kinsman, Sir Edward Scott, K. B. should nominate from time to time, for ever. And if such heirs should neglect such nomination, for the space of three months, then that the churchwardens for the time being, should nominate in their room; and if they or he should fail to nominate, within one month, then that the archbishop of Canterbury should in such case nominate from time to time. And he willed one other house, with its appurtenances, which he had lately built in Godmersham, adjoining to that before limited, and 10 perches of land adjoining, in like manner as the other before-mentioned, with like nomination and limitation; and so from time to time for ever. This charity is now lost.

THOMAS CARKERIDGE. of Maidstone, by will in 1640, devised all those lands and tenements which he bought in Wye, Godmersham, and Crundal, to William Cooper and his heirs for ever, he paying out of them 6l. per annum, to the overseers of the poor of the parish of Wye, 3l. and to the overseers of the parish of Godmersham. the other 3l. for ever; and he willed that this 6l. should be every year bestowed to cloath four poor widows, two of Wye, and two of Godmersham; and if there were not such poor widows, then to cloath other poor women, each of them to have five yards and an half of good country kersey, to make a petticoat and a waistcoat, and so much lockram or other country cloth as would make every of them two smocks, and every of them a pair of hose and a pair of shoes. And he willed that this cloth and other things be given to those poor women the first Thursday in November every year; with power to

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distrain in any of his lands lying in Wye, Godmersham, and Crundall, &c. until the same should be paid accordingly.

JOHN FINCHE, gent. of Limne, by will in 1707, devised his messuage, tenement, and lands, containing 36 acres, in Bilting, and his messuage and tenement, and seven acres of land, and 9 acres of woodland, in Wye, Godmersham, and Crundall, and all those his six cowshares, lying in a meadow called Laines, between Ollantigh and Tremworth, in Wye and Godmersham, and a piece of meadow-ground called Temple-hope, adjoining, in Wye and Crundall, to the ministers, churchwardens, and overseers of the parishes of Wye and Godmersham, and their successors for ever, in trust, that the minister, &c. of Wye, and their successors, should dispose of the rents and profits of that land which lay in Wye, as is therein mentioned; and that the minister, &c. of Godmersham, and their successors, should dispose of the rents and profits of that land, with its appurtenances in Godmersham and Crundall, to six of the poorest and eldest people of Godmersham, or any other, half-yearly for ever. But that there should be paid out of the rents and profits of his last-mentioned lands, 40s. yearly upon Christmas-day for ever, without any deduction, to poor people of the like sort, being men; that is to say, 20s. to each of them yearly for ever. And further, that if any of the trustees, the ministers, &c. of these parishes, should at any time alter, contradict, or misapply these charities, or the rents and profits of the estates, that then the devise to such pa=

rish, the minister, &c. of which had so done, should cease and determine. And he willed that none of the said charities should be distributed to any other poor, but such as should be members of the church of England, as then by law established. This charity is now of the annual produce of 24l. 1s. 6d. and produces on an average 18l. per annum.

The present alms-houses in Godmersham-street, were erected by the father of the last Thomas Knight, esq. on the ground before devised to the parish. The building contains dwellings for eight poor people.

There is a school here, for reading and writing, supported by the voluntary benefaction of Mrs. Knight, in which about 20 children are daily taught.

The poor constantly relieved are about nineteen, casually as many.

THIS PARISH is within the ECLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Bridge.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Laurence, is a plain building, consisting of a body and a chancel,

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having a square low tower on the north side of the body, on which was formerly a steeple. There are five bells in it. The chancel is large and handsome. There were formerly eight stalls in it. On three of the upright end-boards of these stalls were these letters and date: P TC An. Dom. 1409, in memory of Thomas Chillenden, prior A. D. 1409, for the use of the prior and monks of Christ-church, when they came to reside at their manor here, and the other clergy who might be present at divine services, the like as they had usually in other churches where they had manors. On the south side of the church was formerly a chantry, which was dedicated to St. Mary, as appears by the will of William Geffrye, chaplain of it in 1517, who directed to be buried in it on the south side. It was suppressed in the 1st year of king Edward VI. There was a house and garden belonging to it in Godmersham-street. This chantry has been rebuilt, and is now made use of as two large pews, for the use of the owners of the mansion-houses of Ford and Eggarton. Underneath these pews, which are raised considerable higher than the level of the pavement, are vaults for the owners of these houses. In that of Eggarton lie many of the Hilles's, Scotts, and Gotts; and in that of Forde, several of the Broadnax's. The two monuments now against the south wall of the body of the church, for Thomas Carter and James Christmas, were formerly in the chantry, on the pulling down of which, they were removed hither. In the body of the church, near the steeple, is another vault for the Broadnax's, which is quite full, and the entrance closed up; and in the body of the church there are several grave-stones of them, the inscriptions of which are gone. In the church-yard, close to the wall of Mr. Knight's pew, is a small vault, built by the late Mr. Knight's father, in which he lies, with his wife and daughter Anne; and leaving only room for one more in it, in which his son was afterwards buried.

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The church of Godmersham, with the chapel of Challock annexed to it, was antiently an appendage to the manor of Godmersham, and as such was part of the possessions of the priory of Christ-church, in Canterbury, to which it was appropriated in the 21st year of king Richard II. anno 1397, with the king's and pope's licence, towards the support of the fabric of their church, to which archbishop Arundel consented; for which the prior gave up to him the advowson of the two churches of St. Vedast and Amand, and St. Michael, Crooked-lane, London. /r After which the rectory and advowson of the vicarage of this church remained with the priory of Christ church till its dissolution, in the 31st year of Henry VIII. when they were, with the manor of Godmersham, and the rest of the possessions of that priory, surrendered into the king's hands, where they remained till the 37th year of that reign, when the king granted the manor, rectory, and advowson of the vicarage of Godmersham, as has been already mentioned, to the dean and chapter of Canterbury, in exchange for other premises, with whom the rectory remains at this time. But the advowson of the vicarage of Godmersham, with the chapel of Challock appendant to it, is now in the patronage of his grace the archbishop of Canterbury.

In the year 1254, Hugh de Mortimer, rector of this church, confirmed the exemption of the manor of Godmersham, belonging to the prior and convent of Christ-church, from the payment of small tithes arising from it; with a saving to the right of his successors.

Before the appropriation of this church archbishop Sudbury had in 1380, endowed a vicarage here, which with the chapel of Challock, is valued in the king's books at 9l. 3s. 9d. and the yearly tenths at 18s. 4¹/₄d. It is exempt from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon.

/r Pat. 21 Richard II. N. 9. Tan. Mon. p. 200. Battely's Somner, append. p. 24.

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In 1640 here were communicants two hundred and forty-three, and it was then valued at fifty pounds. In 1649 the parsonage was valued at one hundred and twenty pounds per annum.

There is a pension of ten pounds to the vicar yearly paid out of the parsonage.

CHURCH OF GODMERSHAM.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS

The Archbishop. James Vernon, obt. 1623.

Edward Wild, A. M. inducted
obt. 1624.

Thomas Hull, A. M. inducted
1624.

William Branch, obt. 1625.

Tho. Pordage, esq. of Rodmersham. William Jewell, February 8,
1625.

Robert Ferguson, ejected 1662./s

John Wright, obt. 1662.

Sir Edward Hales, knt. and bart. John Whight, A. B. May 30,
1662.

John Collington, in 1664./t

Daniel Butler, A. B. inducted
1664.

..... Daniel, obt. 1675.

The Archbishop. Richard Mun, A. M. inducted
July, 1675, obt. April 23,
1682./u

James Christmas, A. M. obt.
Jan. 27, 1713./w

Arthur Ashley Sykes, A. M. Feb.
7, 1713, resigned 1714./x

John Gough, A. M. August 13,
1714, obt. Oct. 1731.

/s He was ejected by the Bartholo=
mew Act. Calamy's Life of Baxter,
p. 286.

/t He resigned this for the rectory
of Kenardington.

/u He lies buried in the chancel.
There is a monument for him against
the south wall.

/w He was buried in the chantry; on
the south side of this church, on the
pulling down of which his monument
was removed to its present place, against
the south wall of the body of the
church. He was likewise rector of
Ulcombe.

/x An account of the life and wri=
tings of this learned divine was pub=
lished in 1785, by John Disney, D. D.
Dr. Sykes died Nov. 23, 1756, æt. 73.
and was buried in St. James's church,
Westminster.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

The Archbishop. Samuel Pegge, A. M. Dec. 1731,
resigned 1753.

Aden Ley, A. B. March, 1753,
obt. Dec. 3, 1766./y

Lewis Pugh, A. B. April 1767,
resigned July 1767.

Francis D'Aeth, July 1767, re=
signed 1771./z

Henry Goodrick, A. B. Jan. 1772,
resigned June 1772.

Peirce Dod, A. M. July 1, 1772,
resigned 1778.

Francis Whitfeld, A. M. 1778,
the present vicar.

/y He lies buried in the chancel.

/z He was half-brother to Sir Nar=
borough D'Aeth, bart. He was like=
wise rector of Knolton, and afterwards
resigned this vicarage on being pre=
sented to Eythorne.

CHALLOCK

LIES the next parish westward from Godmersham.
It is, the greatest part of it, in the lower half of the

hundred of Felborough, and the rest in that of Wye. The manor of Godmersham claims over the former, in which the Lees, the eastern and south-eastern parts of this parish are included; and the liberty of Wye manor claims over the remaining part in the latter hundred. There are two boroughs in this parish, those of Pested and Challock.

THIS PARISH lies on high ground, in a healthy, though rather an unfrequented country. The soil is in general poor and barren, the upper part of it is covered with flints, and the rest of it a stiff clay. In the middle of the parish is a large common, called Challock lees, so called from the Saxon word leswe, which signifies a pasture, which extends itself, in two branches, near two miles in length. At the end of the lees is the principal village, in which is a good house, called the

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Clock-house, from a square tower and clock in it, adjoining to the house; it belongs to, and is inhabited by Mr. Thomas Young, who some years ago erected a windmill near it, for grinding seeds, the first of the kind erected in these parts. In 1779, a flash of lightning, which was instantaneously succeeded by a very loud clap of thunder, set fire to this mill, and it was burnt down, but it was immediately afterwards built up again. Nearly at the opposite part of the lees is another hamlet of houses, where it is called Lorendens forstall; in the whole there may be upwards of sixty houses in it. On the sides of this parish, (excepting the south) there are great quantities of coppice-wood; great part of that on the north and west parts being called Longbeech-wood, which contains about eleven hundred acres, most of which is within the bounds of this parish, and belongs to the archbishop, Sir Edward Derling, bart. being lessee of it. Archbishop Parker, in 1570, was sued in the court of exchequer, for selling some part of this wood, under pretence of its being the queen's, and the council determined it in his favor; yet the archbishop was obliged to relinquish his right to it; but archbishop Whitgift, on his first advancement to the see, found such favor with the queen as to recover the possession of it, and turned out Sir James Crofts, who then held it under the crown.^a The church stands at the bottom of the hill, along which there are several very large sand-stones, about three quarters of a mile from the village, and close adjoining to the pales of Eastwell-park, the greatest part of which is within this parish. The high turnpike road from Faversham through Sheldwich to Ashford, crosses this parish. Before the present trust was created by parliament for this road, the old road through this parish went still more southward close to the park; but the last lord Winchelsea procured it to be turned more to

^a See Strype's life of archbishop Parker, p. 314.

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the north, and rather than have his farm cut through by the new making of it, as was intended, gave the woodland to the public, in order for it to be made where it now goes; as does another branch of it along the north side of it, from Faversham to Charing and

the Weald of Kent. At Blacks-forstall, in this parish, the ground is so exceeding high, that both the seas may be seen from it; that is, on one side, the Thames' mouth, and on the other, the harbour before Rye.

William the Conqueror, on his foundation of the abbey of Battel, in Sussex, granted a fair to it, to be held in that part of this parish in the hundred of Wye, on the day of St. Cosmus and Damian, Sept. 27, for one day; the privileges and profits of which belonged to the abbey at the suppression of it, in the 30th year of king Henry VIII. when it came, with the manor of Wye, to which it seems to have been an appurtenance, into the hands of the crown, and was afterwards, from time to time, granted as such with that manor; George Finch Hatton, esq. of Eastwell, the present lord of Wye manor, being now the proprietor of this fair as appurtenant to it. This fair is now held, by the alteration of the stile, on the 8th of October yearly, and is accounted a great fair for the sale of cattle of all sorts.

OTTERPLEY is a manor here, the mansion of which has been for many years pulled down, and the scite and demesnes of it, which lay near Eastwell, included in the upper park there, which was formerly from it called Aperfields garden. This was one of the seats, of which there were several in this county, belonging to the ancient family of Appulderfield, called by contraction, Apperfield, whose original arms, Ermine, a fess vaire, or, and gules, as well as their augmentation, granted by king Richard I. to Henry de Apulderfield, Sable, a cross, or, voided of the field, are in several places on the roof of Canterbury cloisters, and in the windows of several churches in that city. Henry de Apulderfield,

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who resided at Apulderfield, in Cowdham, was possessed of it in the reign of Henry III. and is said to have had a grant anno 38 of that reign, of a market and fair at his manor of Otterpley, but if ever they were held, they have been long since disused. His descendant Henry de Apulderfield held his shrievalty at Otterpley, in the 50th year of king Edward III. being the last of that prince's reign. From him it passed to Richard, lord Poynings, who died possessed of it in the 11th year of king Richard II. His grandson Richard left a sole daughter and heir Eleanor, who married Sir Henry Percy, afterwards earl of Northumberland, and he in her right became afterwards possessed of this manor. How long it continued in his descendants I have not found; but in the reign of king Henry VII. it was become the property of Moyle, whose descendant Sir Thomas Moyle, of Eastwell, chancellor of the court of augmentation, dying in 1560, without male issue, Catherine his daughter and coheir carried it in marriage to Sir Thomas Finch, of Eastwell, whose son Sir Moyle Finch, of Eastwell, having in 1589 obtained licence to inclose his grounds in Eastwell and the adjoining parishes, for a park, this manor and the scite of the ancient mansion of Otterpley, were included by him within the pale of it, in that part of it called the upper park, near Eastwell, and the mansion of it, pulled down. Since which it has continued in the same succession of ownership with that park and manor, down to George

Finch Hatton, esq. now of Eastwell, the present proprietor of it./b

LORRINGDEN AND DEAN are two manors in this parish, the former of which is written in antient deeds, Lording, alias Lurdingden, and was formerly possessed by a family of that name, the place on which it stands being yet called Loringdens forstal; and Philipott

/b See a further account of the owners of this manor under Eastwell.

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says, that there was a tradition very frequent among the country people in these parts, that Loringden was once the mansion of gentlemen of this name, one of whom had a combat with one of the Apulderfields, of Otterpley, about the building of a chapel in the valley, which was pretended by Loringden to have been erected on his land. The latter manor antiently belonged to owners likewise of its own name, who stiled themselves from their residence here, as appeared by several antient deeds without date, At-Dean, and sometime A-Dean, and at last Dean. When the Loringdens left their possessions here, I cannot find; but from the earliest deeds remaining, which reach no higher than the reign of king Henry IV. that manor was become the property of Cadman, a family which had been long before resident in this neighbourhood, and who in the reign of Henry VI. became, by purchase from the Deans, likewise possessed of the manor of Dean.

These manors continued in the family of Cadman till the beginning of king James I.'s reign, when by a sole daughter and heir Mary, they went in marriage to William Plumer, gent. of Cranbrooke,/c who died in 1622, and by will devised them to his second son, William Plumer, who was likewise of Cranbrooke, and he afterwards alienated them to Peers, one of whose descendants John Peirs, at his death in 1685, devised these manors by will to his only daughter and heir Elizabeth,/d who entitled her husband Thomas Brisley, of this parish, to them. Their two sons, William and Thomas Brisley, succeeded to them as coheirs in gavelkind; and on a division of their inheritance, the latter became possessed of the whole property of these manors, which he conveyed in 1737 to Mr. Edward Watts, of Bersted, who on his death devised them to

/c There is a pedigree of this family in Vistr. co. Kent. 1619.

/d Several of their wills are in the Prerog. off. Cant. Richard Pierce, for so he spelt his name, died here.

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his great-nephew Mr Edward Watts, gent. of Gravesend, the present owner of them.

There were formerly several families of good account resident in this parish, and possessed of considerable estates in it for a long series of years, the Lewknors resided at Bodshead, in this parish. Richard Lewknor was resident here in the reign of queen Elizabeth, as was his son William; soon after which this estate came into the possession of the Moyles, by one of whom it was laid into Eastwell park. The house is on the west side of the avenue leading from Challock lees to Eastwell house. They bore for them arms, Azure, three

chevrons, argent, an annulet for difference. The Gyles's, who had been long settled in this county, and were owners of Lords, in Sheldwich, as early as Richard II. resided here, but they are now extinct. Several of them lie buried in this church, and their wills are in the Prerogative-office, Canterbury. The Hawk=ers, as appears by their wills in the same office, were settled here as early as the reign of king Edward IV. and that they were resident here till the middle of the last century. The family is, I believe, now extinct, the last of them being Mr. Gibbon Hawker, gent. of Sittingborne, who died unmarried some years ago; they bore for their arms, Sable, a hawk standing on a perch, argent. And the Thurstons, written likewise in their several wills, Thurstyn and Thurstan, likewise were resident here as early as king Edward IV.'s reign, when they were possessed of estates here called Baylis, Propchauntis, and Parvocke. Several of them lie buried in this church and church-yard, the last in 1632; soon after which they became extinct here, their arms being, Argent, on a bend, gules, three mullets, or. The families of the Gyles's, Hawk=ers, and Thurstans, had continued intermarriages one with the other, as appears by their wills, all of whom have been removed from hence many years.

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CHARITIES.

THOMAS BAKKE, of Challock, by will in 1485, ordered possession to be delivered to the guardians of the church of Challock, and to ten or twelve principal or senior men of the same, of and in his two tenements called Bretts and Haiors, with eight acres of land in this parish, to hold for ever, with a renewal of the feoffment. And he ordered that the guardians should ever provide one good fermour to hold the premises of them, in the name of the church, and of the money received thence, and he ordered certain services to be performed in this church.

WILLIAM OURE, yeoman, of Challock, by will in 1618, devised to the poor of Pest-street, in this parish, after the manner of Almesland, two acres of land called Pricraft, provided it should be always occupied by those who should occupy his then dwelling-house at Pest-street, who should yearly for ever pay to the poor, as a rent, five bushels of wheat yearly for ever, to such poor as by his feoffees should be appointed, with power of distress, &c. on non-payment. And if it happened that his feoffees at any time should die, or leave the parish, that then the church=wardens and overseers should have the like authority to order it for the poor.

A house and two acres of land, near the church, seemingly the above-mentioned land, was heretofore allotted to the parish clerk's use, who lived in it; but that being burnt down about 12 years ago, the overseers, &c. have taken the land, and applied the profits to the general use of the poor of the parish.

The poor constantly relieved are about twenty; casually the same number.

THIS PARISH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURIS=DICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Bridge.

The church stands at the boundaries of the hundred of Felborough, part of the church-yard, being in the hundred of Wye. It is said to have been founded by one of the family of Apulderfield, and consists of three

isles, a high and a north chancel, having at the west end a tower steeple embattled, with a beacon turret at the south-east corner, in which hang four bells. There are several memorials in this church for the Gyles's, Hawkers, and Thurstans. In the north chancel, on the south side, there is a plain flat tomb, very antient; and on the north side, a low plain tomb, cof-

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fin-shaped; and on the pavement, an antient gravestone of the like shape, with five or six letters, in French capitals, remaining on the upper side, but illegible. There has been much good painted glass, as appears by different fragments in the windows. In the north isle still remain the arms of Apulderfield, Ermine, a bend vaire, or, and gules; and in the east window of it a shield, 1st and 4th, as above; second, Azure, fretty, argent; third, Azure, a lion rampant-guardant, double tailed, or. The north chancel is now repaired by the parish. Part of one of the isles is said formerly to have belonged to the Lewknors to repair. In the churchyard are six yew-trees, of a remarkable large size. The lessee of the parsonage now repairs the chancel; but in the endowment of the vicarage, the repair of it was allotted to the vicar.

The church of Challock is esteemed only as a chapel of ease to that of Godmersham, and as such is not rated separately in the king's books.

The parsonage or great tithes of this parish, like that of Godmersham, was parcel of the possessions of the priory of Christ church, in Canterbury, and on the dissolution of it, in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. came into the hands of the crown, where it staid till queen Elizabeth, in her 3d year, exchanged it, among other premises, with archbishop Parker, when it was valued at 14l. 13s. 4d. per annum. Since which it has continued to this time parcel of the possessions of the see of Canterbury. Mr. John Hilton, of Sheldwich, is the present lessee of it.

This church being a chapel of ease to that of Godmersham, constitutes a part of that vicarage, though it had a separate endowment, and the vicar of Godmersham is presented and instituted to that church, with the chapel of Challock annexed. It is separated from

/e Liber. Dict. Berthona in Thesau. Ecclæ Christi, Cant. fol. 225.

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the jurisdiction of the archdeacon. Archbishop Juxon, in conformity to the king's letters mandatory, anno 15 Charles II. augmented this vicarage with a pension of ten pounds per annum, to be paid by the lessee of the parsonage. The lessee of the parsonage claims all tithes in this parish, (except turneps, hops, potatoes, gardens, and of lands pastured, which belong to the vicar) and are worth to him about twenty-six pounds per annum. There are no tithes payable from woodland in this parish.

In 1588 here were communicants one hundred and seventy-seven. In 1640, only one hundred and twenty.

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THE HUNDRED OF WYE

LIES the next hundred southward from that of Felborough,

AND CONTAINS WITHIN ITS BOUNDS THE PARISHES OF

1. WYE.
2. CRUNDAL.
3. BROOKE.
4. BOUGHTON ALUPH; and
5. EASTWELL.

And the churches of those parishes; and likewise a part of the parishes of BRABORNE, CHALLOCK, WALTHAM, and WESTWELL, the churches of which are in other hundreds. Two constables have jurisdiction over it.

That part of Waltham within this hundred, includes the manor of Eshmerfield; and that part in Westwell includes the manors of Dean and Beamonston.

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WYE

LIES the next parish eastward from Challock. It is spelt in Domesday, and other antient records, Wy.

THE PARISH lies in a healthy country, great part of it being in the fertile Ashford vale; the fine pasture

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down hills of Wye and Braborne bound the eastern side of it, as does another range of hills on the opposite side, the tops of which are skirted by the large extent of woodland, called King's and Challock woods, over which, for near two miles, this parish reaches westward almost to the church and village of Molash. It contains about two hundred and thirteen houses, and fourteen hundred inhabitants; the rents of it are about 4500l. per annum. The soil of it is various, the hills above-mentioned, as well as the vale between in the northern part of it, are mostly chalk; the rest of it a red cludgy earth, much intermixed with flints, a wet unpleasant soil; the meadows near the river are very fertile and rich. The town of Wye, in which the fine tower of the church is a conspicuous object, stands in the vale on the river Stour, which directs its course through the parish in its way to Canterbury; over it here is a stone bridge of five arches, built in 1630, in the room of the former wooden one, at the charge of the county; the river is plentifully stowed hereabouts with pikes. The town, which stands low and damp, and from that and its soil an unpleasant situation, is a neat well-built town, consisting of two parallel and two cross streets, the whole unpaved. There is a large green in it, built round, on one side of which is the church and college close to it, and on the other a house, which was once the gaol to the manor-court, but long since disused.

There is a tradition, that the town once stood in the valley, which lies between Wye-down and Crundal, where the hamlet of Pett-street now is, about which there are still remaining several deep disused wells, and this place is still called Town borough, where as that in which Wye town stands is called Bewbridge-borough. About half a mile westward from the town is a pleasant

seat, called Spring-grove, built by Thomas Brett, esq. of this parish, in 1674, who afterwards resided in it. This family of Brett resided at the adjoining parish of

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Kennington, before they removed to Wye parish, and bore for their arms, Or, a lion rampant, gules, between six cross croset, sable; the first of them mentioned here being Gregory Brett, who died in 1541, and with his descendants to the present time, lies buried in a vault in the middle isle of this church, over which there is a stone, with the descent of them to the present time. One of them, Thomas, of Spring-grove, was LL. D. a very learned divine, who had the rectories of Bets-hanger and Rucking, both which he resigned in 1714, his conscience not permitting him to take the oaths then imposed by government. He died in 1743, having had by Bridget his wife, daughter of Sir Nicholas Toke, of Chart, twelve children, of whom only one son and two daughters survived. The son Nicholas Brett, clerk, died in 1776, having married Rebecca, daughter and coheir of William Brandon, by whom he had two sons Thomas and Nicholas, and a daughter Rebecca. Thomas Brett, esq. the eldest son, succeeded at length to this seat. He married the daughter of Thomas Kynaston, esq. of the Grove, in Wythiam, and is the present owner of Spring-grove, at which he resides.

The south part of the parish below the town, is full of small inclosures, and the soil deeper. In it is a hamlet, called Withersden, formerly accounted a manor, in which there is a well, which was once famous, being called St. Eustace's well, taking its name from Eustachius, abbot of Flai, who is mentioned by Matt. Paris, p. 169, an. 1200, to have been a man of learning and sanctity, and to have come and preached at Wye, and to have blessed a fountain there, so that afterwards its waters were endowed, by such miraculous power, that by it all diseases were cured. Hence the parish extends itself further southward by a narrow slip, between Brook and Braborne, to Nacolts-wood, once reputed likewise a manor, and the tile-kiln of that name.

Almost one half of the parish now belongs to Mr. Sawbridge, his estate here being greatly increased by

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his father's late purchase of the estates of Bond Hopkins, esq. which consist of Wye-court, Harvile, Coldharbour, Wye-downs, and Nacolts, in this parish; they formerly, I conjecture, belonged to Wye college, and afterwards to the Kempes; they were bought in chancery by John Hopkins, esq. commonly called from his rapacity, Vulture Hopkins, who died immensely rich in 1732, and devised his estates so as not to be inherited till after the second generation, then unborn; but the court of chancery set the will aside, and gave his estates to his heir-at-law, from whom they descended to the above-mentioned Bond Hopkins, esq. In the northern part of it stands the stately mansion of Ollantigh, close to the river, which is here beautifully formed by art to ornament it. Adjoining are the park-grounds, containing near six hundred acres, which extend almost as far as Wye town; and the eastern part of the ridge of hills called Wye-downs, the chain of which reaches

to the sea-shore at Folkestone. On the summit of the hill, at the eastern extremity of this parish, is Fanscomb-beech, a tree visible to all the country round, to a great distance; near it was formerly a cottage, of the same name, now pulled down, and the lands laid into Mr. Sawbridge's park grounds. Also near it is Fannes wood, now a cottage, and belonging to him likewise. Both these were formerly esteemed manors of good account. The manor of Fannes, alias Fanscombe, formerly belonged to the master of the Savoy, now to St. Thomas's hospital, in Southwark, and that of Fannes wood, formerly the property of the Kempes, to Mr. Sawbridge.

The high road from Canterbury to Ashford leads along this parish, about half a mile distance westward from Ollantigh, on higher ground from whence there is a fine view over the vale beneath and the opposite downs, including the mansion and grounds of Ollantigh, and the town and church of Wye, which it leaves in its course at the same distance.

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It is by some supposed that the Romans had a highway through this parish, which went on towards Lenham, and so to Aylesford; and the several remains of that nation dug up on Tremworth-down, in the adjoining parish of Crundal, on the side of it next to this parish, will serve to strengthen this conjecture. Wye had formerly a market on a Thursday, granted to the abbot of Battell, which was held in the time of king Henry VIII. It was held in Leland's time, who calls it a pratie market townlet; but it has been for some time disused. The two fairs formerly held here on St. Gregories day, March 23, and on All Souls day, Nov. 2, are now held on May 29 and Sept. 3, yearly, for Welch cattle, stock, &c.

There were formerly several families of good account resident in this town and parish, the Finch's, lived at Wye-court, descended from those of Swards, in Linsted, a younger branch of the Finch's, of Eastwell; the Swans, removed hither from Lyd. Francis Swan, esq. resided here, his house being in the town of Wye, at the latter end of Henry VIII.'s reign. They bore for their arms, Azure, a chevron, ermine, between three swans, proper; the Twisdens, one of whom, Roger Twisden, gent. was of Wye, had a lease of the scite of the manor of Wye, and other premises here, from the abbot of Battel, anno 25 Henry VIII. and the Haules, who were antiently written De Aula sive Haule, in Latin deeds, likewise resided here for several generations, till they removed to Maidstone in king James the 1st.'s reign, where George Haule, esq. of Maidstone, died in 1652. Elizabeth his daughter, and at length sole heir, married Sir Thomas Taylor, bart. of that parish. They bore for their arms, Or, on a saltier, five mullets of the field.

In this parish Major George Somner, brother to the antiquary, was killed in an engagement with the rebels, in 1648.

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ON THE PLACE where the famous and decisive battle between king Harold and William, duke of Normandy,

was fought in 1066, the Conqueror in the next year began to build a noble abbey, named from that event, Battell abbe; in Latin records, Abbacia de Bello; the royal founder endowing it with exemptions and privileges of a very extraordinary nature, and with many manors and good estates; among which was this ROYAL MANOR OF WYE, with all its appendages, being of the demesnes of his crown, as the grant expresses it, with all liberties and royal customs, as well here as in Dengemarsh, which belonged to the court of Wye, /f as freely as he himself held it, or as a king could grant it. Accordingly it is thus entered in the record of Domesday, under the title of land of the church of Battell, or De Labatailge, as there spelt.

The abbot of St. Martin, of the place of Battle, holds the manor which is called Wi, which in the time of king Edward the Confessor, and now, was and is taxed at seven sulings. The arable land is fifty-two carucates. In demesne there are nine carucates, and one hundred and fourteen villeins, with twenty-two borderers, having seventeen carucates. There is a church, and seven servants, and four mills of twenty-three shillings and eight pence, and one hundred and thirty-three acres of meadow, and wood for the pannage of three hundred hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth no more than twenty pounds and one hundred shillings, and six shillings and eight pence; when he received it, one hundred and twenty-five pounds, and ten shilling of the twenty in ore; /g now one hundred pounds by tale; and if the abbot had had sac and soc, it would have been worth twenty pounds more.

/f See Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 315. Selden's Titles of Honor, p. 637. The original grant is among the Harl. MSS. in Brit. Mus.

/g Ore was a nominal money among the Saxons. It is often mentioned in Domesday as of the value of 20d.

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Ralf de Curbespina holds one denne and one yoke of the land, of the sockmen of this manor, and pays by custom six pence. Adelulf two parts of one suling, and pays twelve pence; and Hugo de Montfort has two yoke, and pays three hundred eels and two shillings; and in the time of king Edward the Confessor, they paid both sac and soc.

Of the twenty-two hundreds, there belonged to this manor, sac and soc, and all forfeitures, which of right belonged to the king.

For such was the dignity of this manor, which then consisted of seven sulings, or hides of land, that, as the antient book of this abbey expressed it, with its own hundred, it had jurisdiction over twenty-two hundreds and an half, which belonged to its court.

The grant of king William was confirmed by his son king Henry I. with several other liberties and privileges; and king Henry III. in his 56th year, by his letters patent granted to this abbey further ample liberties, and among them for the pleas of all the tenants of it, to be held before their own steward. All which, with the grant of other liberties, were confirmed by charter of inspeximus, by king Henry IV. in his 13th year; /h and as a mark of royal favour to

it, king Edward II. after the burial of his father, and before his own coronation, in his first year, held the solemnity of a whole Christmas at the manor-house of Wye, and it appears that this place was afterwards frequented by several great personages, among others, John de Langeton, chancellor of the realm, landed at Dover, anno 27 Edward I. from the court of Rome, and delivered to the king his seal, in his chamber at Wye. Henry VI. was here in the month of March, in his 7th year, as was Humphry, duke of Gloucester, protector of the realm, in the 8th and 9th

/h Stev. Mon. appendix, vol. ii. p. 169.

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year of that reign./i In which state this manor continued till the suppression of the abbey in the 30th year of Henry VIII. when it came, with the rest of the possessions of it, into the king's hands, where this manor staid till king Edward VI. in his 5th year, granted the manor, rectory, and advowson of the vicarage of Wye, two tithe-barns, and the tithes themselves, to Edward, lord Clinton and Saye, to hold in capite by knight's service, but he kept them only a few months; when he re-conveyed them back again to the king, where this manor remained till queen Elizabeth, in her first year, granted it, by the name of her royal manor of Wye. together with Aldons, Dods, Westure, and Bromford, in this parish, Shottenton in Westwell, and the manor of the vicarage of Wye, with other lands belonging formerly to the abbey of Guisnes, in Flanders, as will be more particularly mentioned hereafter, to her kinsman Henry Carey, lord Hunsdon, to hold in capite by knight's service. His grandson Henry, earl of Dover, soon after the year 1628, alienated this manor and the premises above-mentioned to Sir Thomas Finch, knight and baronet, of Eastwell; since which they have, in the like succession of ownership as that manor, descended down to George Finch Hatton, esq. now of Eastwell, the present possessor of them.

A court leet and court baron are regularly held for this manor.

There used formerly to be held here, on every Monday three weeks, a court of record, for determining all actions, real, personal, and mixt; but this has been sometime disused. The liberty of the royal manor of Wye extends over the boroughs of Henwood, alias Hewit, in Ashford; of Snodehill, in Bethersden, and of Wachinden, in Biddenden; over all Boughton Aluph; the borough of Cocklescombe, in Braborne;

/i See Rym. Fœd. vol. x, p. 413, 459, 472.

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all Brooke; part of the church-yard, the fair-place, and such other part of Challock as is not in the manor of Godmersham; part of Chilham; the borough of Frisley, alias Abbots Franchise, in Cranbrooke; all Crundall and Eastwell; part of Godmersham; the denne of Romeden, in Halden; the boroughs of the town, in Hastingleigh; of Hawkhurst, alias Southborough, in Hawkhurst; part of West Hyth; all Kingsnoth; the borough of Dengemash, in Lid; part

of Mersham and Molash; the borough of West Kingsnoth, in Pluckley; part of Rucking; the yoke of Develand, being all Sevington; the denne of Creprede, in Tenterden; the borough of Towne, in Waltham; part of Warehorne; the borough of Shotenden and Deane, in Westwell; the borough of Henwood, in Wilsborough; the denne of Plurenden, in Woodchurch, and all Wye.

OLLANTIGH, the noble mansion of which is situated near the river Stour, at the north-west boundary of this parish, in the reign of Edward I. was in the possession of Ralph Kempe, whose grandson Sir Roger Kempe, dying s. p. Thomas, his younger brother, became his heir, and dying in 1428, left two sons, the youngest of whom became cardinal of the church of Rome, and archbishop of Canterbury, who built an oratory or chapel at this mansion, and was founder of the college in this parish. The eldest son inherited Ollantigh, and left two sons, of whom Thomas, the youngest, was bishop of London. The eldest left one son, Sir Thomas Kempe, K. B. he new built this mansion of Ollantigh, where he kept his shrievalty anno 8 and 21 Henry VII. and 4 Henry VIII. He died in 1520, and in his descendants, several of whom were sheriffs of this county, and lie buried in this church and its cemetery, who bore for their arms, Gules, a fess between three garbs, or, a bordure engrailed of the second, it continued down to Sir Tho. Kempe, whose lands were disgavelled by the acts of 31 king

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Henry VIII. and 2 and 3 Edward VI. But on his death in 1607, without male issue, his four daughters and coheirs, Dorothy, married to Sir John Cutts; Anne, to Sir Thomas Chicheley; Amy, to Sir Henry Skipwith, bart. and Mary, to Sir Dudley Digges, entitled their respective husbands jointly to this estate, which they soon afterwards conveyed to Sir Timothy Thornhill, who soon afterwards resided here. He was descended from John Thornhill, of Tunford, in Nottinghamshire, whose son Richard was of Bromley, in Kent, esq. and purchased lands in Bredhurst and Rainham, of lord Cheney, in queen Elizabeth's reign, as has been already mentioned under those parishes. They bore for their arms, Gules, two bars gemelles, argent; a bend of the last; on a chief of the second, a tower triple towered, azure. In his posterity this seat continued down to Major Richard Thornhill, of Ollantigh, who in the 4th year of queen Anne, obtained an act for vesting this and other estates in trustees, to be sold for payment of his debts. This Major Thornhill was the person, who in 1711, fought a duel with Sir Cholmley Dering, bart. in Tothill-fields, Westminster, in which Sir Cholmley received a wound, of which he died the same day. His trustees accordingly sold this seat and estate of Ollantigh, with several other estates in this county, soon afterwards to Jacob Sawbridge, esq. one of the directors of the South Sea Company in the memorable year 1720. He died in 1748, bearing for his arms, Or, two bars, azure, each charged with a barrulet dauncette, argent, a chief indented of the second. He left three sons, John, of whom hereafter; Jacob, who was of Canterbury, and mar-

ried Anne, sister of Thomas Knight, esq. of Godmer=

/k This descent of Kempe is taken from a manuscript in the possession of the late Thomas Knight, esq. of Godmersham, from a book in the Heralds-office, marked H. 2. Kent; the Stem. Chich. and other authorities.

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sham. They both lie buried in Crundal church. By her he had a son Jacob, a colonel in the army; and Catherine, married to T. Heron, esq of Chilham; and John-Elias, who was of Canterbury, esq. and died unmarried in 1789; the eldest son John Sawbridge, esq. succeeded him in his estates, and resided at Ollantigh, where he died in 1762, leaving by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Mr. George Wanley, banker, of London, two sons, John, who was of Ollantigh, and Wanley, who was vicar of Stalisfield, and resided at Otterden, where he died unmarried in 1796, and two daughters, Mary, who married Stephen Beckingham, esq. of Bishopsborne; and Catherine, who married Geo. Macaulary, M. D. and afterwards Mr. Graham. He succeeded here by his eldest son John Sawbridge, esq. who resided here, and from the great alterations and elegant improvements to this stately seat of Ollantigh, might with great propriety be called the second builder of it. He was chosen in three successive parliaments for the city of London, of which he was an alderman, and lord-mayor in 1775. His first wife was Mary, only daughter of Sir Orlando Bridgeman, bart. who died s. p. His second was the youngest daughter of Sir Wm. Stephenson, alderman of London, by whom he had three sons, John, who died at Caen, in Normandy, in 1707, æt. 21, unmarried; Samuel-Elias, who became his heir, and Wanley, and one daughter. He died in 1795, and was brought to Wye, and there buried with his ancestors. He left his wife surviving, and was succeeded in this seat, and the rest of his estates, by his eldest surviving son Samuel-Elias Sawbridge, esq. who married the daughter of Brabazon Ellis, esq. of Widdial hall, in Essex. He is the present possessor of this seat of Ollantigh, but at present resides at Otterden, in this county.

HINKSELL is a manor here, situated in the hamlet of Bilting, which lies on the high road from Canter=

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bury to Ashford, partly in this parish, and partly in that of Godmersham; but the scite of it, called DEAL PLACE, is in that of Wye. It once belonged to a family of the name of Bilting, or Belting, as they were sometimes spelt. John Belyng, in his will, anno 1460, mentions his house and lands of Dele, which continued in his descendants down to William Bilting, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, but he dying s. p. Arthur Franklyn and Richard Videan, gentlemen, were found to be his heirs; and upon the partition of his estates, this was allotted to the former, who afterwards resided at it, and died possessed of it in 1601. This family of Franklyn was originally of Chart Sutton, John Franklyn resided there, and in his will, proved anno 1500, stiles himself gentleman; and

from him descended those of Wye, Badlesmere, Maidstone, Sittingborne, and other parts of this county. They bore for their arms, Argent, on a bend, gules, three lions heads erased, or, between two dolphins of the second; confirmed by William Harvey, clarencieux./l Arthur Franklyn above-mentioned, by his last will devised this estate to his three sons, Arthur, John, and James Franklyn; the former of whom, together with John and Thomas, sons of the two latter, joined in the sale of it to their kinsman Thomas Carkeridge, of Maidstone, who died s. p. and was buried at Maidstone, being the son of Gervas Carkeridge, of Godmersham, descended from ancestors settled for some time at Cranbrooke. They bore for their arms, Argent, on a fess, engrailed, sable, three quarterfoils, or./m He by his will in 1640, gave it to his nephew William Cooper, of Maidstone, and his descendant alienated it to John Farnaby, esq. of the precincts of Christ-church, in Canterbury, the son of Thomas

/l There is a pedigree of them in Vistn. co. Kent, anno 1574, and several of their wills are in the Prerog. off. Cant.

/m Pedigree of Carkeridge in Vistn. co. Kent, anno 1619.

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Farnaby, the noted grammarian, by his first wife; by the second are descended the Farnabys, late of Sevenoke, baronets. John Farnaby, by his will in 1673, gave it to his eldest son Thomas, whose son James Farnaby sold is to Edward Filmer, esq. who succeeded to the title of baronet on the death of his father Sir Robert, in 1720, and his son Sir John Filmer, bart. of East Sutton, dying s. p. in 1797, by his will gave this estate to his younger brother the Rev. Edmund Filmer, rector of Crundal, who is the present possessor of it.

THE MANOR OF ALDONS, the scite of which is now called PERRY-COURT, is situated about a mile and an half south-west from Bilting, on the Ashford road. It was so named from the family of Aldon, possessors of it, who were likewise owners of several estates in other parts of this county, one of them, Thomas de Aldon, was possessed of it in the 43d year of king Edward III. and from him it passed to Sir Robert Belknap, who was owner of it in the 10th year of king Richard II. How long it continued in this name, I do not know; but it afterwards became the estate and residence of a family named Pyrie, afterwards called and written Perry; and though they possessed it but a small time in comparison of the Aldons, who were of much greater note in this county, yet from their residence at it, the house of it gained the name of Perry-court, which it still retains. Of the heirs of Geoffrie de Pyrie this manor was purchased by cardinal archbishop John Kempe, in the beginning of king Henry VI.'s reign, and he in the 10th year of it settled it among other premises, on his new-founded college of Wye, with which it staid till the dissolution of it in the 36th year of king Henry VIII. when it came into the hands of the crown, whence it was granted that year to Walter Bucler, esq. secretary to queen Catherine, to hold in capite by knight's service, who in the 38th year of that reign alienated it

to Sir Maurice Dennis, and he, in the first year of queen Mary, sold it to William Damsell, esq./n afterwards knighted, who bore for his arms, Ermine, on a cross engrailed, sable, a tower, between four mullets, issuing from as many crescents, argent. He died before the 25th year of queen Elizabeth, leaving his four daughters his coheirs, one of whom marrying Burston, on the partition of their estates, he became entitled to this manor, which was alienated by his descendant, about the beginning of king James I.'s reign, to John Moyle, esq. of Buckwell, whose son Capt. Robert Moyle, of that place, sold it to Thomas Finch, earl of Winchelsea, who died possessed of it in 1639, and in his descendants this manor continued down to Daniel, earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, who at his death in 1769, devised it, among his other estates in this county, to his nephew George Finch Hatton, esq. now of Eastwell, the present owner of it.

RAYMONDS is a manor in this parish, situated about a mile southward from Wye bridge, which was not only the seat, but gave surname to a family, who were for a great length of time stewards to the abbot and convent of Battell, for their lands near this place; and it is probable that it was once the original stock, from which the Raymonds of Essex, Norfolk, and other counties, derived their extraction. This family was extinct here before the 36th year of Henry VIII. when Roger Kingesland held it of the manor of Perie. It afterwards passed into the name of Back, in which it continued till Robert Back, almost within memory, conveyed it to the executors of Fenner, of Ashford, who left three daughters, Mary-Frances; Sarah, who intermarried with Mr. George Smith, of Faversham, and Priscilla; and upon the division of their estates, this manor was allotted to Mr. Smith, in right of his wife Sarah, and he settled it on one of

/n Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 14.

his daughters, on her marriage with Mr. Collet Mawhood, who alienated it to George Carter, esq. of Kennington, whose son, the Rev. George Carter, of Kennington, is the present owner of it.

THERE WAS a manor in this parish called GERMANS, formerly possessed by a family of the same name, afterwards the property of the Hawker's, of Challock, and then of the Dryland's, the late Mr. Brett called the above the manor of Snatts, alias Germans, and said he met with another manor here called the manor of Dyton's, about the time of Edward IV. lying near the boundary of this parish, towards Crundall.

CARDINAL, ARCHBISHOP JOHN KEMPE, before-mentioned, was the son of Thomas, younger brother of Sir Roger Kempe, whose ancestors, as has been mentioned before, had been settled at Ollantigh, in this parish, for some generations; a knightly family, the honor of knighthood having been constantly conferred on the eldest son of it till the death of Sir Thomas Kempe in 1607, when his great estate was by his daughters transferred to other families. The archbi-

shop was born in this parish in 1380, and was of Mer= ton college, Oxford, and of which he was fellow, and became LL. D. He was afterwards archdeacon of Durham, dean of the arches, vicar-general to archbi= shop Chichele, and not long afterwards made by king Henry V. on his conquering Normandy, chief justi= ciary of that province; all which he seems to have kept at one time, and till, in 1419, he was conse= crated bishop of Rochester. In 1421 he was tran= slated to Chichester, where he did not continue long, for the latter end of that year he was translated to Lon= don, and in 1424 to York. In 1427, anno 4 king Henry VI. he was made lord chancellor, and in 1452 translated to Canterbury, where he sat till his death in 1454. In 1439, being then archbishop of York, he was made cardinal priest, with the title of St. Bal=

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bina, and on his promotion to Canterbury, a cardinal bishop, with the title of St. Rufina. Our historians are very short in their accounts of this great man; scarce any have done more than barely to mention his name; but, without doubt, his abilities were very great, otherwise it is improbable he could have ar= rived at the highest preferments both in church and state; for, as the author of the *Antiquitates Britanniae*, observes, his executing the offices, to which he was first preferred, so admirably, was the cause of his still higher promotion. He was munificent in his works of charity, in particular to the divinity schools and to Merton college, in Oxford; and the university had such grateful remembrance of it, that a particular day was appointed there, to solemnize the memory of him and his nephew John Kempe, bishop of London, on which they were stiled the two *Mecænas's* of the uni= versity. Besides which, he beautified the collegiate church of Southwell, and last of all he founded and bountifully endowed the COLLEGE OF WYE, in= tending it for the celebrating of divine service, and for the education of youth in this parish, in the 10th year of king Henry VI. whilst archbishop of York, he obtained the king's licence for that purpose, /o and afterwards, by his instrument under his great seal, in 1447, being the 26th year of that reign, converted the parish church of Wye into a college, to consist of a proper number of chaplains and priests to admini= ster daily in it; one of which should be called the master or provost of the college of St. Gregory and St. Martin, to have the government over the others; and for them he caused a college to be built adjoining the parish church-yard, on his own ground. After which he gave them a set of statutes, and endowed it with sufficient estates in this parish, and others in this county, for their support and maintenance. In which

/o Dugd. Mon. vol. iii. pt. 2, p. 191.

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state this college remained till the reign of king Henry VIII. when Edward Bowden, the provost, and the fellows of it, by their instrument under their com= mon seal, dated Jan. 19, in the 36th year of that reign, surrendered it, with all its possessions, into the

king's hands, /p at which time the revenues of it were worth 93l. 2s. 0¹/₂d. per annum.

The scite of the college of Wye remained in the hands of the crown only a few months, when the king granted it, with other possessions lately belonging to it, to Walter Bucler, esq. secretary to queen Catherine, being then valued, including the tenth at 68l. 12s. 5¹/₄d. to hold in capite by knight's service. He alienated it, in the 38th year of that reign, to Sir Maurice Dennis, and he in the first year of queen Mary sold it to William Damsell, esq. afterwards knighted. In which year there was a survey taken of the scite of the college, as well as the rest of the estates of it, in which there is the following description of it. The college was built four-square, the over part timber, the nether part stone, adjoining to the east side of the church-yard of Wye, saving the hall of it, which is all stone, covered with slate, in length forty feet, and in breadth twenty-three. At the upper end of the hall is a parlour, ceiled with old wainscot, twenty feet square, with a chamber over it of like size; the rest of the lodgings on that side, little chambers, both above and beneath. By the parlour is a fair cellar, to lay in wine, and at the end of the hall, a kitchen, with a fair well in it; the buttery, larder, and other offices on that side, over them are two large chambers, the one ceiled. At the entry of the gate, on the right hand, a fair chapel, with seats and altar of wainscot, on the left hand, the porter's lodge. Behind the parlour is a garden-plot, of one rood, well walled with

/p See Rym. Fœd. vol. xv. p. 67. The original is in the Augmentation-office.

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stone. On the back of the hall are the bakehouse, brewhouse, stables, barns, and other houses, all well covered with tile. Sir William Damsell left four daughters and coheirs, who in the next reign of queen Elizabeth, became entitled to it; but how it passed afterwards, I have not found; though before the latter end of the last century it was become the estate of Sir George Wheler, prebendary of Durham, who died in 1724, and by a codicil to his will, gave the scite and buildings of the college of Wye to the master of the grammar-school there, and to the master and mistress of the Lady Joanna Thornhill's charity-school, and their successors for ever, for their habitations; and lands and tenements adjoining, to the value of fourteen pounds per annum, for keeping the buildings of it in repair.

ARCHBISHOP KEMPE intending his college here for the instruction of youth in the knowledge of grammar, as well as for the celebration of divine service, took good care in his statutes for the government of it, that this part of his intention should have its proper effect. In THIS SCHOOL all scholars were to be taught gratis, both rich and poor, in the art of grammar, (unless a present was voluntarily made, and except the usual offerings of cocks and pence, at the feast of St. Nicholas). The grammar master was to be a graduate in the same, or some other faculty, and he was to have liberty to instruct scholars privately, out

of school hours, and to take pay for it, so that he did not neglect the school. In which situation the school remained at the dissolution of the college, in the 36th year of king Henry VIII. when it became, with that, likewise suppressed. However, the king took some care for the revival of it; for in his grant that year, of the rectories of Bocton Aluph, Bren<s>et, and Newington, and the advowsons of the vicarages of them, and the vicarage of Wye, parcel of the possessions of the late college here, to Walter Bucler; there was a

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proviso, among other things, that he, Walter Bucler, and his heirs, should at all times provide and maintain a sufficient schoolmaster, capable of teaching boys and young lads in grammar, without fee or reward, in this parish; and he was to pay him, out of the revenues of these premises, the salary of 13l. 6s. 8d. yearly. But he neglecting to perform these conditions, the school continued unprovided for, and his grant became forfeited on that account to the crown, in consequence of a commission of enquiry, taken anno 35 of Elizabeth, for that purpose. And another commission was had, and inquisition taken, in the 24th year of king James the 1st.'s reign, by which it was found, that Walter Bucler had not fulfilled the conditions of his grant, by which the crown was entitled to resume the estates again. Upon which account, king Charles I. in his 2d year, granted all of them to Robert Maxwell, esq. and his heirs for ever; provided that they should provide and maintain such a schoolmaster, and pay him sixteen pounds yearly. After which the king, in his 5th year, made a new grant of them to him, on the like conditions, in consideration of his services, at the like rent; and that if the salary of sixteen pounds was not paid in the whole or in part, within thirty days after it was due, he was to forfeit four pounds, over and above the payment due, and so for every month after, so long as it should continue unpaid, with the usual power of distress, &c. Which salary to the master continues to be paid by the possessor of the vicarage of Wye, George Finch Hatton, esq. who is the present patron of it. And a further benefaction, towards this school, was added, beside the gift of the college itself, and the buildings and lands already mentioned, by Sir George Wheler, who died in 1724, and by his will gave ten pounds a year, out of a farm called Skinners, as an exhibition, to a boy chosen out of the charity school of lady Johanna Thornhill's foundation, and educated in this

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grammar-school of Wye, to be sent to Lincoln college, in Oxford. But his son, the Rev. Granville Wheler, observing that in the course of almost forty years, no boy had been so educated, augmented it by deed to twenty pounds per annum; and ordered, that if no such boy should be so educated, it should be given to any boy of this parish, or in default, to any other, provided he was educated at this school.

The master of it, besides the above pension of sixteen pounds per annum, has that half of the college allotted for his residence which contains the south

side of it. The whole of it has been lately thoroughly repaired and beautified by the trustees of it, and now makes a very handsome appearance. The Rev. Philip Parsons is the present master of it.

The school-room is an antient stone building, seemingly of the time of the foundation of the college, standing adjoining to the church-yard, close to the road. The Wheler benefaction was put under the management of seven trustees, the late Daniel, earl of Winchelsea, John Sawbridge, esq. of Ollantigh, and five vicars of the neighbouring parishes. It was till of late, under the care of John Sawbridge, esq. of Ollantigh, and the Rev. Wanley Sawbridge his brother, as heirs and successors to their late father, and the Rev. Mr. Pegge, late vicar of Godmersham, all now deceased, who found such difficulty in their applications to renew this trust, that in all probability it will not be very soon renewed again.

Lady Johanna Thornhill, of Ollantigh, by her will in 1708, among other charitable bequests to this parish, gave the residue of her estate to her executors in trust, that they should apply it to the use and benefit of the poorest sort of children of the town of Wye, for their improvement in learning. With it the executors purchased a farm in Wye and in Romney Marsh, of ninety-seven pounds per annum, out of which a schoolmaster and mistress are paid, who teach the

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poor children gratis. This, with the rest of her charitable bequests, was settled by the court of chancery.

The other half, or north side of the college, is allotted for the master and mistress of this school, for their residence, as well as to teach school in. This beneficial institution, so greatly to the advantage of this parish, is in a very flourishing state, there being at present more than one hundred boys and girls taught in it.

The master of the English boys school has a salary of thirty pounds per annum, for which he is to teach every poor boy in the parish reading, writing, and arithmetic, from the age of eight years to twelve. The mistress of the girls school has twenty pounds per annum, for which she is to instruct every poor girl in the parish in reading and needlework, and they are to attend the master of the boys school two hours in the day, to be taught to write.

CHARITIES.

WILLIAM GERMAN, of Wye, by will in 1479, gave to trustees, two acres and one rood of land in trust, to lay out 20d. for the health of his soul, and the residue in repairing of the church. This is now let at 2l. 10s. per annum.

It was certified by archbishop Parker, to the privy council in 1562, that there was a poor-house at Wy, called le almehouse, without a foundation, permitted, maintained, and upholden by Sir Thomas Kempe, only upon his charitable zeal; in which lived certain poor people of alms. It stands on the bank in Boltshill, and is now in six tenements, and has been for many years disposed of by the vestry.

ROBERT SERLYS, S. T. B. by will in 1567, gave his tenement, called Puntowes, to three poor people, to be placed there by the churchwardens. This was afterwards called Serles's hospital, and was exchanged some years ago by the parish, for the

present workhouse.

RICHARD DRILAND, ESQ. of Wye, by will in 1606, gave to the poor of Wye his quit-rents of 5s. per annum, or thereabouts; and two acres of woodland in Kingswood.

RICHARD HALKE the younger, of Wye, by will in 1578, gave 9s. per annum to the use of the poor, and repairs of the church.

WILLIAM MORRIS, by will in 1612, gave 40s. per annum to the poor of this parish, out of lands at Nackolt.

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THOMAS WOOD, gent. of Wye, gave by will in 1612. a tenement in the town of Wye, for the use of the poor. A family is placed there by the vestry. He gave also 10l. per annum to be lent to two poor tradesmen.

HENRY HAULE, ESQ. of Maidstone, by will in 1622, devised to the overseers of Wye, 20l. to be employed upon some hemp, flax, wool, or other such matters, to employ the poor children and aged persons of the parish, in work; so that out of the increase of it, they should have some recompence for their labours, and yet the principal sum or stock reserved whole.

THOMAS CARKERIDGE, of Maidstone, by will in 1640, gave out of lands lying at Bilting, in Wye, Godmersham, and Crundal, 6l. per annum; to the overseers of the poor of this parish, 3l. and to those of Godmersham the other 3l. for ever, to be every year bestowed to cloath four poor widows, two of Wye and two of Godmersham; and if there were not such poor widows, then to cloath other poor women; and he ordered that the cloathing should be given on the first Thursday in November yearly, with power of distress, &c. This is regularly distributed.

REYNOLD GOATLEY, ESQ. left by will in 1641, a large silver flaggon for the use of the communion.

ROBERT COLE, ESQ. by deed in 1653, settled 100l. and ordered that out of the interest should be paid 40s. yearly to a preacher for two sermons on the 30th of January, on certain texts therein specified, and that the remainder should be distributed in bread. To which sum the parish have since added 20l. and have laid it out in the purchase of six acres of land in Braborne.

THOMAS KIPPS, by will in 1680, gave 20s. per annum out of his lands in Great Chart.

WILLIAM BRETT, of Kennington, by will in 1704, gave 20s. per annum out of a tenement in Wye, to cloath a poor boy. — This house has been since purchased by the parish, and is in two tenements, being situated near the workhouse. It is inhabited by two poor families.

JOHN FINCH, gent. of Lypne, by will in 1707, gave his farm and lands, containing 105 acres, (now let at 75l. per annum,) in St. Nicholas at Wade, in Thanet, to the ministers, churchwardens, and overseers of the parishes of St. Nicholas and Wye, in trust, that the yearly rents and profits should be yearly distributed to eight of the eldest, poorest, and most honest, industrious and labouring men of each of these parishes, or any other parish (that is to say, 16 in all) that never received any relief from them. And he devised his messuages, lands, and appurtenances, containing 45 acres, in Wye, (now let at 62l. per annum) to the minister, churchwardens, and overseers of Wye, in trust, that they should distribute the rents and profits half

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yearly for ever, unto five of the eldest and poorest widows of the parish, who had never received relief of that or any other

parish. And he gave his tenement and lands, containing 36 acres, at Bilting; and his tenement, and 16 acres of land, in Wye, Godmersham, and Crundal; and his six cowshares, lying in a meadow called Laines, in Wye and Godmersham; and a piece of ground, called Temple-hope, adjoining to Wye and Crundal, to the ministers, &c. of Wye and Godmersham, in trust, that they of Wye should dispose of the rents and profits of that land, with its appurtenances, which lay in Wye, to six of the poorest and eldest labouring people of Wye, who never had received relief of that or any other parish, half-yearly for ever.

LADY JOANNA THORNHILL, by will in 1708, gave 100l. to trustees, to dispose out of the interest 40s. to the minister to preach a sermon upon Good Friday in the forenoon, annually; 30s. to be equally distributed between three poor men and three poor women, that should attend divine service on that day, and the remainder to be laid out in bread, to be given to the poor on Easter-day. Also the profits of 500l. to poor housekeepers, in sums not exceeding 30s. to each family, nor less than 20s. These two sums of 100l. and 500l. were laid out in the purchase of an estate at Sevington, which is now let at 24l. per annum, 5l. a year is allotted to the purposes for which the interest of the 100l. was given; and the residue is distributed pursuant to the will, on every Easter Monday annually. And the residue of her estate she gave to her executors in trust, that they should apply the same to the benefit of teaching the poor children of this parish gratis; the particulars of which have been mentioned before, under the account of her school, commonly called Lady Thornhill's school, in this parish.

WYE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Bridge.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Gregory and St. Martin, stands at the north-west corner of the town of Wye, and was built by cardinal Kempe, when he founded the college of Wye in the reign of king Henry VI. being a handsome, large building, with three isles and as many chancels, and a high spire steeple in the middle, which stood on four lofty arches, supported by a like number of large pillars. The great chancel was made choir fashion, wainscoted, and seated round for the members of the new col-

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lege. The north chancel was appointed for the burying-place of the Kempes, owners of Ollantigh; and in the south chancel the parishioners of the better sort were interred. According to tradition, it stood anciently on a little hill just at the entrance into the town from the river, and which is now called Boltshill, but was removed to this place, where it now stands, by the cardinal. In 1572, the steeple was burnt by lightning, and though it was soon afterwards rebuilt, under the care of Gregory Brett, then churchwarden, who was a great contributor to the expence of it; for which the parishioners granted to him and his heirs, a vault, in the middle isle, for their burial; yet in 1685 it fell, and beat down the greatest part of the middle chancel, almost all the two side ones, and the east end of the body of the church, by which all the monuments in the north chancel, of the Kempes, and Thornhills, of Ollantigh, were wholly destroyed, and the tombstone which lay over the cardinal's father and

mother, broken to pieces, whose epitaph is preserved by Weever, p. 274. The fragments of several of the old tombstones lay for several years afterwards scattered about the church-yard, and some statues and parts of monuments lay at the lower end of the church; but they have since been removed and there are now none remaining. After this, the remaining part was inclosed with boards, at the east end, to make it fit for divine service, and the rest lay in ruins till the year 1701, when a brief was procured for the rebuilding of it, and within a year or two afterwards it was begun, the remainder of the old chancels was taken down, and only the present small chancel built up at the east end, in the room of that where the choir was, and a tower steeple on the south side, between the chancel and the body of the church, with battlements, and four pinnacles with gilt vanes on them. The present building is small, but neat. It consists of three isles, the middle one having an upper story and range of

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windows. There is only one small chancel, new built, circular at the east end, which does not reach near so far as the old one, which extended several feet further, Mr. Chamberlain Godfrey's monument, in the church yard standing, as is said, where the altar formerly did. Towards building the steeple and chancel, the lady Joanna Thornhill, the prebendaries of Canterbury, and others, were contributors, and Richard Thornhill, esq. gave the pavement of the chancel. In the steeple are eight bells and a clock, which were completed in 1774. The only memorials of any time remaining, are three in the body of the church, viz. two for the Bretts, and one having the figures, in brass, of a woman between her two husbands, and underneath of several children, and at bottom an inscription, beginning John Andrew Justus, Thomas Palmer q; venustus, &c. In the chancel is a memorial for Mrs. Catherine Matchem, daughter of George Finch, gent. of this parish, obt. 1713; a monument over a vault, in which lie Agnes and Mary Johnson; the former died in 1763, the latter in 1767, they were descended from Sir Robert Moyle, of Buckwell; and a monument for lady Joanna Thornhill, daughter of Sir Bevil Granville, second wife of Richard Thornhill, esq. of Ollantigh, commander of a regiment of horse raised at his own charge, obt. 1708.

This church, appurtenant to the manor of Wye, was given, with it, to the abbey of Battel at its foundation by the Conqueror, and was appropriated to it before the year 1384, being the 8th year of king Richard II. In which state it continued till the reign of king Henry VI. when cardinal Kempe obtained the king's licence to purchase the advowson of the vicarage of the abbot of Battel, and settled it on his new-founded college here, as will be further mentioned hereafter; but the rectory appropriate of Wye remained part of the possessions of the abbey till its dissolution in the 30th year of king Henry VIII. when

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it came into the king's hands, where this rectory staid till king Edward VI. in his 5th year, granted it and

the manor of the vicarage, together with the two tithe-barns and the tithes themselves, all parcel of the late monastery of Battel, to Edward, lord Clinton and Saye, who reconveyed them back again to the king, within a month afterwards.

The rectory of Wye, with the barn and tithes of Craphill, in this parish, which tithery is very small, consisting mostly of woodlands, and lying adjoining to Molash and Challock, (the other corn tithes and premises above-mentioned being granted elsewhere) remained in the hands of the crown, till queen Elizabeth, in her 3d year, by her letters patent, granted them, the former being of the yearly rent of 26l. 13s. 4d. and the latter of 1l. 6s. 8d. to archbishop Parker, in exchange for other premises, and in his successors they have continued to this time, his grace the archbishop of Canterbury being now possessed of them. Samuel-Elias Sawbridge, esq. of Ollantigh, is the present lessee of this rectory. In 1684 the parsonage of Wye was assessed to the church and king's tax at one hundred and five pounds yearly rent. THE OTHER CORN TITHES, mentioned above to have been granted elsewhere, which consisted of the town barn and the corn tithes belonging to it, extending into Crundal and Waltham, came into the possession of the Finch's, earls of Winchelsea, and are now the property of George Finch Hatton, esq. The tithes of Fannes, in this parish and Crundal, belonged to the priory of Stratford Bow, in Middlesex, and on the suppression of it in the reign of Henry VIII were granted by that king to Sir Ralph Sadler, to hold in capite.

THE MANOR OF THE VICARAGE OF WYE remained in the crown only till the 1st year of queen Elizabeth, who then granted it, with the royal manor of Wye, and other premises and lands here, to her kinsman Henry, lord Hunsdon, to hold in capite by

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knight's service, whose grandson Henry, earl of Dover, soon after 1628, alienated them to Sir Thomas Finch, of Eastwell, afterwards earl of Winchelsea, whose descendant Daniel, earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, in 1769, devised them to George Finch Hatton, esq. of Eastwell, the present owner of this manor.

CARDINAL KEMPE, on the foundation of the college here, in order to prevent any difference which might happen between the master of it and the vicar of Wye, had the king's licence to purchase the advowson of the vicarage from the abbot of Battel, and to give it to his master and chaplains, who had leave to appropriate it to themselves; with whom this advowson and appropriation remained, as part of the possessions of the college, till the surrendry of it in the 36th year of Henry VIII. when it came into the hands of the crown, and was granted, with all its rights and appurtenances, that year, with the college and other premises here and elsewhere, to Walter Bucler, esq. to hold in capite, and in his grant was a proviso, that he should always provide two curates, one to be called the head, and the other, the inferior curate, to administer the sacraments and divine service in the church, and to take the cure of souls in the parish, to whom

he was to pay, out of the rents of the premises therein granted, all which had formerly belonged to the college, to the head curate nine pounds, and to the other eight pounds half-yearly, or within one month after. But he neglecting to perform these conditions, the cure remained unprovided for, and the grant became forfeited to the crown. After which, Robert Maxwell preferred a petition to king James I. for a grant of such estates as Walter Buckler before had in his grant, and offering to pay, of his own accord, forty pounds per annum to one curate here, instead of the

/q Dugd. Mon. vol. iii. pt. 2, p. 192.

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seventeen pounds to the two, as before stipulated; upon a commission of enquiry it was found, that for the space of twelve years, there had been no curates appointed, nor any salary paid according to the proviso in the patent. After which, king Charles I. in his 2d and 5th years, made two several grants of the same premises, among which was the vicarage of Wye, to the before-mentioned Robert Maxwell, with a proviso, that he should at all times provide and maintain a sufficient curate to serve in this parish church, to take the cure of souls, and should pay him yearly fifty pounds, by half-yearly payments, with penalty of forfeiture, and power of entry and distress for the sum of 12l. 10s. for every month during which this salary, or any part of it, should be in arrear over and above thirty days after either of those times of payment. The premises granted as before-mentioned, consisted of the rectories and churches of Bocton Aluph, Brenset, Newington, and the vicarage of Wye; the latter of which passed afterwards into the family of the Finch's, earls of Winchelsea, in whom it continued down to Daniel, earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, who in 1769 devised it to George Finch Hatton, esq. of Eastwell, the owner of the appropriation of this vicarage, and patron of the perpetual curacy of Wye church.

The premises in the grant as above-mentioned, are now in different hands. Brenset and Newington parsonages, are in the possession of James Drake Brockman, esq. who pays annually from them twenty-one pounds to the curate of Wye. The parsonage of Bocton Aluph belongs to the Rev. Moyle Breton, who pays twenty pounds, and the remainder of the salary is paid by George Finch Hatton, esq. as owner of the vicarage of Wye.

This curacy is now of the yearly certified value of 50l. 10s. 3d. In 1578 here were communicants five hundred and fifty-seven.

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CURATES.

Thomas Jackson, 1596./r

Richard Shepherd, 1623.

Ambrose Rickman, 1640.

Thomas Swan, 1648.

Thomas Ferrers, 1654.

William Belke, 1656./s

Jeremy Dodson, 1662.

Samuel Smith, 1675.

George Gipps, 1681.
W. M. Newar, 1706, obt. 1729.
John Wilkinson, 1729.
Heneage Dering, A. M. 1743.
Wm. Whitmell, 1743.
Heneage Dering, S. T. P. 1754,
resigned the same year./t
Johnson Towers, A. M Oct. 27,
1754, resigned 1761./u
Philip Parsons, A. M. 1762, the
present curate./w

/r He was afterwards prebendary of
Canterbury and rector of Ivychurch.

/s Afterwards preb. of Canterbury.

/t Prebendary of Canterbury, and
rector of Milton, in Buckinghamshire.

/u He resigned on being appointed
master of Tunbridge school.

/w And master of Wye school.

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CRUNDAL

LIES the next parish north-eastward from Wye.
It appears by the register of Leeds abbey, that this
parish was likewise once called Dromwæd, which name
I conjecture to be the same now called Tremworth;
in which register it is said, that Dromwæd and Crun=
dale is one and the same parish; Dromewida & Crun=
dale sunt una & eadem villa; and in another place
mention is made de Ecclesia de Dromwæd.

It is but a small parish, containing within it not
more than twenty-four houses; it is an out of the way
situation, having little or no traffic through it.
The hills are very frequent in it, and exceedingly bar=
ren; the soil is in general chalk, covered with quan=
tities of flints. The country here is very healthy; it
is exceeding cold, and has a wild and dreary appear=
ance, great part of it consists of open downs, most of
which are uncultivated, those on the eastern side lying
on the high ridge of hills adjoining to Wye downs.
In the middle of the parish there is some coppice
wood, and still more at the north-east boundaries
of it.

There are two small streets or hamlets, one in the
valley, called Danord, corruptly for Danewood-street;

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the other eastward from it, on the hills called Sole=
street, which is the principal one, where there is a fair
for toys and pedlary held yearly on Whit Monday.
Close at the end of the former, in the valley, stands
the parsonage, a genteel habitable dwelling, and on
the hill, about three-quarters of a mile from it the
church. About a mile westward, over the hill, is
Little Ollantigh, belonging to Samuel-Elias Saw=
bridge, esq. situated on the downs, this is but a mo=
dern name, given to it when the late Mr. Jacob Saw=
bridge, by his brother's permission, resided at it. It
lies among Mr. Sawbridge's park grounds, the land
within the inclosure of it being made into gardens for
the seat of Ollantigh, and the house for the habitation
of the gardeners, and others. Beyond this the downs

reach still further westwards, the whole of them being usually called Tremworth downs, from the manor of that name, the house of which is situated on the western bounds of this parish, in the bottom, almost close to the river Stour. The old mansion has been moated round, and many fragments of the arms of Kempe are still remaining both in the windows and carvework of the wainscot and timbers of the house. It had formerly a domestic chapel belonging to it, some of the walls of which are still standing.

ON TREMWORTH DOWN, near the summit of the hill, about three-quarters of a mile from Crundal, there is a hollow road, on each side of which there have been found many remains of a Roman sepulture; the first discovery of which was made in the year 1703, in the waggon road, where, by the descent of the hill, it was worn hollow, and another was again made in 1713, by the then earl of Winchelsea, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Forster, rector of this parish, who were so successful as to meet with several skeletons, bones, skulls, &c. of persons full grown, as well as children, and many urns, pans, and bottles of lead, coloured and fine red earths in graves, the sides and ends of

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which were firm close chalk in its natural undisturbed state, the earth near the skeletons being stained with blueish spots of mould, occasioned no doubt by the corruption of the bodies.

But before this there had been taken up about the year 1678, a much larger urn than any found afterwards, in digging for land on the range of the hill eastward from Crundal, though in the parish of Godmersham. This was so large, that it might well have been thought one of those family urns, such as Mor-ton describes in his History of Northamptonshire, from Meric Casaubon's notes on Antoninus, being big enough to hold half a bushel; but there was neither ashes nor bones in it, nor any thing else, but a shallow earthen pan, resembling that marked (3) below, with another little urn or pot standing in the midst of it, of fine red earth, and having some letters on it. It was covered with a flat, broad stone, and fenced round with a wall of flint, to defend it from external injuries. A plate is here given of several of the urns and vessels found as above-mentioned./w

The late Rev. Brian Faussett, of Heppington, in 1757 and 1759, dug very successfully at this place; and in the several graves which he opened, found numbers of urns, offuaries, pateræ, and lacrymatories, both of Roman earthen ware and of glass, of different sizes and colours, as red, lead-colour, dark-brown, and white, with the names of the different manufacturers on many of them. He found likewise several female trinkets, and a coin of the younger Faustina, wife of the emperor Marcus Aurelius, who died in

/w The dimensions of them were as follows, No. (1) was about 4¹/₄ inches high; No. (2) the least of all, 3, 1 line; No. (4) was 5 1 inches high, the diameter of the orifice within, 1 1 inch, and of the foot without, 1 inch. No. (6) was 3 4 inches high, the diameter at the top, from out to out, 3 25 inches, and that of the bottom, 2 25. No. (7) was in height 4 inches, the diameter of

the top, from out to out, 3-5-; the bottom, 1-9.

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177 after Christ; and what was very singular, the skeletons, of which he found several, all lay with their feet to the south-west. From the circumstance of finding in some graves, urns with burnt ashes and bones in them, and in others skeletons, it appears that this had been a common burial-place for some length of time; and the finding of the above-mentioned coin proves it, without doubt, to have been Roman. Mr. Faussett thought it to have been the place of sepulture for some few families, or at most for only two or three of the neighbouring villages. In one place near the graves, from the quantity of black mould in one particular place, different from the rest of the soil near it, he imagined that spot might have been made use of as their ustrina, that is, where the funeral pile was placed to burn the bodies of the dead. All the above remains of Roman antiquity discovered by him are now in the valuable collection of his son Henry Godfrey Faussett, esq. of Heppington.

THE ROYAL MANOR OF WYE claims paramount over this parish, subordinate to which are THE MANORS OF CRUNDAL AND HADLOE, which, with the rest of this parish, were parcel of the honor of Clare, belonging to the noble family of Clare, earls of Gloucester, of whom they were held by the family of Handlou, afterwards written Hadloe, whose seat here was called by their name. John de Handlou possessed these manors in the reign of king Henry III. and died anno 11 Edward I./x possessed of large estates in this and the counties of Oxford, Buckingham, and Gloucester. His son, of the same name, in the 1st year of king Edward II. had a charter of free-warren in all his demesne lands at Crondale, Tremeworth, Vanne, and Ashenedene. He died in the 20th year of king Ed=

/x See Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 61, 62; and vol. ii. of this history, p. 187.

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ward III. leaving Edmund his grandson his heir, who possessed his estates here; but he died s. p. in the 32d year of it, and his two sisters, Margaret, then married to John de Apulby, and Elizabeth to John de la Pole, became his heirs to all his estates here, and elsewhere, they sold these manors soon afterwards to Waretius de Valoins, who was before possessed of Tremeworth, and other large estates in these parts. He died without male issue, and his two daughters became his coheirs, one of whom married Sir Francis Fogge, grandson of Otho, who came out of Lancashire into Kent, and the other, Thomas de Aldon, who, on the division of their estates, became possessed of these manors of Crundal and Hadloe; and in his descendants they continued till they were at length, by a female heir, carried in marriage to Heron, of Lincolnshire, who, in order to purchase other estates nearer to him in that county, passed away these manors, with the rest of her inheritance in this parish, to Sir Thomas Kempe, of Ollantigh, whose descendant Sir Thomas

Kempe dying in 1607, without male issue, his four daughters became his coheirs, one of whom, Mary, married Sir Dudley Diggs, and on the partition of their inheritance, he became in her right entitled to them, and soon afterwards alienated them to Jeremy Gay, of London; from which name they some years afterwards were alienated to John Whitfield, gent. of Canterbury, whose second son Robert Whitfield, of Chartham, about the beginning of king George II.'s reign, passed them away by sale to Humphry Pudner, esq. of Canterbury, whose daughter, and at length sole heir Catherine, carried them in marriage to Thomas Barrett, esq. of Lee, in Ickham, who died possessed of these manors in 1757, leaving Catherine his wife surviving, who then became entitled to them. She died in 1785, upon which they came, by deed of settlement as well as by her will, to her only son and heir Thomas Barrett, esq. of Lee, who within a few months

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afterwards exchanged them, for Garwinton, in Littleborne, with Thomas Knight, esq. of Godmersham, whose son of the same name dying in 1794, s. p. gave them, together with the estate of Little Winchcombe, in this parish likewise, by will, to Edward Austen, esq. of Rowling-place, now of Godmersham, the eldest son of the Rev. George Austen, rector of Steventon, in Hampshire, who continues the present proprietor of them. A court baron is held for these manors.

Crundale-house is situated at a small distance south-eastward from Danord-street. The scite of Hadloe manor is at a small distance still further southward. The house of which has been down time out of mind; but there was a barn on it, called Hadloe-barn, remaining till within these few years, which has been lately likewise pulled down.

WINCHCOMBE is an estate in this parish, which in very early times was the property as well as residence of the family of Carter, ancestors to those of this name now residing at Canterbury, who, according to tradition, were settled here as early as the reign of king Edward II. and in the reign of king Henry VI. Thomas Carter, gent. of Crundall, was returned in the list of those gentlemen of this county, who were entitled to bear the antient arms of their ancestors, which were, Azure, two lions rampant, combatant, or; they continued possessors of this seat, till at length Mr. George Carter, within memory, alienated it to Mr. Thomas Curteis, whose son William dying s. p. by will gave it to his wife Juliana, remarried to William Fenton, esq. of Maidstone, and again on his death, to William Harvey, physician, of Maidstone. She died in 1768, s. p. and by will devised it to her surviving husband for his life, on whose death in 1779, it became by her will the property of her second husband's nephew, Mr. Fenton, who now owns it.

THE MANOR OF TREMWORTH, called in antient Latin deeds, Dromwæd and Dromwida, was formerly

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of such eminent account, that the whole parish was called by that name, and in some of them it is said, that Dromwide and Crundale was one and the same

parish; and in others, afterwards when, the above name grew into disuse, Crundale is frequently mentioned as lying in Tremworth.

THE MANOR OF VANNE, or VANNES, was likewise of some note in the time of the Conqueror, being described in the record of Domesday, under the title of the lands belonging to Odo, bishop of Baieux:

Adam holds of the bishop, Fanne. It was taxed at half a suling. The arable land is one carucate and an half. In demesne there are two carucates, and three villeins, and three servants, and a church, and thirteen acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of ten hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth four pounds, and afterwards twenty shillings, now four pounds. Hugo de Montfort holds from thence as much as is worth twenty shillings.

Which last mentioned land is thus mentioned under the general title of Hugo de Montfort's lands, further on in the same survey:

. and as yet Adam has one denne, which lay in Fane manor. There are two borderers, paying thirty pence. It is and was worth separately five shillings.

About four years after the taking of the above survey, the bishop of Baieux was disgraced, and all his possessions were forfeited to the crown, soon after which the seignory of these manors was granted by it to the family of Clare, earls of Gloucester, of whom they were again held by the family of Valoigns. Rualon de Valoigns possessed both these manors at the latter end of king Stephen's reign, as did his descendant Allen de Valoigns in the next reign of king Henry II. who resided at times both at Tremworth, and <R>epton, in Ashford. He was sheriff from the 30th year to the end of that reign, and is frequently written in the Pipe-rolls, Valoigns of T<r>emworth.

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Waretius de Valoyns, for so the name was then written, kept his shrievalty here in the 31st and 32d year of king Edward I. Soon after which the Handloes, who were likewise owners before of much land in this parish, were become possessed of both these manors; for in the 1st year of king Edward II. John de Handlo had a grant of free warren, for his lands in Tremworth, Vanne, and Crundale, as well as on his other estates. His grandson Edmund succeeded to them, as well as to the advowson of the church of Crundale; but he died s. p. in the 29th year of king Edward the III'd's leaving his two sisters, viz. Margaret, then wife of John Appulby, and Elizabeth of Edmund de la Pole, his coheirs, the former of whom dying s. p. the entire fee of these manors, as well as of the advowson above-mentioned, as part of their inheritance, came into the possession of Edmund de la Pole and Elizabeth his wife, being held of the king in capite. y Soon after which they seem to have come again into the hands of the crown; for in the 43d year of that reign, Ingelran de Ghisnes, lord of Couci, afterwards earl of Bedford and count of Soissons, who had married Isabel, that king's daughter, obtained a grant of the manors of Tremworth and Vanne. He died anno

21 Richard II. leaving by her two daughters his heirs, Mary, married to Henry de Barre, and Philippa, to Robert de Vere, duke of Ireland; but these manors, with the advowson of Crundal, on his dying without heirs male, reverted according to the limitation in the grant, again to the crown, whence they were immediately afterwards granted to Henry Yevele, for his life, and as quickly afterwards the reversion of them to the master and chaplains of the college of Maydenstone, then lately founded by archbishop Courtney, in free and pure, perpetual alms, which was confirmed by king Henry IV. in his 1st year, by inspexi-

/y Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 61. Kennet's Paroch. Antiq. p. 501.

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mus; and in the possession of the college they continued till the suppression of it in the 1st year of king Edward VI. anno 1546, when they came into the king's hands, who in his 3d year, granted the manors of Tremworth and Faynes, with the advowson of the church of Crundal, late belonging to the above college, to Sir Thomas Cheney, to hold in capite by knight's service, and his son Henry, lord Cheney, in the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign, alienated them to Sir Thomas Kempe, of Ollantigh, whose son, of the same name, dying without male issue in 1607, devised the manor of Tremworth, with the advowson of the church of Crundal, by will to his brother Reginald, who afterwards resided here. He died at Tremworth in 1622, and was buried in this church, leaving one son Thomas, who died s. p. and three daughters, who at length became his coheirs, Anne, married to Josias Clarke; Amy, to Maurice Tuke, of Essex; and Dorothy, to Denny; and in the partition of their inheritance, the manor of Tremworth, with other lands adjoining, and the advowson of the church of Crundal, was allotted to Maurice Tuke, in right of his wife. They left an only daughter and heir Dorothy, who carried this manor and advowson in marriage to Sir Robert Filmer, bart. of East Sutton, who died possessed of them in 1675, as did his great-grandson Sir John Filmer, bart. of East Sutton, in 1797, s. p. and by will gave them to his next brother, now Sir Beversham Filmer, bart. of East Sutton, who is the present possessor of them. A court baron is regularly held for this manor.

CAKES YOKE is a manor here, adjoining to the parish of Wye, in which, as appears by an arbitration in the hands of the owner of this manor, the scite of it is proved to be within that parish, though it has for a length of time paid both to the church and poor of Crundal. This manor, by tradition, was in the name of Chapman for a very considerable length of time,

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and continued so, till at length William Chapman, gent. of Crundal, leaving an only daughter and heir Margaret, she entitled her husband William Laming, gent. of Wye, to the possession of it, and he died possessed of it in 1756, whose eldest son Mr. John Laming succeeded him, and he is the present owner of it.

CHARITIES.

SIR THOMAS KEMPE, by deed in 1503, gave all the trees near or about the church-yard, as a succour and defence to the church. They stand in a piece of ground on the west side of it, which now belongs to the owner of Ollantigh.

THERE has been, time out of mind, two quit-rents paid, each of three-halfpence a years, one out of two acres of land, the other out of a tenement, both at Hesso-le-street, in the possession of Mr. Ayling; and another quit-rent, of 6d. per annum, out of two acres lying at Little Crundal, now in the possession of Mr. Laming. All three are constantly applied by the churchwardens to the repair of the church.

RICHARD FORSTER, rector of this parish, by will in 1728, gave a parochial library; also two acres of land, lying on the north side of Denwood-street, and a yearly rent charge of 40s. out of a tenement called Little Ripple, in this parish, and the land belonging to it in Crundal and Godmersham, and another yearly rent of 4l. out of a house and lands belonging to it, adjoining to the above street, in this parish, for the use of his successors, rectors of Crundal, for ever.

N. B. This last rent charge of 4l. per annum has been sold, by the consent of the ordinary, patron, and incumbent, and the money laid out in the purchasing of about six acres of land, lying adjoining to Denwood-street, as an augmentation of the glebe.

MR. FORSTER likewise gave a house and an acre of land, lying at Filchborow, in Crundal, and a field, called Harman Hewett, or the Barn-field, containing six acres, lying in Godmersham, to be applied by the minister of the parish and officers, to the teaching of poor children to read and say the Church Catechism, or else to the relief of poor widows and labourers, belonging to and being in this parish; so that yearly on Easter Tuesday 20s. be distributed among such persons.

THOMASINE PHILIPOT, widow, by will in 1711, left a yearly pension of 10s. out of her house and lands at Sole-street, in Crundal, to the poor of this parish for ever, to be distributed among them by the churchwardens on Christmas-day.

JOHN FINCH, gent. of Limne, by will in 1705, gave 40s. without any deduction, upon Christmas-day for ever, payable out of his lands in Crundal and Godmersham, by the church-

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wardens and overseers of Godmersham, to two of the eldest, poorest, and most industrious labouring men in the parish of Crundal, and who never received relief of this or any other parish, that is, 20s. to each of them yearly on Christmas-day for ever.

CRUNDAL is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Bridge.

The church, which stands on high ground, is dedicated to St. Mary. It consists of one isle and one chancel, with a tower steeple on the north side, having a small pointed low turret on the top. There are three bells in it. In the church-porch is a coffin-shaped stone, with a cross flory on it, and round the edge there have been large French capital letters, of which three or four only remain. At the west end of the isle is a vault, in which lie Jacob Sawbridge, esq. and Anne his wife, who once resided at Little Ollantigh, in this parish, with two of their children, who died infants. In the chancel is a large white stone, with the figure and inscription on it, for John Sprot, once rector here; and there was in this church, a memorial for Judith Cer-

clere Misson, who fled from France on account of her religion, and, after many perils and dangers, arrived at London in 1685, obt. 1692. The altar piece was given by Sir Robert Filmer, bart. in 1704. In the church-yard, on the south side, is a tomb for the worthy and beneficent Richard Forster, rector here, and near it a handsome white marble one, for Mrs. Juliana Harvey and her husband William Harvey, M. D.

The rectory of Crundal was given by the family of Valoyns, in the reign of king Henry II. by the name of the church of Dromwide, to the prior and convent of Leeds, in perpetual alms; but this never took effect, nor did they ever gain the possession of it, the heirs of the donor of it refusing to ratify this gift, so

/z See the Register of Leeds abbey.

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that there were continual controversies on that account. At length it was agreed, at the instance of archbishop Hubert, that Hamo de Valoyns should grant a rent of 25s. from his church of Dromwæd to the prior and canons for ever; saving to him and his heirs, the presentation to the church, so that the canons should not claim any further right to themselves, nor present to the parsonage in it, nor do any other act to bring his grant into doubt. All which the archbishop confirmed under his seal, by inspeximus. Notwithstanding this, the payment of the above pension seems to have been contested by the rectors of this church; but, on appeal to the pope in king Henry the III's reign, it was given in favour of the canons, to be paid yearly to them by the rectors of this church, nomine beneficii; and all these confirmations of the several archbishops were again confirmed by the prior and convent of Canterbury in 1278. After which this church remained in the patronage of the lords of Tremworth manor, with which it continued in like manner as has been already mentioned, till it came into the possession of the late Sir John Filmer, bart. who by will in 1796 devised it with that manor to his brother Sir Beversham Filmer, bart. the present proprietor of it. The above-mentioned pension of 25s. on the suppression of the priory of Leeds, came into the king's hands, who settled it on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, to whom it now continues to be paid.

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 11l. 10s. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 3s. 1d.

In 1588 it was valued at eighty pounds. Communicants one hundred and ninety-one. In 1640 it was valued at only sixty pounds. Communicants one hundred. In 1615 the rector and churchwardens testified, that there was one parcel of glebe, containing eight acres, adjoining to the close where the parsonage-house stood; and there is now six acres more of glebe lying near Denwood-street, purchased by the rector and church-

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wardens, as has been mentioned before, in the list of charitable benefactions.

THERE IS a portion of corn tithes in this parish, arising from different fields and parts of others, containing in the whole about one hundred acres, called Towne-barn

tithery, which was for many years in the family of Finch, earls of Winchelsea, and from them came to George Finch Hatton, esq. of Eastwell, the present owner of it.

There was a portion of tithes, called the tithes of Fannes, in this parish and Wye, belonging to the priory of Stratford Bow, which on the suppression in the reign of king Henry VIII. was granted to Sir Ralph Sadler, to hold in capite. This seems to have been the portion of tithes above-mentioned, rather than for it to have been belonging to Wye college, as has been generally supposed.

CHURCH OF CRUNDAL.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Thomas Allen, gent. Ralph Johnson, June 27, 1587,
obt. 1632./a

Stephen Thomas, A. M. Nov. 5,
1632, obt. 1650./b

Richard Allen, senior, in 1663,
obt. 1671./c

Robert Filmer, esq. Richard Allen, jun. A. M. May
18, 1671, obt. 1693./d

Sir Robert Filmer, bart. John Rumney, A. M. May 30,
1694, obt. 1698./e

Richard Forster, A. M. inducted
June 4, 1698, obt. January,
1729./f

/a He was buried in this church.

/b Rym. Fœd. vol. xix. p. 443, 539.

He was buried here, and in the register is stiled gentleman.

/c He was buried here, and in the register is likewise stiled gentleman.

/d He was buried here. See Sufferings of the Quakers, p. 10.

/e He was likewise vicar of Sutton Valence, where he died.

/f Then rector of Beckley, in Sussex, and afterwards vicar of Eastchurch, in Shepey. He was a liberal benefactor to this rectory, as well as to the parish, almost rebuilding the parsonage house, and leaving by his last will several legacies, both for the benefit of his successors and the poor of his parish; besides which, in his life-time, he new pewed and beautified the chancel of this church. He was a man of excellent piety and charity, and endowed with every qualification to make him memorable and praise-worthy.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

Sir Robert Filmer, bart. Silas Drayton, A. M. Feb. 13,
1729, resigned 1751./g

Sir Edward Filmer, bart. Edm. Filmer, A. B. July 5,
1751, the present rector./h

/g He resigned this rectory for the vicarage of Postling. He died in 1767,

and was buried here.

/h And in 1759 by dispensation rec=
tor of Hinxhill. He is next brother
to Sir Beversham Filmer, bart.

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BROOKE

LIES the next parish southward from Wye. It is written in antient records both Broc and Broke, and takes its name from its low situation on the stream which runs through it, broca in Saxon signifying a rivulet. It seems once to have been accounted a hundred of itself; but at the time of taking the survey of Domesday, in the year 1080, it was reputed to be in the hundred of Wye, as it is now.

The parish is very small, and is but little known, lying out of the way of all traffic and throughfare. It is not more than a mile across each way, and has in it about twenty houses. It lies very low and wet, in a deep miry soil. There is some coppice wood in the southern part of it, about forty-three acres, of which twenty-eighty belong to the dean and chapter of Canterbury. The village is nearly in the centre of the parish, having the church at the north end of it. There is a small hamlet, called Little Bedleston, consisting of only two houses, in the eastern part of the parish, close under the high ridge of hills called Braborne-downs, to the foot of which this parish extends eastward.

BROOKE was given, long before the conquest, by Karlemann, a priest, to the church of Canterbury; but it was wrested from the church in the troublesome times which soon after followed, by reason of the Danish wars, and it continued in lay hands at the accession

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of the Conqueror; soon after which it appears to have been in the possession of Hugh de Montfort, from whom archbishop Lanfranc recovered Brooke again to his church in the solemn assembly of the whole county, held on this occasion by the king's command, at Pinenden-heath in 1076; and then on the division which the archbishop made of the lands of his church, this manor was allotted by him, among others, to the share of the priory of Christ-church, Canterbury; accordingly it is thus entered among the possessions of it, in the survey of Domesday, under the general title of Terra Monachorum Archiepi, i. e. lands of the monks of the archbishop:

In the hundred of Wi, the archbishop himself holds one manor, which was taxed at one suling, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, and now, for half a suling. The arable land is two carucates. In demesne there is one, and three villeins, with four borderers having two carucates and an half. There is a church, and one mill of two shillings, and two servants, and seven acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of ten hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth fifty shillings, now four pounds.

This manor was soon after this let to farm, by the monks, to Robert de Rumene, at the above rent, and was allotted de cibo eorum, that is, to the use of their

refectory; and the possession of it was confirmed to them both by king Henry I. and II./i King Edward II. in his 10th year, granted to the prior and convent free warren in all their demesne lands in Broke, among other places which they were in possession of at the time of the charter of liberties granted to them by his grand= father Henry III. about which time this manor was valued at 22l. 1s. 10d. In which state it afterwards continued till the dissolution of the priory of Christ-church in the 31st year of Henry VIII. when it came

/i Regist. Eccl. Christi, Cant. cart. 78.

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into the king's hands, where it did not remain long, for the king settled it by his dotation-charter, in his 33d year, on his new-erected dean and chapter of Canter= bury, part of whose possessions it still remains.

The demesne lands have been constantly let by the dean and chapter on a beneficial lease, at the yearly rent of 13l. 6s. 8d. in money, and four quarters of wheat. The present lessee is Mr. John Berry, of New= bery, Berkshire; but the manerial rights they retain in their own hands.

A court baron is regularly held for this manor. There are no parochial charities.

BROOKE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDIC= TION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Bridge. The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is but small, consisting of one isle and a chancel, with a low square tower at the west end, in which are two bells. There are no memorials of any account in it.

The church of Brooke has always been accounted an appendage to the manor, and as such passed with it from the priory of Christ-church into the hands of the crown, and from thence to the dean and chapter of Canterbury, who are the present patrons of it. The woods belonging to the dean and chapter here, claim an exemption from paying tithes.

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 7l. 7s. 3d. and is of the clear yearly certified value of thirty pounds. In 1588 it was valued at thirty pounds. Communicants ninety-two. In 1640 at sixty pounds. Communicants sixty. There are now only ten communicants. In 1724 it was augmented with the sum of 200l. given by the governors of queen Anne's bounty, on the gift of 100l. from the dean and chapter of Canterbury, and the like sum from Dr. Godolphin, dean of St. Paul's; with which there was purchased a piece of land, con= taining nine acres, called Great Chequer-field, adjoining to the town of Wye.

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CHURCH OF BROOKE.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Dean and Chapter of Canterbury. William Meredith, March 24,
1626, obt. 1635.

Samuel Raven, A. M. Dec. 12,
1635, obt. 1638.

Henry Sellar, A. M. July 17,
1638, obt. 1640.

Miles Barnes, A. M. July 1640,
resigned 1663.
David Nierne, A. M. July 4,
1663.
Henry Cuffen, obt. 1667.
William Johnson, A. B. July 27,
1667, resigned 1669.
John Stokes, A. M. Oct. 6, 1669,
obt. 1672.
John Ansell, A.M. Nov. 16,
1672.
William Cade, obt. 1707.
John Booth, March 29, 1707.
Isaac Satur, obt. 1722.
William Gostling, A. M. Sept.
23, 1722, resigned 1733./k
The Crown, by lapse. James Henstridge, A. M. ind.
Feb. 9, 1734, obt. Dec. 4,
1745.
Dean and Chapter of Canterbury. Francis Gregory, A. M. 1746,
resigned 1751./l
John Gostling, A. M. July 27,
1751, the present rector./m

/k He resigned for the vicarage of
Littleborne, and was afterwards vicar
of Stone, in Oxney.

/l He resigned for the vicarage of
Milton, near Sittingborne.

/m He held the rectory of Alkham
with this or Brooke, as he does now
the rectory of Milton near Canterbury,
and the rectory of St. Peter with the
vicarage of Holy Cross Westgate
united, in Canterbury.

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BOUGHTON ALUPH

IS the next parish westward from that of Wye. It
is frequently spelt Bocton, and is written in Domesday,
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Boltune, and has the addition of Aluph to it from one
of its antient owners, Alulphus de Bocton, as well as
to distinguish it from the other parishes of the same
name in this county, and in a will, proved anno 1416,
in the Prerogative-office, Canterbury, I find it men=
tioned by the name of the parish of Boughton Aluph,
otherwise called Boughton in the Bushe. There are
four boroughs in it, Goatlands, Wilmington, Dane, and
Hebbinge.

THE PARISH lies about twelve miles distant both
from Canterbury and Faversham, and about four from
Ashford, the high road from Canterbury to the latter
goes along the foot of the hills, near the eastern boun=
dary of the parish, where the soil is chalky; close on
the east side of the road is Buckwell-house, great part
of which has been some time since pulled down, but
there is sufficient remaining, with the offices and walls
about it, to shew it was once a seat of some note, and at
no great distance on the hill, high above the road, is the
church and court-lodge. Above this, still further west=
ward, is much open, rough ground, called the Warren,

on a chalky soil, reaching beyond the high Faversham road, the new inclosure in Eastwell park adjoining to it, being within this parish; within the northern boundary of it there is a parcel of woodland, about one hundred acres lying in Kingswood, just above Socombe down; it was formerly part of Barton manor, and was sold off from it by Mr. Breton a few years before he sold that manor to Sir Robert Furnese, bart, by whose daughter Catherine it went in marriage to the earl of Guildford, whose grandson George-Augustus, earl of Guildford, is now possessed of it. By the pales of Eastwell park, at a small distance from the mansion of it, the last mentioned road descends below the hill to low ground, and mostly a gravelly soil; on it is the village, situated round a green, called Boughton lees, the west side only of which is in this parish. At the southern boundary of the parish, on the Ashford road, is the

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borough and hamlet of Wilmington, the antient mansion of which stood close to the road, it has been long since pulled down. It stood within a moat, which is still very entire, its area containing half an acre of ground; many old foundations have been dug up round about it within memory.

There is a fair held on the lees on Midsummer day for toys and pedlary.

IN THE TIME of the Saxons this place was in the possession of earl Godwin, who was succeeded in it by his eldest son earl Harold, afterwards king of England, on whose death in the fatal battle of Hastings, William the Conqueror having obtained the crown, seized on all the late king's estates, and gave this of Boughton to Eustace, earl of Bologne, who had followed him over hither, as a reward for his services; and he possessed it in the 15th year of that reign, at the time the survey of Domesday was taken, in which it is thus entered, under the title of Terra Comitum Eustachii, i. e. the land of earl Eustace.

In the lath of Wivarlet, in Wihundred, the earl holds Boltune. Earl Goduin held it, and it was taxed at seven sulings, then and now. The arable land is thirty-three carucates. In demesne there are three, and sixty-seven villeins, with five borders having thirty carucates. There is a church, and seventeen servants, and two mills of seven shillings and two-pence, and twenty-six acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of two hundred hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth twenty pounds, and afterwards thirty pounds, now forty pounds.

Of the earl of Bologne this manor was held by a family who assumed their name from it. Alulphus de Boughton held it in the reign of king John, as appears by the Testa de Nevil, of the honor of Bologne. Stephen de Bocton died possessed of this manor in the 14th year of Edward I. holding it in capite by knight's service; together with its member, Hethenden, in Kent, and Orset, in Essex, both escheats of that honor. Soon

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after which it passed into the family of Burghersh, and Robert de Burghersh, constable of Dover castle, died possessed of this manor of Bocton Olauf in the 34th

year of that reign, whose son Stephen, in the 1st year of Edward II. obtained a charter of free-warren in all his demesne lands within it. To him succeeded Bartholomew, lord Burghersh, constable of Dover Castle, lord warden, and chamberlain of the king's household. In the 12th, and in the 16th years of Edward III. he had the charter of free-warren renewed for all his lands./n His son Bartholomew, lord Burghersh, about the 43d year of king Edward III. passed away this manor by sale, with much other land in this county and in Warwickshire, to Sir Walter de Paveley, K. G. who spelt his name both Paveley and Pavalli, and bore for his arms, Azure, a cross flory, or, as they are now on the roof of Canterbury cloisters. After the death of whose grandson Walter, in the 4th year of king Richard II. it was found by inquisition, that this manor, with the advowson of the church of Bocton Aluph, descended by the entail of it to Thomas de Aldon, as his next heir, who became accordingly possessed of it, and afterwards alienated it to Sir Thomas Trivet, whose widow Elizabeth died possessed of it in the 12th year of king Henry VI. and was succeeded by Elizabeth, then wife of Edward Nevill, lord Bergavenny, fourth son of Ralph, earl of Westmoreland, as her next heir, and she entitled her husband above-mentioned to the possession of it. After her death he remarried Catherine, daughter of Sir Robert Howard, and died anno 19 Edward IV. being then possessed as tenant by the courtesy of England, of this manor among others of the inheritance of Elizabeth his first wife. His eldest son Sir George Nevill, lord Bergavenny, seems to have sold this manor to Sir Thomas Kempe, of Ollantigh, whose youngest son Thomas, bishop of London, died

/n See more of the Burghersh's, vol. iii. p. 217.

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possessed of it in the 4th year of king Henry VII. leaving his nephew Sir Thomas Kempe his next heir, whose descendant Sir Thomas Kempe, of Ollantigh, about the latter end of queen Elizabeth's reign, alienated it to Finch, of Eastwell, in whose successors, earls of Winchelsea, it descended down to Daniel, earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, who, by will in 1769, devised this manor to George Finch Hatton, esq. of Eastwell, the present owner of it.

SEATON is a small manor in this parish, which was held by knight's service in grand serjeantry, to provide one man, called a vautre, to lead three greyhounds when the king should go into Gascony, until he had worn out a pair of shoes of the price of four-pence, bought at the king's cost; by which service John de Criol, younger son of Bertram, held it at his death in the 48th year of king Henry III. whose grand-daughter Joane becoming heir to her brother's inheritance, who died s. p. she carried this manor in marriage to Sir Richard de Rokesle, who was found to hold it by the like service, in the 11th year of king Edward II. His eldest daughter and coheir Agnes married Thomas de Poynings, and entitled him to the possession of it. In whose descendants it continued till Alianore, daughter of Richard de Poynings, marrying Henry, lord Percy, eldest son of Henry, earl of Northumberland, he, in

her right, became entitled to this manor among her other great inheritance in this county and elsewhere; and in his descendants this manor continued down to Henry, earl of Northumberland,^p who, in the 23d year of Henry VIII. conveyed it to feoffees, who soon afterwards passed it away by sale to Sir Christopher Hales, afterwards knighted, and the king's attorney-general, whose lands were disgavelled by the act of the 31st

^o See Coke's Instit. p. i, sect. 95, and Beckwith's Blount's Tenures, p. 142.

^p See a further account of the Poyning's and Percy's, vol. ii. of this history, p. 144.

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year of Henry VIII. He died possessed of it in the 33d year of that reign, holding it of the king, as of his castle of Dover, by knight's service. He left three daughters his coheirs, who joined in the sale of it to Sir Thomas Moyle, of Eastwell, and chancellor of the king's court of augmentation, whose daughter and coheir Catherine, carried it in marriage to Sir Thomas Finch, of Eastwell,^q in whose descendants, earls of Winchelsea, this manor continued down to Daniel, earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, who dying in 1769, without male issue, gave it, together with his other estates in this county, to his nephew George Finch Hatton, esq. now of Eastwell, the present proprietor of it.

BARTON is a manor here, the mansion of which stood on the west side of the Ashford road, in the borough of Socombe, almost opposite to Buckwell, but it has been pulled down some years, and there is now only a barn on the scite of it. It was once part of the possessions of the family of Leyborne, of Leyborne, one of whom, Roger de Leyborne, died possessed of it in the 56th year of king Henry III. and in this name it continued till Juliana de Leyborne, daughter of Thomas, became the sole heir of their possessions, from the greatness of which, she was usually stiled the Infanta of Kent, who, though she had three husbands, all of whom she survived, yet she died s. p. in the 41st year of king Edward III.^r Upon which this manor, among the rest of her estates, escheated to the crown, there being no one found who could make claim to her estates, by direct or even by collateral alliance. After which this manor continued in the crown, till king Richard II. vested it in feoffees in trust, towards the endowment of St. Stephen's chapel, at Westminster, which he had in

^q See a family settlement of this manor, anno 16 Elizabeth, in Coke's Entries, p. 590.

^r See more of her under Leyborne, vol. iv. p. 498.

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his 22d year completed and made collegiate, and had the year before granted to the dean and canons of this manor, among others, in mortmain. In which situation it continued till the 1st year of king Edward VI. when this college was, with all its possessions, surrendered into the king's hands, who soon afterwards granted this manor to Sir Thomas Moyle, of Eastwell, and he parted with it to his brother Walter Moyle, esq. who afterwards resided at Buckwell, in this parish; and in

his descendants, resident at Buckwell, this manor continued, till John Moyle, esq. of Buckwell, leaving Mary his sole daughter and heir, she carried it in marriage to Robert Breton, esq. of the Elmes, near Dover, who died possessed of it in 1708, and his son, Moyle Breton, esq. of Kennington, about the year 1730, sold this manor to Thomas May, afterwards Knight, esq. of Godmersham, whose son Tho. Knight, esq. of Godmersham, dying in 1794, s. p. gave it by will to his widow Mrs. Catherine Knight, but she has since resigned it to Edward Austen, esq. of Godmersham park, who is the present owner of it.

BUCKWELL, which was once accounted a manor, is situated at a small distance from Barton last-mentioned, though on the opposite side of the road. It was, in the reign of the Conqueror, part of those estates which were given to William de Arsick, for his assistance in the defence of Dover castle, and made up, with them, the barony of Arsick, being held of it, as one knight's fee, by barony, as of the castle of Dover, to which it owed ward and service. Of him and his heirs this manor was again held by the family of Leyborne, one of whom, Roger de Leyborne, died possessed of it in the 56th year of Henry III. and was succeeded in it by William his son; but when it passed from this name, I have not found; but soon afterwards, the manor of Buckwell, and the mansion of it, seem to have been separated, and in the possession of different owners; for the manor itself became the property of Robert de Burghersh, constable of Dover castle, and likewise

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lord warden, whose descendant Bartholomew, lord Burghersh, about the 43d year of king Edward III. conveyed it, with other land in this parish and elsewhere, to Sir Walter de Paveley, one of whose descendants passed it away to Sir Robert Belknap, chief justice of the common pleas, who in the 11th year of that reign was attainted, and banished to Ireland, and though he was afterwards permitted to return in the 20th year of it, yet his attainder still continued, and his lands remained forfeited as before, and this manor remained in the crown till that king vested it in feoffees in trust, towards the endowment of St. Stephen's chapel, in Westminster, in the possession of the dean and canons, of which it remained till the suppression of that college in the 1st year of king Edward VI. when it came into the hands of the crown, whence it was granted to John Moyle, whose ancestors, resident at the mansion of Buckwell, had likewise been lessees of this manor under the deans and canons for some generations.

Mention has been made above, that the mansion of Buckwell had, before the reign of king Edward I. been separated from the manor itself; accordingly I find, that in the 8th year of king Edward III. William de la Hay died possessed of it, and that soon afterwards it became the property of a family who assumed their name from it, being usually called Bekewell. Henry de Bekewell appears by the escheat-rolls to have died possessed of it in the 10th year of that reign, as did his descendant, of the same name, in the 17th year of king Richard II. After this family was extinct here, this

seat became the property of Wode, and remained so till the 34th year of Henry VI. and then Robert Wode passed it away by sale to Walter Moyle, ancestor of John Moyle, esq. of this place, who had the grant of the manor of Buckwell from king Edward VI. as be=

/s See more of the Belknap's, vol. ii. p. 102.

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fore-mentioned. The Moyles were descended from Thomas Moyle, of Bodmin, in Cornwall, whose grandson Sir Walter, third son of Henry, was of Eastwell, and purchaser of this estate, as before-mentioned. His eldest son John had several sons, of whom John was father of Ralph Moyle, who died at Eastwell in 1582. Walter was of Buckwell, and ancestor of the Moyles of this place; and Thomas, who was knighted, and was of Eastwell, left two daughters his coheirs, married to Finch and Kempe. They bore for their arms, Gules, a mule passant, within a bordure, argent. There are many memorials of them in both the chan= cels of this church./t In the descendants of John Moyle, resident at Buckwell, this manor and seat continued till Mary, sole daughter and heir of John Moyle, esq. car= ried both of them in marriage to Robert Breton, esq. of the Elmes, near Dover, whose son Moyle Breton, esq. of Kennington, about the year 1730, being ena= bled so to do by an act passed for this purpose, sold them, with other adjoining estates, to Thomas May, afterwards Knight, esq. of Godmersham, and his only son and heir Thomas Knight, esq. of that place, on his death, s. p. in 1794, gave them by will to his widow, Mrs. Catherine Knight, who likewise resigned them to Edward Austen, esq. of Godmersham, the present owner of them.

WILMINGTON, called likewise antiently Wilming= don, is a manor which lies at the southern part of this parish, on the Ashford road likewise. It gives name to the borough in which it stands, and to the hamlet of houses which stand round about it. Robert de Wil= mington held this manor in the reign of Henry III. in grand sergeantry, of the honor of Bologne, by the ser= vice of being the earl's cook, it being then valued at two marcs. His descendant Bertram de Wilmington, died possessed of it in the 12th year of Edward II. when it was found by inquisition, that he held it of the king

/t There is a pedigree of them in the Visitation of Kent, an. 1574.

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in capite, by the service of finding for the king one pot-hook for his meat, whenever he should come within the manor of Boughton Aluph./u His descendant, of the same name, died possessed of it in the 6th year of king Henry V. After which it came into the posses= sion of John Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, who was possessed of it in the 2d year of Edward IV. On his death the great inheritance of the Mowbrays came to the descendants of his two sisters and coheirs, and in the division of it John, lord Howard, in right of his mother Margaret, the eldest of them, became entitled to this manor. He was one of the most illustrious no= blemen of his time, and having continued faithful to the house of York, he remained no less stedfast to the

interest of king Richard III. who created him duke of Norfolk, earl marshal and lord admiral of England. But he did not enjoy these honors long; for he was next year slain in the battle of Bosworth, fighting on the king's behalf, and in the 1st year of Henry VII. he was attainted in parliament, and this manor, among his other possessions, became confiscated to the crown; whence it was afterwards granted to Moyle, in which name it continued till the beginning of Edward VI.'s reign, when by Catherine, daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Moyle, of Eastwell, it went in marriage to Sir Thomas Finch, of that parish, who died in 1563, and she remarrying with Nicholas St. Leger, esq. of Beamstone, in Westwell, entitled him to it for her life. She died in 1586, on which it came to her son Sir Moyle Finch, bart. in whose descendants, earl of Winchelsea, it descended down to Daniel, earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, who at his death in 1769, devised it to his nephew George Finch Hatton, esq. now of Eastwell, the present owner of it.

/u Unum uncum ad carnes. See likewise Rot. Esch. an. 25 Ed. III.

/w See a full account of him and the family of Howard, vol. ii. of this history, p. 191.

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BUT PART OF THE DEMESNE LANDS of this manor were sold off, about the year 1713, to the Rev. Hiliah Bedford, publisher of the hereditary Right of the Crown of England asserted, whose eldest son William Bedford M. D. whose daughter Elizabeth marrying Mr. Claxton, of Shirley, in Surry, has entitled him to the possession of it.

ANOTHER PART of this estate, now called Little Wilmington, in the reign of king Henry VI. was in the possession of Richard Sandys, who alienated it to John Barrough, who resided at it, and died possessed of it in the 1st year of king Edward IV. One of his descendants, Richard Barrowe, resided here in the reigns of king Elizabeth and James I. and died in the 6th year of the latter, leaving three sons, Robert, Richard, and William, to which last he devised his house and lands in Borden, and from him descended the Barrows of that parish. To Robert Barrow, his eldest son, he devised this estate of Little Wilmington, and in his descendants it continued, till it was at length sold to Knott, and from that name again to Dr. William Eger-ton, prebendary of Canterbury, who died possessed of it in 1728, leaving two daughters his coheirs, and his widow surviving, upon whose death it came to Jemima, widow of Edward Bridges, esq. of Wotton, one of the above-mentioned coheirs, and William Hammond, esq. of St. Albans, the eldest son of William Hammond, esq. of that place, by Charlotte the other coheir; and upon a division made, this estate was allotted to Mrs. Bridges above-mentioned, now of Canterbury, and she is the present possessor of it.

MARDOL MANOR is the last place to be mentioned in this parish, lying on the south side of it. This manor was antiently the patrimony of the Corbies in which it continued till Robert Corbie, in the reign of king Richard II. leaving an only daughter and heir Joane, she carried it, among the rest of her inheritance, to Sir

Nicholas Wotton, whose descendant Thomas Wotton, esq. in the reign of queen Elizabeth, passed it away by

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sale to Sprott, from which name, in the reign of king Charles I. it was alienated to Thomas Finch, earl of Winchelsea, in whose descendants it continued down to Daniel, earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, who in 1769, gave it by will, with the rest of his estates in this county, to his nephew George Finch Hatton, esq. now the present owner of it.

CHARITIES.

MR. JOHN BOUGHTON, vicar, left to this parish by will, in 1642, 30s. per annum to such poor as had great charge of children, aged and incapable to work, to be distributed on the Thursday in Whitsun-week, and to the churchwardens and overseers, 10s. per annum, for a sermon to be preached on that day, to be paid out of house and land on Boughton lees.

MR. THOMAS KEEPS left by will in 1780, 20s. per annum to the use of the poor, out of a field in Great Chart, rented at 6l. per annum, the remainder of the rent being left to five other parishes.

MR. WILLIAM CROW left by will in 1770, to this parish, the sum of 90l. to be put into the public funds, the amount of the profits of it to be yearly distributed by the owners of Eastwell-place, among such honest and well disposed poor aged men and women, especially widows, as they should consider real objects of charity; but not to persons receiving alms, in relief of the parish.

There is an alms-house belonging to this parish, on Boughton-lees, containing six dwellings.

The poor constantly relieved are about 15, casually 20.

BOUGHTON ALUPH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Bridge.

The church, which is dedicated to All Saints, is large and handsome, built of flint, with ashlar stone to the doors, windows, and quoins. It consists of three isles and two chancels. The steeple is a large low tower, standing on four pillars in the middle of it. There are five bells in it, and at the south-east corner, adjoining to the tower, is a large square addition, in which is a stone stair-case. Both the chancels did belong to the Buckwell estate; but the family of Breton having buried in both since their sale of it, without

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Mr. Knight's permission, he refused to repair them, and they are now repaired by Mr. Breton. In the great chancel, within the rails, is a monument for Thomas Austen, esq. obt. 1637. In this and the north chancel are many gravestones of the Moiles and Bretons. In the north chancel is a handsome monument of marble, for Amy, wife of Josias Clerk, gent. of Essex, daughter of John Moyle, esq. of Buckwell, obt. 1631, having the effigies of her lying at full length, and of her three children kneeling at her head and feet, in full proportion, under a canopy. In the middle isle is a memorial for John Mascall, esq. obt. 1769; arms, Two bars, over all, three escutcheons ermine, impaling a saltier, and on it a crescent, for difference; and

there are memorials for others likewise of the same family.

The church of Boughton Aluph, as has been already mentioned before, was antiently an appendage to the manor, and continued so in the 4th year of Richard II. when Sir Walter Pavely died possessed of the same, and it was found that Sir Thomas de Aldon was his next heir. How long afterwards it continued in his heirs I have not found; but in the reign of Henry VI. the advowson of this rectory was become the property of cardinal John Kempe, archbishop of York, who settled it on his new-founded college of Wye, and in the 29th year of that reign the master and chaplains of it had the king's licence to receive this advowson from the cardinal, and to appropriate the rectory of it to themselves; and a vicarage was endowed here. In which situation it remained till the suppression of the college, in the 36th year of Henry VIII. when it was surrendered into the king's hands, who that year granted this church, with the presentation of the vicarage of it, among other premises, to Walter Bucler, esq. to hold in capite, with certain provisos for the maintenance of

/x See Dugd. Mon. vol. iii. pt. ii. p. 193. Tan. Mon. p. 228.

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the curates and schoolmaster of Wye; which grant, on his non-performance of these conditions, became forfeited, and king Charles I. in his 2d and 5th years, granted the same premises, with the proviso for the payment of certain stipends to the before-mentioned curate and schoolmaster, to Robert Maxwell, from whose heirs this rectory and advowson was afterwards sold to Moyle, of Buckwell, in which name it continued till Mary, daughter and sole heir of John Moyle, esq. of Buckwell, carried them in marriage to Robert Breton, esq. of the Elmes, near Dover, who died possessed of them in 1708, and his great grandson the Rev. Moyle Breton, of Kennington, is the present owner of the parsonage appropriate of Boughton, with the advowson of the vicarage of this church, who pays twenty pounds per annum from it towards the stipends of the curate and schoolmaster of Wye, as stipulated in Robert Maxwell's patent, the several premises granted in it being now in different hands as has been already more fully mentioned before.

It is valued in the king's books at 6l. 5s. the yearly tenths being 12s. 6d. but it is now of the clear yearly certified value (delivered in 1752) of 58l. 6s. 10d.

In 1578 here were communicants one hundred and fifty-four; in 1640, one hundred and seventy-seven. It is now worth about eighty pounds per annum. There are twenty three acres of glebe belonging to it.

There was a composition in 1305 entered into between the rector of Westwell and Stephen de Wilmington, rector of this church, concerning the tithes of the hamlets of Shotingdon, Chilberton, and Wike./y

/y See the Lambeth library MSS. No. 244. and Ducarel's Reportory, p. 121.

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CHURCH OF BOUGHTON ALUPH.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

The Queen. Thomas Sprott, inducted April
28, 1567, obt. 1611.

The King. Thomas Jackson, S. T. B. Jan.
9, 1611.

John Boughton, A. B. July 5,
1614, obt. 1642.

Sir William Damsell, and others. Thomas Hull, A. M. Jan. 17,
1642.

The King. Thomas Clarke, A. M. Feb. 17,
1642, resigned 1644.

Richard Walker, August 6,
1644.

Henry Nicholls, in 1671 and
1696.

Mary Breton, of Hougham. John Wynne, A. B. Oct. 13,
1708, obt. Oct. 20, 1728./z

Moyle Breton, esq. Thomas Breton, LL. B. March
11, 1729, obt. June 2, 1731.

Richard Bate, Sept. 24, 1731,
obt. March, 1749./a

Robert Pemberton, 1749, resigned
1752.

Robert Breton, LL. B. July 14,
1752, the present vicar./b

/z He lies buried in the high
chancel.

/a And master of Ashford school.

/b In 1753, by dispensation, rector
of Kennardington.

EASTWELL

IS the last parish remaining to be described in this hundred. It is written in antient records, Est-welles, and Estwelle, and sometimes only Welles, taking its name from the springs, with which it is watered, such being called by the Saxons, wells; and it has the addition of East from its situation, and to distinguish it from the adjoining parish of Westwell.

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THE PARISH of Eastwell is very small, being not more than a mile across each way, containing in it about thirteen houses. It lies in a very healthy country, on a clean firm soil, at the side of the Ashford vale, at the foot of the range of down hills below Moolash and Challock, which are here covered with woods, at the outskirts of a dreary barren country, where the soil is much addicted to chalk; but within this parish in the vale, and within the park, it becomes a flat, even and pleasant country, the soil changing to a fertile and kindly red earth of loamy clay, which produces a great deal of rich pasture. The greatest part of it is included in the park, which extends likewise into the parishes of Westwell, Challock, and Boughton Aluph, the church of Challock standing close to the pales on the north side, and that of Eastwell and the court-lodge, to those on the opposite side of it. The mansion of Eastwell-place stands at a small distance from

the south east corner of the park, the pales of which join the high Faversham road and Boughton lees.

The house is very large, though the building is not extraordinary in the whole, yet the back front has something very noble and grand in the look of it. The park, though in the vale, yet it stands on higher ground than the rest of the vale beneath, having a beautiful prospect southward as far as the quarry hills, contains about 1600 acres, and by far the finest situation in this county, the soil of it being very firm and hard, and the lower parts exceedingly fertile; the venison fed in it being accounted the finest of any in Kent. The north-west part of it has fine inequality of ground, and being richly clothed with wood, shews nature in a most pleasing and picturesque state. In this part of the park is a very high hill, on the top of which is an octagon plain, from whence are cut eight several avenues or walks, called the Star Walks, the intermediate spaces being filled with fine venerable trees, so thick as to exclude the light from beneath them, making a very

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awful and majestic appearance. The view from the top of this hill is very extensive, for from it may be seen the course of the river Medway to Sheerness, and the buoy of the Nore toward the German ocean, and on the opposite side the British channel towards France beyond Romney Marsh, besides a very extensive and beautiful land prospect almost on every side.

One side of the village on Boughton lees is within this parish, at the eastern boundary of it, and there is another hamlet at the opposite part of the parish, called Linacre-street, in which there is a house called Linacre-hall, late belonging to Mr. Thomas Munn, of Ashford. This parish is watered by three springs, one of which rises at the bottom of the park, under Boughton-lees, and thence runs by Wilmington and Clipmill, into the river Stour, under Frogbrooke, having been joined by another which rises near the church; the third rises at the south corner of the park, near the other, and thence flows down by Kennington-common and Burton, into the river near Wilsborough-lees, just before which it is called Bacon's water.

There is a tradition, that a natural son of king Richard III. named Richard Plantagenet, fled hither from Leicester immediately after the fatal battle of Bosworth, fought in 1485, in which the king lost both his life and crown, and that he lived here in a mean capacity, having leave given him by Sir Tho. Moyle, as soon as he was discovered by him, to build for himself a small house, in one of his fields near his mansion of Eastwell-place, in which he afterwards lived and died; which is corroborated by an entry of his burial in the parish registry. He died in 1550, anno 4 king Edward VI. aged, as is supposed, about eighty-one. The entry in the parish register is as follows, under the article of burials: V. Rychard Plantagenet, Desember 22d, 1550; the letter V prefixed being put before the name of every person of noble family mentioned in it; and against the north wall of the high chancel there is

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an antient tomb, without inscription, with the marks

of two coats of arms, the brasses gone, which is reported to be that of this Richard Plantagenet. There was then no park here, but when there was one made, this small hut was included in it, and remained in being till it was pulled down by Heneage, earl of Winchelsea, who died in 1689./c

At the time of taking the general survey of Domesday, in the 15th year of the Conqueror's reign, this place was part of the possessions of Hugo de Montfort, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in it:

Hugo de Montfort holds one manor, Estwelle, which Frederic held of king Edward. It was taxed at one suling. There are three yokes within the division of Hugo, and the fourth yoke is without, and is of the fee of the bishop of Baieux. The arable land is three carucates in the whole. In demesne there are two carucates, and five villeins, and five borderers having one carucate and an half. There are ten servants, and twelve acres of meadow, and a wood. In the time of king Edward the Confeffor, it was worth seventy shillings, and afterwards thirty shillings, now seventy shillings.

And the following entries in the same record, under the general title of the bishop of Baieux's lands, seem to relate to his possessions in this parish:

Ralph de Curbespine holds of the bishop Essewelle. It was taxed at three sulings. The arable land is In demesne there are three carucates, and one villein, with seven borderers having half a carucate. There is one servant. It is worth six pounds. Molleue held it of king Edward.

The other entry is thus: Osbern holds of the bishop one manor, which three free tenants held of king Edward. It was taxed at one suling and an half. The arable land

/c See the full account of him in Peck's Desid. Curios. vol. ii. lib. vii. p. 13.

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is In demesne there is one carucate, and one villein, with one borderer having half a carucate. In the time of king Edward it was, and is now worth four pounds.

Hugo de Montfort, before-mentioned, had accompanied the Conqueror in his expedition hither, and after the battle of Hastings was rewarded for his services with many lordships in different counties, and among them with this of Eastwell. Robert, his grandson, was general of king William Rufus's army; but favouring the title of Robert Curthose, in opposition to king Henry I. to avoid being called in question upon that account, obtained leave to go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, leaving his possessions to the king, by which means this manor came into the hands of the crown, of which it was afterwards held by a family who took their surname from it; one of whom, Matilda de Estwelles, held this manor, with the advowson of the church of it, of the king in capite, at her death in the 52d year of king Henry III. Soon after which it seems to have come into the possession of the family of Criol; for Bertram, son of John de Criol, died pos=

sessed of it in the 23d year of king Edward I. holding it in the like manner, and by ward to Dover castle, being part of those lands which made up the barony, called the Constabularie. He left two sons, John and Bertram, and a daughter Joane, who afterwards married Sir Richard de Rokesle. Both these sons died s. p. the former of them left his wife Alianor surviving, who entitled her second husband Edmund Gaselyn to this manor for her life, and she died possessed of it in the 23d year of king Edward III. upon which this manor descended to Agnes and Joane, the two daughters and coheirs of Joane her late husband's sister before-mentioned, by Sir Richard de Rokesley; and upon the division of their inheritance, the manor of Eastwell was allotted to Agnes the eldest, who entitled Thomas de Poynings her husband to it; and in his

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descendants this manor, with the advowson of the church, continued down to Robert de Poynings, who died possessed of it in the 25th year of king Henry VI. leaving Alianore, his grand-daughter, wife of Henry, lord Percy, eldest son of Henry, earl of Northumberland, his next heir; who in the 27th year of it had summons to parliament among the barons of this realm, as lord Poynings. Six years after which he succeeded his father as earl of Northumberland, and in his descendants this manor, with the advowson, continued down to Henry, earl of Northumberland, who in the 23d year of king Henry VIII. conveyed it to feoffees, who soon afterwards passed it away by sale to Sir Christopher Hales, the king's attorney-general, whose lands were disgavelled by the act of the 31st of Henry VIII. and he died possessed of it in the 33d year of that reign, holding it of the king, as of the honor of his castle of Dover, by knight's service. He left three daughters his coheirs, and they, with their respective husbands, joined in the sale of it to Sir. Tho. Moyle, of Eastwell, whose lands were disgavelled by the acts of 31 king Henry VIII. and second and third of Edward VI. being the son of John, descended from a family of this name at Bodmin, in Cornwall, and youngest brother of Walter Moyle, of Buckwell./d He was speaker of the house of commons anno 34 king Henry VIII. and chancellor of the court of augmentation, who was in high esteem with that prince, and accumulated a large fortune in his profession of the law. He new built the mansion of Eastwell place, and died possessed of this manor, with the advowson of the church of it in 1560, leaving two daughters his coheirs, Catherine, married to Thomas Finch, gent. and Anne, married to Sir Thomas Kempe, of Wye, but this manor, with the advowson, had been settled on the

/d There is a pedigree of them in Vistn. co. Kent, anno 1574. See likewise Buckwell before.

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former, on her marriage with Mr. Thomas Finch, who was afterwards knighted, and resided at Eastwell-place, The family of Finch, according to John Philipott, Rouge Dragon, was originally descended from Henry Fitz-Herbert, chamberlain to king Henry I. whose de-

scendant Matthew Fitz-Herbert, who was one of the magnates or barons, at the compiling of Magna Charta, as was his son of the same name in that parliament, which was convened to meet at Tewksbury. The alteration of this name to Finch was about the 10th of king Edward I. at which time Herbert Fitz-Herbert purchased the manor of Finches, in Lid, of which being entire lord, which he was not of his more antient patrimony of Netherfield, in Sussex, he assumed his surname from that, as many other families in that age did from those places of which they possessed the entire seignory, bearing for his arms, Argent, a chevron between three griffins, segreant, sable. Vincent Herbert, alias Finch, was of Netherfield, about the end of the reign of king Edward II. and left two sons, Henry and John, the latter of whom was father of John, prior of Christ-church. Henry Herbert, alias Finch, the eldest son, inherited Netherfield, and died anno 8 king Richard II. and left Vincent Herbert, alias Finch, (with whom the pedigree of this family begins in the Heraldic Visitation of this county, in 1619) whose son Vincent, was living in the reigns of king Richard II. and Henry IV. and by his wife Isabel, daughter and coheir of Robert Cralle, of Cralle, in Sussex, had two sons, William and John; which latter married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Seward, of Linsted, from whom descended the Finch's, of Swards, Norton, Kingsdown, Faversham, Wye, and other places in this county. William Finch, the eldest son, by which name only he and his descendants wrote themselves, was of Netherfield, and had a son Henry Finch, esq. who married Alice, only daughter and heir of Philip Belknap, of the Moat, near Canterbury, uncle to Sir Ed-

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ward Belknap, which marriage not only occasioned the first residence of this branch of the family in Kent, but rendered it more illustrious by a descent from many noble ones. Their eldest son Sir William Finch, was of the Moat in king Henry the VIIIth's reign, and was father of Sir Thomas Finch, of Eastwell, before-mentioned, of which he died possessed in 1563. They had three sons and one daughter, of whom Henry, the third son, was serjeant-at-law, and left one son John, who was chief justice of the common pleas, lord keeper, and created anno 16 Charles I. lord Finch, baron of Fordwich, and died in 1661; the eldest, Sir Moyle Finch, was created a baronet at the first institution of that order, and surviving his mother, who had remarried Nicholas St. Leger, esq. (and lies buried in this church, as well as her father Sir Thomas Moyle, and all her descendants, to the present time) became possessed of this manor and advowson. He married Elizabeth, only daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Heeneage, and resided at Eastwell-place, which he made very great additions to, and in 1589, obtained the queen's licence to inclose his grounds here, not exceeding one thousand acres, and to turn the highways that might be annoyed by it, and to embattle his house of Estwell. He died in 1614, leaving his widow, the lady Elizabeth Finch, surviving, who was by letters patent in 1623, anno 21 James I. created viscountess Maidstone; and afterwards, in 1628, anno 4 king

Charles I. countess of Winchelsea, in Sussex. She died in 1633, and was buried at Eastwell, under a noble monument erected there for her and her husband, by whom she had several sons and daughters, the eldest son, Sir Theophilus Finch, bart. died s. p. the second, Sir Thomas, succeeded as earl of Winchelsea; the third, Sir John, was resident with the grand duke of

See Vistn. co. Kent 1619, and Collins's Peerage, edit. 4, vol. iii. p. 224.

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Tuscany, and ambassador in Turkey, of whom there is no issue. He died in 1642, and was buried in Queen's college chapel, in Cambridge, to which he was a good benefactor; the fourth, Sir Heneage Finch, serjeant-at-law, and recorder of London, who died in 1641, was ancestor to the late earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham; and the fifth, Francis, was barrister-at-law, and an ingenious poet, who died s. p. Sir Thomas Finch, bart. the eldest surviving son, succeeded her as earl of Winchelsea, &c. and in her possessions here, whose eldest son Heneage, second earl of Winchelsea, was one of those nobles who favored the restoration of king Charles II. and as such, was by general Monk entrusted with the government of Dover castle, and after king Charles's return was, in acknowledgment of his services, and of being descended from the antient family of Herbert, created baron Fitz-Herbert, of Eastwell, in the 12th year of his reign, and constituted lord lieutenant and custos rotulorum of this county, and shortly after sent ambassador extraordinary into Turkey. He was lord lieutenant when king James II. was taken, on his leaving this kingdom, and brought to Faversham, where, for protection from the insults of the populace, he sent to lord Winchelsea from Eastwell, who immediately came and persuaded the king to return to London. He died in 1689, having married four wives, by whom he had in all twenty-seven children, of whom sixteen lived to some maturity. At length these honors and estates descended afterwards down to John his son, by his fourth wife, his other intermediate descendants being dead without issue, who became the fifth earl of Winchelsea, who dying likewise s. p. in 1729, the titles of earl of Winchelsea and viscount Maidstone, for that of baron Fitz-Herbert became extinct, together with this manor and advowson, and the mansion and park of Eastwell, with the rest of the earl's estates in this county, devolved on Daniel, second earl of Nottingham, son

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and heir of Sir Heneage Finch, who had been created earl of Nottingham in 1681, son and heir of Sir Heneage Finch, the fourth son of Sir Moyle Finch, of Eastwell, knight and baronet, by his wife Katherine, who was created countess of Winchelsea as before-mentioned. Sir Heneage Finch above-mentioned, was eminent in the profession of the law, and was recorder of London, and in the first year of king Charles I. elected speaker of the house of commons, and resided at Kensington, in the house now the royal palace. He died in 1631. Heneage, his son and heir, was in 1660,

made solicitor-general, knighted, and created a baronet, being then of Raunston, in Buckinghamshire. He was afterwards attorney-general, and in 1673 made lord keeper; shortly after which he was in 1674, created lord Finch, baron of Daventry; and next year made lord chancellor, and in 1681 created earl of Nottingham; he had fourteen children, of which seven sons and one daughter survived him. Of the sons, Daniel succeeded him as earl of Nottingham; 2, Heneage was created baron of Guernsey and earl of Aylesford, of whom and his descendants a full account may be seen under that parish. /f Charles was fellow of All Souls college, and Henry was dean of York, and lies buried there with his brother Edward, who was prebendary of that church. Daniel, second earl of Nottingham, above-mentioned, became the sixth earl of Winchelsea, and entered early into life, being of the privy council to king Charles II. after whose death he took an active part in the politics of the succeeding reigns, and was, for his great learning and abilities, highly trusted and employed in the great affairs of state till the year 1716, when he retired from all public affairs, and lived so till his death in 1730. He was twice married, first to lady Essex Rich, second daughter and

/f See Aylesford, vol. iv. of this history, p. 429.

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coheir of Robert, earl of Warwick, by whom he had one daughter Mary; secondly to Anne, only daughter of Christopher, viscount Hatton, by whom he had five sons and eight daughters, besides seventeen other children who died young. The eldest son was Daniel, who succeeded him in titles and estate; William was envoy extraordinary to Sweden and the States General, and afterwards privy counsellor and vice-chamberlain of the household, who left a son George, who on his uncle's death, succeeded him in his titles, as will be further mentioned; John was solicitor-general to king George II. when prince of Wales, and afterwards king's council. Henry was surveyor of his Majesty's works; and Edward afterwards took the name of Hatton, pursuant to the will of Anne his aunt, the youngest daughter of Christopher, viscount Hatton, and heir of her brother William, viscount Hatton. He married Anne, daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Palmer, bart. of Wingham, by whom he had George Finch Hatton, of whom more hereafter, and four other sons, and three daughters. – He was succeeded in the titles of earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, viscount Maidstone, and baron of Daventry, as well as in his estates in this county, by Daniel his eldest son, who was constantly employed from the accession of king George I in the most important offices of the state, till the year 1766, when he retired from all public business, having been in 1752 elected a knight of the garter. He was twice married; first to Frances, daughter of Basil Fielding, earl of Denbigh, by whom he had one daughter Charlotte; and secondly, to Mary, daughter and coheir of Sir T. Palmer, bart. above-mentioned, by whom he had four daughters, Heneage, Essex, Hatton, and Augusta. He died in 1769, æt. 81, full of years and wisdom, and was bu=

ried among his ancestors, in the church of Eastwell. On his death without issue male, his titles, together

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with his seat at Burleigh, and estates in Rutlandshire and other counties, descended to his nephew George, son of his next brother William, but he by his will devised the manor and advowson of Eastwell, with the park and mansion of Eastwell-place, together with all the rest of his Kentish estates, to his nephew George Finch Hatton, esq. eldest son of his youngest brother Edward Finch Hatton, who is the present possessor of them. He married Elizabeth-Mary, daughter of David, late lord viscount Stormont, afterwards earl of Mansfield, by whom he has issue, and now resides at Eastwell-place. He bears for his arms those of Finch before-mentioned, quartered with those of Hatton, being Azure, a chevron, between three garbs, or.

POTHERY is a small manor within the bounds of this parish, which seems to have been part of that estate belonging to Odo, bishop of Baieux, described in Domesday before, which, on his disgrace about four years afterwards, that is, about the year 1084, became with the rest of his possessions, confiscated to the crown, of which it was afterwards held by the family of Criol; and John de Criol, younger son of Bertram, held it, together with the manor of Seaton, in Boughton Aluph, already described before, in the account of that parish, at his death in the 48th year of Henry III. In his descendants it continued till it passed at length with that manor in marriage to Rokesle, and thence again in like manner to the Perys, and was sold with it by Henry, earl of Northumberland, in Henry the VIIIth's reign, to Sir Christopher Hales, whose three coheirs sold it to Sir Thomas Moyle, whence it went by marriage again to Finch, whose descendant Daniel, earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, dying in 1769, without male issue, gave it by will to his nephew, George Finch Hatton, esq. now of Eastwell, the present owner of it.

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CHARITIES.

SIR WALTER MOYLE, of this parish, by will, anno 1480, ordered that his feoffees should deliver an estate in fee simple to three or four honest and trusty men, in two acres of arable land in this parish, in a field called Cotingland, to the use of the church of Eastwell, in recompence of a certain annual rent of two pounds of wax, by him wrested and detained from it against his conscience.

MR. THOMAS KIPPS left by will in 1680, 20s. per annum to the use of the poor, out of a field in Great Chart, rented at 6l. per annum, the remainder of the rent being left to five other parishes.

THERE is an alms house in this parish.

The poor constantly relieved are about seven, casually five.

EASTWELL is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, consists of two isles and two chancels, having a square embattled tower at the west end, in which hang three

bells. It is an antient building of flint, with ashler stone round the windows, which are small, and of only one compartment. The arms of Poynings still remain in the east window of the high chancel. Within the altar rails is a memorial for Nicholas Toke, clerk, obt. 1670, and for Nicholas Toke, his eldest son, obt. 1673. On the south side of the chancel is the tomb of Sir Thomas Moyle. In the south chancel is a sumptuous tomb, on which lie the figures of a man and woman in white marble, at full length, their sons and daughters round the sides of it; it had till within these few years, a beautiful dome or canopy over them, supported by eight pillars of black marble, the fragments of which now lie scattered about the chancel. It was erected for Sir Moyle Finch, knight and bart. who died in 1614, and Elizabeth his wife, created countess of Winchelsea, &c. And a monument for Sir Heneage Finch, serjeant-at-law, and recorder of London, who died in 1631, and of his first wife, who died in 1627. At the upper end of the south isle is a vault, for the Finch family, in which are thirty-eight coffins;

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the Hon. Edward Finch Hatton, father of the present Mr. Hatton, of Eastwell, being the last who was buried in it.

The church of Eastwell was always esteemed an appendage to the manor, and continues so, the lord of it, George Finch Hatton, esq. being the present patron of this rectory.

It is valued in the king's books at 9l. 16s. 8d. It is now a discharged living, of the clear yearly certified value of forty-two pounds. In 1588, it was valued at forty pounds per annum, communicants fifty-five. In 1640 the same.

CHURCH OF EASTWELL.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Nicholas St. Leger, esq. and dame

Catherine Finch his wife. Josias Nicholls, June 1, 1580,
deprived 1603./g

Sir Moyle Finch. John House, A. B. May 17,
1603, obt. 1630./h

William Sandford, resig. 1644.

The King, hac vice. Nicholas Toke, A. M. Nov. 22,
1644, obt. 1670./i

Heneage, earl of Winchelsea. William Wickens, A. M. Oct.
12, 1670, resigned 1681./k

William Martin A. M. June 23,
1681, obt. 1686./l

Samuel Markham, A. M. June
21, 1687. obt. May 1730./m

John, earl of Winchelsea. John Wilkinson, A. M. May 26,
1730. resigned 1733.

Daniel, earl of Winchelsea. Randolph Marriott, A. M. Feb.
14, 1734, resigned 1737./n

John Jortin, A. M. resigned
1742./o

/g Buried here in 1639.

/h His will is in the Prerog. off.

Cant. in which he stiles himself, late

parson of Eastwell.

/i Buried here.

/k And rector of Easling.

/l And vicar of Kennington. He was buried here.

/m Also vicar of Kennington.

/n In 1736 he vacated for the rectory of Darfield, in Yorkshire.

/o The learned archdeacon of London, and vicar of St. Dunstan's in the East. He died in 1770.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

Daniel earl of Winchelsea. John Creyk, A. M. June 10, 1742, obt. 1745.

Daniel, earl of Winchelsea and Nittingham. William Hardy, A. M. July, 1745, resigned 1747.

John Adcock, A. B. Sept. 11, 1747.

Philip Parsons, Feb. 1776, the present rector./p

/p And in 1776, by dispensation, rector of Snave. He is likewise curate and master of the grammar school of Wye.

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THE HUNDRED OF CALEHILL

LIES the next hundred southward from that of Wye.

It is written in Domesday, Calehelle,

AND CONTAINS WITHIN ITS BOUNDS THE PARISHES OF

1. CHARING.
2. EGERTON.
3. LITTLE CHART.
4. PLUCKLEY; and part of
5. WESTWELL, and
6. SMARDEN.

And the churches of those parishes; and likewise a part of the parishes of BETHERSDEN, GREAT CHART, HEDCORNE, HOTHFIELD, and LENHAM, the churches of which are in other hundreds. Two constables have jurisdiction over it.

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WESTWELL

LIES the next parish westward from Eastwell, taking its name of Wells, by which only it is mentioned in Domesday, from the springs which rise in and near it, and the addition of West from its situation, and to distinguish it from the adjoining parish of Eastwell.

THE PARISH, though it lies in a healthy part of the county, yet from its situation, partly in a variety of barren soils, and the rest of it low and watry, among a

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continuance of moorish, brooks and meadow land, is far from being pleasant, the greatest part of it is situated below the upper range of chalk hills, called the Down-hills, which here cross this parish, part of which extends above them, where it is covered with coppice woods,

among which is that called Long Beech wood, further notice of which will be taken hereafter, where the soil is a poor reddish, earth, mixed with flint stones. At the foot of these hills is a long slip of barren pasture land, called Westwell downs, which is uninclosed, and full of road tracks, over which the chalk soil of the hills continues, and for some distance below them, at the north-east side of the parish, is Eastwell park, part of which is within the bounds of it; not far from which is the village of Westwell, having the church and vicarage within it, and not far from it the court-lodge and park-house. From the village southward the parish is watered by several streams, which run from hence into the river Stour below Hothfield and Great Chart, where the land consists mostly of meadow ground, a moorish but fertile soil. Towards the west is a heath, called Westwell leacon, round which there is a hamlet of houses, where, and on that side of the parish next to Hothfield heath, it is a barren soil, mostly a deep sand.

THE MANOR of WESTWELL was part of the antient possessions of the church of Canterbury, but by whom, or when given, I have not found; but in the division made by archbishop Lanfranc of the revenues of it, this manor was allotted to the share of the monks, and was by them appointed ad cibum eorum, i. e. for the use of their refectory; accordingly it is thus entered in the survey of Domesday, under the general title of their lands:

The archbishop himself holds Welle. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was taxed at seven sulings, and now for five. The arable land is eighteen carucates, in demesne there are four, and twenty-one villeins, with five borderers having twelve carucates and an half. There are seven servants, and one mill of thirty pence,

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and twenty acres of meadow. Wood sufficient for the pannage of twenty hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth seventeen pounds and eleven shillings and four-pence, when he received it as much, now twenty-four pounds and four-pence, and yet it pays forty pounds.

But their title to this manor seems to have been very precarious, for it was continually contested; till at length, in the 8th year of king Henry III. Peter de Bending, who laid claim to it, acknowledged it to be their right, for which they gave him a sum of money, and their manor of Little Chart in fee-farm, as therein mentioned. The original deed being in the Surrenden library, with the seal annexed, being a coat of three bars, the legend, Sigil Petri de Bendingies. And three years afterwards Stephen, son of John Heringod, for a consideration, released to them all his title to it, which he prosecuted by writ of right, in the king's court, the original of which is likewise in the above library, the seal appendant, a coat, being a bordure of six fishes, one in chief and in base fessways, and two on each side bendways; the legend, Sigill . . . ni de Heringot. The large price paid for these releases shews, not only the value of this manor, but likewise the doubtful title by which the prior and convent held it, nor did they even after this remain quiet in their pos=

session of it, till on a process before the justices itinerant, in the 25th year of that reign, the prior pleaded, that he had the manor by the gift of the king's predecessors, who gave it to his church, as free as they themselves held it, in pure and perpetual alms; so that it never afterwards was parted, nor was it partible. And further, that the king, who gave it to his predecessors, did not hold it by the name of gavelkind. And the jury found for the prior, &c./r who after this seems to

/q Regist. Eccl. Christi, Cant, cart. 1406, 2007.

/r See Somner's Gavelkind, p. 178, appendix.

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have remained in the uninterrupted possession of it, and in the 7th of the next reign of king Edward I. he claimed and had allowed, before J. de Reygate and associates, justices itinerant, among other liberties, that of a market in the parish of Westwell, on a Wednesday weekly throughout the year. In the 1st year of king Edward II. he obtained a charter of free-warren for his manor here. In the 6th year of it there appears to have been a park within the prior's manor here, for he was then presented before H. de Stanton and his associates, justices itinerant, at Canterbury, for obstructing a common footpath, which led through the middle of his park, from Hothfield to the court of Elcheston, (usque ad forum de Elscheston). And the jury found, that a prior his predecessor at some time inclosed the park, and afterwards the inclosure of it being broken in the time of war, there was a passing of the neighbours through the middle of it, to the above court, by the prior's leave, for almost thirty years, until the prior that then was again inclosed it; and they say, that it was not a common pathway, and therefore, &c./s In which state it continued till the dissolution of the priory in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. when it came, with the rest of the possessions of the monastery, into the king's hands, where this manor remained, till, in the 34th year of his reign, when he by agreement that year, granted it, with its appurtenances, and the land and wood in this parish, commonly called Westwell-park, the parsonage appropriate, and the advowson of the church, and the wood called Long beech wood, in this parish and Challock, with the lodge built on it, all parcel of the late priory, in exchange for other premises, to archbishop Cranmer, to hold by knight's service. Which grant was afterwards confirmed by the king, under the great seal. At which time there ap=

/s Battely's Somn. pt. ii, append. p. 50. See a service of gavelrip, in a custumal of this manor, in Somn. Gavelkind, p. 19.

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pears to have been land here, parcel of this manor, called the Vyneyarde./t After which, the above premises remained with the see of Canterbury, till the 3d year of queen Elizabeth, when the queen, being enabled so to do by act of parliament, took into her hands this manor and park of Westwell, among others, and annexed them to the crown, and recompensed archbishop Parker with other estates in lieu of them. After which, she, in her 10th year, granted the manor to John Fletcher and William Atkinson, for a term of

years. In which state it continued till king Charles I. in his 4th year, granted it, together with the park in fee, to Edward Ditchfield, John Highlord, Humphry Clark, and Francis Moss, and they immediately afterwards vested their interest in them in Sir John Tufton, knight and baronet, of Hothfield, whose eldest son Sir Nicholas Tufton, knight and baronet, having been created Lord Tufton and Earl of Thanet, died possessed of this manor, with the lands formerly the park of Westwell, the farm of which, now called the Park, claims an exemption from the payment of small tithes, in the 8th year of that reign, anno 1635, and in his descendants, earls of Thanet, it has continued down to the right hon. Sackville, earl of Thanet, the present owner of them.

A court leet and court baron is regularly held for this manor.

RIPLEY-COURT, now usually called Ripple, is a manor here, which was formerly made more eminent from its affording a surname to a family of good rank in these parts, who resided at it; one of which, Richard de Ripley, died possessed of it in the 30th year of king Edward I. and Philipott says, in an old deed he is called Miles Archiepi, as holding this manor of the archbishop by knight's service. But before the latter end of king

/t See the will of John Taylor, occupier of the court-lodge, anno 1557, in Preg. off. Cant.

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Edward III.'s reign the Brockhulls were become possessors of it, and they were succeeded by the Idens, a family of great antiquity and good estate about Iden, in Sussex, and Rolvenden, in this county; and in them it continued down to Alexander Iden, esq. who resided here in the 28th year of Henry VI. the latter half of which year he was sheriff, being appointed on the death of William Cromer, esq. who had been put to death by the rebel John Cade, and his followers, on the 4th of July that year; but Cade being at length deserted by them, was forced to fly alone, and concealed himself among the woods belonging to this estate, and the king promised by proclamation one thousand marks reward, to any one who would bring him, dead or alive. A few days after which, he was discovered by Iden the sheriff there, who attempting to take him, on his resistance, flew him, and cutting off his head, carried that with the body up to London, to the king's council, who gave him thanks, and ordered the reward to be paid him. He afterwards married Elizabeth, daughter of James, lord Say and Seal, and widow of William Cromer, esq. above-mentioned, and was sheriff again in the 35th year of that reign, in whose descendants, who bore for their arms, Azure, a fess, between three closed helmets, or, this manor continued till it was at length alienated to Darell, of Calehill, whose descendant George Darell, esq. in the last year of king Edward VI. conveyed it to Baker, in which name it remained till Giles Baker passed it away to Christopher Towers, esq. who alienated it to Sackville, earl of Thanet, whose great-grandson the right hon. Sackville, earl of Thanet, is now entitled to it.

BEAMONSTON, usually called Beamston, and in Domes-

day, Betmonteston, is a manor, which lies partly in this parish, and partly in Challock, in the borough of its own name, and within the bounds of the hundred of

/u See Rapin's History of England, vol. i. p. 375.

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Wye, the scite of the court-lodge of it, which has been many years down, being, as is supposed, in that part of Eastwell-park within this parish. At the time of taking the general survey of Domesday, this manor was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Baieux, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in it:

Ralf de Curbespine holds of the bishop, Betmontestun. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is six carucates. In demesne there are two, and thirteen villeins, with one borderer having three carucates. There are thirty-three acres of meadow, and wood for the pannage of forty hogs. Of this manor Hugo de Montfort holds, between wood and pasture, what was worth in the time of king Edward the Confessor six pounds, and afterwards, and now, as much. Ailric held it of king Edward.

Four years afterwards the bishop was disgraced, and all his possessions were confiscated to the crown, of which it was afterwards held by a family who took their surname from it; one of whom, John, son of Roger de Beameston, held it of the honor of Say in the reign of king Henry III. but in the next reign of king Edward I. Stephen de la Hay held it by knight's service of that honor, and his descendant William de la Hay died possessed of it in the 8th year of Edward III. After which it came into the possession of Thomas at More, who owned it in the 20th year of that reign, holding it as above-mentioned, from which name it was sold to Laurance de Amias, whose descendant J. Amyas alienated it, in the reign of king Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Moile, of Eastwell, who dying in 1560, without male issue, Catherine his daughter and coheir carried it in marriage to Sir Thomas Finch, afterwards of Eastwell, in whose descendants, earls of Winchelsea, this manor continued down to Daniel, earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, who dying in 1769, without male issue, gave it, together with his other estates in this county, to his nephew George Finch Hatton, esq. now of Eastwell, the present proprietor of it.

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SHOTTENDEN is situated in the eastern part of this parish, in the borough of Shottenden, and within the bounds of the hundred of Wye. It was, in the beginning of the reign of Henry VI. become the property of cardinal archbishop Kempe, who in the 10th year of that reign settled it, among other premises, on his new-founded college of Wye, with which it staid till the dissolution of that foundation in the 36th year of Henry VIII. when it came into the hands of the crown, where it remained till queen Elizabeth, in her 1st year, granted it, with the royal manor of Wye, and other premises, to her kinsman Henry, lord Hunsdon, to hold in capite by knight's service, and his grandson, Henry, earl of Dover, soon after 1628, alienated it to Sir Thomas Finch, of Eastwell, afterwards earl of

Winchelsea, whose descendant Daniel, earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, in 1769, devised it to his nephew George Finch Hatton, esq. of Eastwell, the present owner of it.

NASH-COURT is a manor here, lying at a small distance westward from Shottenton, which, as appears by old deeds, was once in the possession of a family who were at first written At-Nash, and afterwards Nash only./w They were extinct here before the 32d year of king Edward III. for it appears by the close-roll of that year, that Alanus de Hanekin then held it; but before the latter end of the next reign of Richard II. one of this family had alienated it to Thomas Brockhull, esq. of Calehill, whose son Henry Brockhull, in the beginning of king Henry IV's reign, passed it away to John Darell, esq. afterwards of Calehill, steward to archbishop Chicheley, and younger brother of Sir William Darell, of Littlecote, in Wiltshire, in whose descendants it continued down to George Darell, esq. of Calehill, who in the last year of king Edward VI. sold it to Sharpe, of Ninhouse, in Great Chart, whose descen-

/w Rot. Esch. ejus an. N. 94.

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dants afterwards constantly resided here, many of whom, as appears by their wills in the Prerogative-office, Canterbury, lie buried in the north chancel of this church; and it is now in the possession of one of them, Mr. William Sharpe, gent. of Westwell. A court baron is held for this manor.

At a small distance northward from Nash, is a house and lands called Gig-Nash, formerly the property of Giles Baldock, who resided at it in 1531. It afterwards passed into the name of Bourne, and was sold by the heirs of Nicholas Bourne, of Westwell, to William Sharpe, of Nash, above-mentioned, who now owns it.

DEAN-COURT is a manor, in the north-east part of this parish, above the hill, next to Challock, in which parish most of the demesne lands belonging to it lie. It was, at the time of taking the survey of Domesday, in the year 1080, part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Baieux, the Conqueror's half-brother, under the general title of whose lands it is entered in it as follows:

Adelold held Dene of the bishop. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is two carucates. In demesne there is one carucate, and four borderers, and two ser-vants, and one acre of meadow, and wood for the pannage of nine hogs. Of this suling Ralph de Curbespine holds one yoke and an half, which is and was worth separately ten shillings. Adelold had half a suling and half a yoke, and in the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth forty shillings, and afterwards twenty shillings, now forty shillings. This land is in the king's hands. Ulnod and Wana and Aluuard and Ulueron held this land of king Edward, and it was divided in three places.

Four years afterwards the bishop was disgraced, and all his estates were confiscated to the crown. After which, this manor was held by the family of Hoesse, afterwards called Hussey, one of whom, Henry de

Hoese, died possessed of it in the 18th year of king

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Edward I. and his son Henry did homage for it in the 30th year of that reign, to John Peckham, archbishop of Canterbury, of whom he then held it, together with lands in Sturmouth, and in his descendants it continued down to Henry Hussey, who in the reign of king Henry VIII. sold it to Sackville; after which it came into the possession of William Herbert, earl of Pembroke, who in the 7th year of king Edward VI. exchanged it with the king for other premises, and it remained in the crown till the 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary, when it was granted to Thomas and John White, and others, to hold in capite by knight's service, /x who joined in the sale of it to Millen, in which name it remained in the reign of king Charles II. and from one of them it was afterwards alienated to Young, of Charing, who by deed settled it on Elizabeth Poole, daughter of Mr. Poole, of Charing, who marrying Dr. John Ludwell, M. D. late of Oriel college, Oxford, entitled him to it for his life, and surviving him she became again possessed of it in her own right, and at her death in 1765, by her last will, devised it to her kinsman George Carter, esq. of Kennington, whose son, the Rev. George Carter, now of Kennington, is the present possessor of this manor.

DIGGS-COURT, usually called Digges, lies about three-quarters of a mile westward from the church, which was so called from the eminent family of Digge, or Digges, as they were afterwards called, who were owners of it, and frequently resided here, being stiled sometimes of Barham, where their principal seat was, and sometimes of Westwell, as appeared by several of their antient evidences; and in the reign of king Edward III. there was one of them, Adomarus de Digge, who frequently wrote himself of Westwell, but whether the same person who was a judge in the preceding

/x Augtn. off. deeds of purchase and exchange, box H. 16. Rot. Esch. pt. 3, rot. 50.

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reign of king Edward II. I am not certain; soon after which, by Elizabeth, daughter of his descendant John Digge, of Barham, this seat went in marriage to Henry Anchor, esq. of Losenham, whose descendant of the same name, had two sons, Thomas, who succeeded him at Losenham, and Robert, who was afterwards of this seat of Digges-court; of which he died possessed in 1512, and was buried in Westwell church; /y and in his descendants, who constantly resided here, it continued till it was, at the latter end of the last century, sold by one of them to Godden, and he, in the year 1700, alienated it to William Bokenham, esq. of Rochester, whose representatives, in 1719, joined in the sale of it to Henry May, esq. recorder of Chichester, who by will devised it to his kinsman Thomas May, esq. of Godmersham, who afterwards took the name of Knight, and died possessed of it in 1781, as did his son of the same name in 1794, s. p. and by his will devised it to his widow Mrs. Catherine Knight, now of Canterbury, the present

owner of it.

LEYTON, alias LEYTON, is a small manor here, situated at a small distance northward from Diggs-court, which was part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, and remained so till archbishop Cranmer, in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. conveyed it to the king, which sale was ratified by the prior and convent of Christ-church; but it did not remain long in the crown, for the king, in his 23d year, afterwards confirmed under his great seal, exchanged it again with the archbishop for other premises; and the king discharged the archbishop from all tenths, and all other outgoings whatever, payable to him from it. Since which this manor has continued parcel of the possessions of the see of Canterbury to this time.

/y His will, as well as those of several of his descendants, are in the Prerog. off. Cant.

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The family of Honywood have been lessees of this manor for a considerable length of time. Filmer Honywood, esq. now of Markshall, is the present lessee of it.

PERRITON, or as it is now vulgarly called, Perrytown, is another manor in this parish, of which I find no mention till the reign of king Edward I. in the 5th year of which, Philip de Columbers died possessed of it, holding it of the king in capite. After which it became the property of the family of Aldon; one of whom, Thomas de Aldon, died possessed of it in the 43d year of Edward III. How long it continued in that name, I have not found; but it most probably afterwards came into the possession of the Pyries, afterwards called and written Perry, from whom this manor, as well as Perry-court, in Wye, both assumed their names. Of the heirs of Geoffrie de Pyrie, this manor seems to have been purchased by cardinal archbishop Kempe, in the beginning of king Henry VI.'s reign, who, in the 10th year of it, settled it, among other premises, on his new-founded college of Wye, with which it said till the dissolution of it, in the 36th year of Henry VIII. when this manor came into the hands of the crown, whence it was immediately afterwards granted, with the small adjoining manor of Broke, and other premises, to Thomas Cawarden, to hold in capite by knight's service; /z from him they passed to Moyle, and from thence again to Sir John Baker of Sissinghurst, and his descendant Sir John Baker, knight and baronet, in 1657, alienated the manor of Peryton to Nathaniel Powell, esq. of Eweherst, in Sussex, afterwards, in 1661, created a baronet, one of whose descendants passed it away to Kingsford, from which name it was sold to Chapman, and it is now the property of Mr. William Chapman, of this parish.

/z Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 28. and anno 38 Henry VIII. pt. 7.

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WOLTON, alias WODITON, is a place here, which was originally parcel of the inheritance of a family called Wolton, or Woditon. Ivo de Woditon held it in the year 1236, and left it to his son John de

Wolton, who had a son Richard, who in the 20th year of king Edward III. held both this manor and that of Wootton by Barham, and in his successors of that name this estate remained till the latter end of king Henry VI.'s reign, and then some part of it was sold to John Hampton, and he, about the beginning of king Edward IV.'s reign, passed it away to Richard Rasel, who resided here, and died possessed of it, as appears by his will, in the 23d year of that reign; but there was some part of it which remained unsold, until William Wolton, at his death in 1540, ordered it to be vested in feoffees, in trust, to discharge his debts; and they accordingly conveyed it to Rasel, who then became possessed of the entire fee of it; in whose descendants it remained at the restoration of king Charles II. But whereabouts it is situated, and who have been the proprietors of it since, I have not been able, after the most diligent enquiries, to find out.

LONGBEECH WOOD is a large tract of woodland, lying above the hill, on the north side of this parish, partly in it, and partly in Challock. It contains about 1100 acres, and was formerly part of the possessions of the priory of Christ-church, and on the dissolution of it, in the 31st year of king Henry VIII.'s reign, came into the hands of the crown, where it remained till the king, in his 34th year, granted it, by the description of all the wood and underwood, commonly called Long-beech, in Westwell and Challock, with the lodge there upon builded, and the soil and ground of the same wood, called Longbeech wood, parcel of the late monastery of Christ-church, /a among other

/a Deeds of purch. and exch. Augtn. off. box C. 50.

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premises, in exchange to archbishop Cranmer; notwithstanding which, archbishop Parker, in the year 1570, was sued in the exchequer, for selling some part of this wood, under pretence of its being the queen's; and though it was determined in his favour, yet the archbishop was obliged to relinquish his right to it, and Sir James Crofts, comptroller of the queen's household, had a grant of it from her, in her 17th year, and continued in the possession of it till archbishop Whitgift, on his first advancement to the see, found such favour with the queen, as to recover the possession of it. Since which it has remained parcel of the estates belonging to the archbishopric, and does so at this time. In 1643 it was rented of the archbishop by John Boys, gent. at the yearly rent of forty pounds. Since which the lease of it has been for some time in the family of Dering, of Surrenden. Sir Edward Dering, bart, is the present lessee of it.

CHARITIES.

STEPHEN HULSE, gent. of Westwell, by will in 1678, gave to the poor of this parish for ever, two acres of land, and two tenements at Gignash, in this parish, which are not let, but are appropriated to the poor; supposed to be worth six pounds per annum.

JAMES TAYLOR, gent. by will in 1699, gave to the poor of this parish a parcel of land in Little Chart and Westwell, con=

taining one acre, and now called Poor's meadow, which is not let, but is applied to the poor, and is supposed to be worth 1l. per annum.

The poor constantly relieved are about thirty-three, casually twenty-five.

WESTWELL is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing, and is exempt from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a large handsome building, consisting of three isles, two small chancels, and a high chancel, having a tall spire steeple shingled, at the west end of it. The pillars on

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each side the middle isle are slim and very beautiful, and between this isle and the chancel they are uncommonly elegant. In the middle window of the high chancel are good remains of painted glass, being four ovals, in each a figure sitting, crowned, with a scepter, and the rest filled with a bordure, &c. Within the altar-rails is a memorial for John Tucker, A. M. rector of Ringwold, and under master of the king's school, Canterbury; a man of a most worthy character, who died in 1776, universally esteemed and lamented. Without the rails are two stones, robbed of their brasses, one having had the figure of a priest, with his mitre and robes; the other, the stem of a cross, and at top, the half-figure of a priest. There are six stalls at the west end of the chancel, for the use of the members of the priory of Christ-church, during their residence here, and others of the clergy who might be present at divine service. On the south side is a confessionary-seat of stone, and one beside it, and a nich for holy water. At the east end of the south isle are four niches for statues. In the north chancel is a memorial for Mary Wolgate, virgin, daughter of John Wolgate, of Borden, obt, 1634; and an inscription on brass on a gravestone, for John Sharp, of Nash, obt. 1607. In a window on the north side of the north isle, in a chancel, is a shield of arms, Azure, a cross, between four martlets, or, impaling, Azure, three crowns, or; another, Quarterly, azure, a cross between four martlets, or; and gules, a lion rampant, argent; and in another window are some good remains of figures. In a window of the north isle are the arms of the priory of Canterbury, and a shield, Argent, a cross, gules. In the south chancel is a stone, coffin-shaped, about two feet long, with a cross flory on it. Robert at Ligh, by will in 1525, devised for a pair of organs in this church, ten marcs; and Roger Baker, of this parish, by his will proved in 1553, de-

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vised forty marcs towards the reparation of the steeple of Westwell.

This church was antiently an appendage to the manor of Westwell, and as such was part of the possessions of the priory of Christ church, to which it was appropriated in the 21st year of king Richard II. towards the support of the fabric of that church, to which archbishop Arundel consented; for which the

prior gave up to him the patronage of St. Mary Aldermary church, London; and the same was confirmed by Henry IV. in his 2d year. After which this parsonage appropriate, together with the advowson of the vicarage, remained part of the possessions of that priory till the dissolution of it, in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. when it came, with the manor, into the king's hands, where it staid but a small time, for the king, in his 34th year, confirmed afterwards under his great seal, granted in exchange, among other premises, the manor of Westwell, with other lands here, and the parsonage of Westwell appropriate to the above late monastery, and the advowson to the archbishop of Canterbury. And the king exonerated and discharged the archbishop from the tenth part of the yearly value of the said premises, which he was entitled to by the act, made in the 26th year of his reign. In which state it has continued ever since, the archbishop being the present owner of the parsonage appropriate, and of the advowson of the vicarage of this church.

In 1643 John, earl of Thanet, was lessee of this parsonage. It was afterwards in the name of Gurney, and since, partly by purchase and partly by marriage, the lease became vested in the Rev. John Tucker, late of Canterbury, deceased, whose son, of the same name, is now entitled to it.

/b Pat. 21 Richard II. N. 9. Tan. Mon. p. 200.

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The vicarage of Westwell was endowed in the year 1298, the year after the appropriation of the church, with the consent of Henry de Northwode, then rector of this church, and yet no vicar seems to have been inducted for some years afterwards, though a portion had been before assigned to the vicar by the rector, of which the prior of Christ-church, the see of Canterbury being then vacant, granted his letters testimonial in 1293.

It is valued in the king's books at thirteen pounds, and the yearly tenths at 1l. 6s. and is now of the clear yearly certified value of 67l. 14s. In 1588 it was valued at fifty pounds. Communicants three hundred and ninety-eight. In 1640 it was valued at sixty-nine pounds. Communicants the same. In 1661, archbishop Juxon augmented this vicarage ten pounds per annum out of the great tithes. Archbishop Tenison gave fifty pounds towards putting the vicarage-house, which was then much gone to ruin, in better repair. There is only half an acre of glebe to it.

CHURCH OF WESTWELL.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

The Archbishop. William Teddar, A. M. ind.
1592, resigned 1619.

John Viney, A. M. inducted
1619.

Samuel Watsall, in 1663.
William Viney, A. M. inducted
April 1670, obt. 1670.

Christopher Hargrave, inducted

January, 1680.
Charles Everard, resigned 1711.
Thomas England, A. M. Jan.
1712, obt. Oct. 1729./e

/c Cart. Antiq. W. 185, in archiv.
Cantuar. Reg. Berthona, pt. 2, f. 308/b,
MSS. Cantaur. See a composition, an.
1305, between the rector of this church
and the rector of Boughton Aluph,
concerning tithes before, p. 397.

/d Wills, Prerog. off. Cant.
/e And vicar of Kennington.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

The Archbishop. William Gurney, A. M. induct.
Jan. 1730, obt. 1755./f

Sayer Rudd, M. D. ind. May 3,
1755, obt. 1757./g

Francis Frederick Geraud, A. M.
May 1757, resigned 1766./h

Benjamin Waterhouse, A. M.
1766, obt. 1790./i

H. Montague Davis, 1790, the
present vicar.

/f Also rector of Herst, and second
master of the king's school, Canter=
bury. He lies buried in the chancel
of this church.

/g He took his doctor's degree at
Leyden, in Holland.

/h He resigned this for the vicarage
of Preston, by Faversham.

/i Likewise vicar of Hollingborne,
which he resigned in 1770.

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CHARING

IS the adjoining parish to Westwell north-west=
ward. It is written in Domesday, Cheringes, and in
other antient records, Cerringes and Cherring.

It lies partly below and partly above the upper
range of chalk hills, where there is much woodland.
It is a healthy, though not a very pleasant situation,
from the nature of the soils in it, all which are but
poor; about the town or village, and to the summit of
the hill it is chalky; above the hill a red cludgy earth
covered with flints, and below the town mostly a sand.
At the western boundary, next to Lenham, is Charing
heath; it is watered by several small streamlets, which
rising near the foot of the hills, direct their course
southward into the Stour, which runs towards Ashford
just below the boundary of it. The village, or town of
Charing, as it is more usually called, stands at the foot
of the hill, called from it Charing-hill, over which the
high road leads through it from Faversham, through
Smerden and Biddenden, and thence to Cranbrooke

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and Tenterden in the Weald. The high road like=
wise from Ashford, since the new turnpike has been

completed, is made by new cuts to pass through this town and Lenham, instead of its former more southern circuit by Chilson park and Sandway towards Maidstone, shortening its distance considerably. Notwithstanding these roads, there is no great matter of traffic through it, the town is unpaved, and has a clean countryfied look, there is a good house in it, formerly belonging to the Poole's, whose arms were, Azure, a lion rampant, argent, semee of fleur de lis, or. Afterwards to Dr. Ludwell, who bore for his arms, Gules, on a bend, argent, three eagles, azure, between two castles of the second; and then to the Carter's, one of whom sold it to George Norwood, esq. who resides in it. Not far from it is an antient mansion, which has been modernized formerly, called Peirce-house, now belonging to Mr. James Wakeley, who resides in it; at a small distance from the street eastward is the ruined palace, the church and the vicarage, a pleasant habitable dwelling.

There are large ruins of the archiepiscopal palace still remaining; the antient great gateway to it is now standing, and much of the sides of the court within it, on the east side of which seems to have been the dining-room, the walls of which remain, and it is converted into a barn. On the opposite side to this are many of the offices, now made into stables. Fronting the great gateway above-mentioned, seems to have been the entrance into the palace itself, part of which, on the east side, is fitted up as a dwelling-house, at the back of which, northward, are the remains of the chapel, the walls of which are standing entire, being built of squared stone, mixed with flints; on the side wall of it are three windows, with pointed arches, and at the east end a much larger one, of the same form. Sir Nicholas Gilborne, hereafter mentioned, as having resided here in king James I.'s reign, was son of Wil-

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liam Gilborne, esq. of London, who lies buried in St. Catherine's Creechurch, London, descended from the Gilbornes, of Ereswike, in Yorkshire, and bore for their arms, Azure, on a chevron, or, three roses gules, within a bordure of the second. Sir Nicholas had two sons and several daughters; one of whom, Anne, married Charles Wheler, esq. of Tottenham, grandfather of Sir George Wheler, D. D. and prebendary of Durham, the purchaser afterwards of this manor and palace, as will be further mentioned.

The two fairs which were granted in the 21st year of king Henry VI. are now held on April 29, and October 29, for horses, cattle, and pedlary.

The parish has in it the boroughs of Town, Sandpit, East Lenham, part of Field, and Acton.

Several of our antiquaries have supposed the Roman station, mentioned in the 2d iter of Antonine by the name of Durolevum, corruptly for Durolenum, to have been in this neighbourhood; and Dr. Plot mentions his discovery of a Roman way, which seemed to have passed the Medway at Teston, and crossing Cocksheath, pointed towards Lenham hither. Most of those who have contended for this station having been hereabouts, have fixed it at Lenham. Only two of them, Mr. Talbot and Dr. Stukeley, after

much hesitation, where to place it, were for its having been here at Charing; the latter founded his opinion on the Roman antiquities, which he says, have been found all about here, which Horsley accounts for, from a supposition of this having been only a notitia way, and indeed there is but little, if any, foundation for any supposition that the station above-mentioned was here at Charing; that it was a notitia way, there is great reason to suppose, as has been already mentioned before, in the description of Lenham, to which may be added, that there is in this parish,

/k There is a pedigree of them in Vistn. co. Kent, 1619.

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about a mile S. S. W. from the town a hamlet called Stone-street, a name, which is a certain indication of its note in former times.

Mr. Jacob, in his *Plantæ Favershamienses*, has taken notice of several scarce plants in this parish, to which account the reader is referred for them.

There was a family who took their name from this parish, one of whom, Adam de Cherringes, was excommunicated by archbishop Becket, and, as it should seem, to blot out the heinousness of this offence, afterwards, in the time of archbishop Baldwin, the next successor but one to Becket, founded an hospital for leprous persons, at Romney, in honour of St. Stephen and St. Thomas Becket.

Anno 26 Edward I. the king granted licence to shut up a high road leading from Charing to Ashford.

The vulgar tradition, that Charing cross, in Westminster, was so called from a cross, which once stood on the summit of the hill here, which being taken from hence, was carried and set up there, is entirely without foundation; for the cross, which stood where the figure of king Charles on horseback now is at Charing-cross, in the centre of the three highways, as was then usual, was made and erected there in the year 1292, anno 21 Edward I. in that village which long before had been called Cheringes, and Charing, but which afterwards was universally called, from thence, Charing-cross./l

CHARING was part of the most antient possessions of the church of Canterbury, and was taken from it by Offa, king of Mercia, who began his reign in 757, and given by him to some of his courtiers; but king Cenewlf, his almost immediate successor, at the request of archbishop Athelard, restored it again in the year 799, with the consent of his bishops and nobles, free from all secular service and regal tribute. In which

/l See Dugd. Mon. vol. ii. p. 443, 542.

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state it remained till archbishop Lanfranc succeeded to the see of Canterbury in 1070, when, on the division of the revenues of his church between himself and his convent of Christ-church, this manor was allotted to the archbishop and his successors; accordingly it is thus entered in the record of Domesday:

In Cale Helle hundred, the archbishop himself holds in demesne Cheringes. It was taxed at eight sulings. The

arable land is forty carucates. In demesne there is one suling, and there is four carucates and an half. There are twenty six villeins, with twenty-seven borderers having twenty-seven carucates. There are twelve servants, with one mill of the value of forty pence. There are twenty-five acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of twenty-six hogs. In its whole value, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth twenty-four pounds, when he received it as much; it is now valued at thirty-four pounds, and yet it yields sixty pounds.

On the scite of this manor, close on the north-west side of the church-yard, the archbishops had a palace, most probably long before the conquest, for it was then stiled *proprium manerium Archiepiscopi*, from its having been kept by them, long before that period, in their own hands, and it continued a palace, at which they occasionally resided, as long as they remained possessors of this manor. Archbishop Stratford, in the 22d year of king Henry VI. procured a grant of two fairs in this parish, on the eve, day, and morrow of St. George and St. Luke; and that great and eminent prelate archbishop Moreton, who came to the see in the beginning of king Henry VII.'s reign, in great part re-edified this palace, as he did most of those belonging to it; and so ample was the building of it, that both king Henry VII. and VIII. in their royal progress, with all their attendants, were at different times lodged under the roof of it. King Henry VII. was here on March 24, 1507, and king Henry VIII. in his way to the interview with the

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French king, Francis I. between Guisnes and Ardres, in 1520. The king removed from his palace at Greenwich, on May 21, that year, on his way towards the sea; the first day he went to Otford, then to Leeds-castle, then to Charing, and from thence on the 25th to Canterbury; all which were at that time archiepiscopal palaces, and sufficiently point out the grandeur and magnificence attached to the see of Canterbury. But the costliness of these palaces proved in the end their ruin; for archbishop Cranmer, in the reign of Henry VIII. perceiving the envy of the courtiers drawn on him from his possessing them, was obliged to give up most of them to the king; accordingly, in the 37th year of that reign, he conveyed to the king, this manor and palace, with the rectory and advowson of the vicarage, and all his estates in this parish. After which the manor and palace remained in the crown, and the latter seems to have been kept up in a goodly state; for I find Sir Nicholas Gilborne kept his shrievalty in it, in the 9th year of James I. At length king Charles I. in his 5th year, granted them in fee to William White and others, to hold in free socage, in trust for Sir Allen Apslie, who that year, by deed inrolled in chancery, passed them away to Stephen Alcocke, and he, in the 11th year of that reign, by like deed, conveyed them to Sir Robert Honeywood, of Pett, whose grandson, of the same name, being in the service of the Dutch, and not returning home on proclamation, forfeited this manor and estate to the crown. After which king Charles II.

in his 26th year, granted them in trust to Walter Vane and Sir Philip Honywood, Sir Robert's brother, for the benefit of his wife and children. After which, Walter Honywood, their only surviving child, in 1686, being then of St. Stephen's, devised them by

/m Deeds of purchase and exchange in Augtn. off. box D. 27. Confirmed by the chapter Dec. 22, following.

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will to trustees, who in 1692, together with Robert Honywood, cousin and heir of Walter before-mentioned, conveyed this manor, with the palace and the demesnes of it, to Sir George Wheler, afterwards D. D. and prebendary of Durham, who died possessed of them in 1724, in whose descendants it has continued down to Granville Hastings Wheler, now an infant, who is at this time entitled to the inheritance of this royal manor of Charing, with the ruins of the antient archiepiscopal palace, and the lands and appurtenances belonging to it./n

A court leet and court baron is held for this manor, which is of very large extent.

The customals of this manor may be seen mentioned in Somner's Gavelkind, and the custom of pannage and danger, or lef-silver, from the dennes in the Weald, belonging to it in Somner's Roman Ports. In an account-roll of this manor, anno 1230, this last custom is there explained, that the tenants of the wealdish dennes might plough and sow in the time of pannage, without damage to the archbishop. By this and other accounts it appears, that such tenants could not plough and sow their land in pannage time, without the lord's leave, whence it was otherwise termed lef-silver, for fear of endangering the lord in his pannage; or if they did, they were liable to recompence it. And the dennes, it seems, being set out for the agistment and feeding of hogs and other droves of cattle, were thence called drove dennes, and it appears by a manuscript in the Lambeth library, that there was copyhold land in Charing, held of the archbishop, as of his manor here; and there was a grant made of some of the same by the archbishop, in 1478, ad voluntatem Domini secundum consuetudinem manerii.

/n See a further account of this family in vol. v. of this history, p. 537.

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RAYWOOD is a pretty large district of land in this parish, extending from the lower end of Charingstreet to Westwell-leacon and Calehill-heath, and is mostly within, if not part of the demesnes of Charing manor. It has been long since in a great measure cleared of the wood which once covered it, and has been converted into farms. It formerly belonged to the hospital of Thanington, most of it is now the property of the Rev. Mr. Sayer and Mr. Darell.

THE MANORS OF PETT'S, and NEWCOURT, are situated in the eastern part of this parish, close at the foot of the range of chalk hills, both of them had in very early times, that is, about the reigns of king Henry III. and Edward I. owners of their own respective names, as appeared by the private evidences

belonging to them; but in the reigns of Edward II. William ate Newcourt was in the possession of both of them. At length when this family was become extinct here, the Hatch's, written likewise At-Hatch, became, by purchase, possessed of both Pett's and Newcourt, from whom they passed by sale, about the latter end of king Henry VII.'s reign, to William Warham, and he, in Henry VIII.'s reign, alienated them again to Robert Atwater, whose youngest daughter and coheir Mary carried them, with other estates at Lenham and elsewhere in this neighbourhood, to Robert Honywood, esq. of Henewood, in Postling, who afterwards resided at Pett's, of which, with Newcourt, he died possessed in 1576. He left issue several children, of whom Robert, the eldest son, succeeded to these manors, and resided at times both here and at Markshall, in Essex, which he had purchased. By his first wife Dorothy, daughter of John Crooke, LL. D. he had a son Robert; and by his second, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Robert Brown, of Beechworth-castle, he had several children, to the eldest of whom, Sir Thomas, he gave Markshall and his other estates in Essex. On his death in 1627, he was suc-

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ceeded in his estates here by Sir Robert Honywood, his only son by his first wife, who resided at Pett's, which continued in his descendants till at length Sir Philip Honywood, one of his younger sons, in king Charles II.'s reign, leaving an only daughter and heir Frances, she carried it in marriage to George Sayer, esq. son of Sir John Sayer, of Bourchiers-hall, in Essex, who afterwards resided here, and dying in 1718, was buried in this church, bearing for his arms, Gules, a chevron, between three martlets, argent, a chief, ermine. He left an only son George Sayer, esq. of Pett's, whose son George Sayer, esq. residing at it kept his shrievalty here in 1755, where he died in 1778, having married Mary Greenhill, of Maidstone, by whom he left two sons and three daughters, George, the eldest son, took holy orders, and was presented to the rectory of Eggliscliffe, in Durham, and married Catherine, the only daughter of Mr. James Wakely, of Charing; John, the second son, was a major in the army, and married Charlotte, daughter of Charles Van, esq. of Monmouthshire. The three daughters were Mary; Catherine, married to the Rev. William Gregory, rector of St. Andrew, in Canterbury, and vicar of Blean, and Frances. He was succeeded in these manors and his seat of Pett's, by his eldest son the Rev. George Sayer, LL. B. who is the present possessor of them, and occasionally resides here.

WICKINS is a manor in the southern part of this parish, adjoining to Westwell, in which part of the lands of it lie. It was originally the patrimony of the family of Brent, and was their most antient seat, and Weever says, that they were branched out of the antient stock of Brent, in Somersetshire, of whom Sir Robert de Brent was a baron of parliament in the reign of king Edward I. When the church here was burnt in 1590, the windows and gravestones, in which this family was noticed, were mostly defaced; but on the outside of the belfry, the wywern, being the arms

of Hugh Brent, esq. of Charing, yet remains; he had four sons, Robert Brent, the first of this name mentioned in their pedigree, lived in the reign of king Edward II. and is stiled of Charing, as were his several descendants afterwards. William Brent, esq. the eldest son, inherited this manor, and resided at it; and Robert, the second, was of Wilsborough, and ancestor of the Brents of that place. John Brent, esq. grandson of William above-mentioned, feasted king Henry VIII. in this house, as he passed this way towards his then intended siege of Bullein; and Weever further says, that the hall-window of this seat was full stored with the badges of Edward IV. in every quarry of glass. His son Thomas Brent, esq. succeeding to this manor, resided at it till the 12th year of queen Elizabeth, when becoming heir to Wilsborough, by the devise of his kinsman, Robert Brent, of that place, who died s. p. he removed thither where he died likewise s. p. in 1612, and was buried there. By his will he gave this manor or tenement called Wickins, with Derice and Caprons, in Charing and Westwell, and all their lands and appurtenances, to his nephew Christopher Dering, of Charing, who then occupied them, /o being the fifth and youngest son of John Dering, esq. of Surrenden-Dering, by Margaret, sister of Thomas Brent above-mentioned; which branch of the family of Dering bear for their arms quarterly, first those of Dering, or, a saltier, sable, with a chief, azure, to distinguish this branch of Dering, and second, Dering likewise, argent, a fess, azure, in chief; three pellets. His descendants resided at Wickins, which at length came down to Heneage Dering, clerk, S. T. P. dean of Rippon, and archdeacon of the East Riding of Yorkshire, who died possessed of it in 1750, æt. 84, having married Anne, daughter of John Sharpe, archbishop of York, by whom he left two sons

/o His will is in the Prerogative-office, Canterbury.

and several daughters, of whom John will be mentioned hereafter; Heneage, D. D. is prebendary of Canterbury, and rector of Milton, in Buckinghamshire, now unmarried; Elizabeth married Charles Elsley, of Yorkshire, and Mary married John Sharpe, archdeacon of Northumberland. His eldest son John Dering, A. M. rector of Helgeye, in Norfolk, succeeded him in this manor, of which he died possessed in 1774, leaving one son John Thurloe Dering, esq. of Denver, since deceased, and a daughter Miss Anne Dering, who on her father's death became entitled to this manor, and she continues at this time the owner of it.

STILLEY is another small manor here, lying between Westwell-leacon and Calehill-heath, which was formerly the patrimony of John de Frene, who lived in the reign of king Henry III. and is mentioned in the Testa de Nevill, as having paid aid in the 20th year of that reign, at the marriage of the king's sister, for lands which he then held in Charing. His descendant Hugh de Frene had a charter of free-warren granted to him for his lands in this parish, in the 1st

year of king Edward III. but before the middle of that reign, this manor was become the property of Sir Thomas, son of Sir William de Brockhull, of Saltwood, whose son Thomas Brockhull, esq. of Calehill, sold it, with Newland before-described, to John Darell, esq. then of Calehill, who by a charter of investiture in the 3d year of Henry VI. had the above-mentioned charter of free warren within this manor renewed; and in his descendants it has continued down, in like manner, to Henry Darell, esq. of Calehill, the present possessor of it.

NEWLAND is a manor in the southern part of this parish, which once gave name to a family who were owners of it, and whose residence it likewise was. Sir John de Newland lived here in the reign of king Edward I. and sealed with an escallop upon a chevron, for

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his coat of arms, as was visible in ancient registers, and other writings of past times; but before the latter end of king Edward III.'s reign, this manor was become the property of a branch of the family of Brockhull, then seated at Calehill, but it did not remain long with them; for Henry Brockhull sold it in the 12th year of Henry IV. with much other land in this and the adjoining parishes, to John Darell, esq. of Calehill, in whose descendants it has continued down with that seat, to Henry Darell, esq. now of Calehill, who is the present owner of this manor.

BROCKTON, alias BROUGHTON, is another manor in this parish, situated on the further part of Charingheath, in the road leading to Egerton, which had once owners likewise of that name. Adam de Broughton, who was sometimes written likewise Brocton, lived in the reign of king Edward I. and his descendants enjoyed the property of it until the latter end of king Richard II. and then it was alienated to Paunsherst, in which it continued till Thomas Paunsherst, of Charing, by will in 1503, devised it to his daughter Joane, and in failure of her issue, to his kinsman Thomas Paine, who became accordingly entitled to this manor, and in his descendants it remained till about king James I.'s reign, when it was sold to Withick, in which name it continued till at length by a female heir it went in marriage to Charles Bargrave, gent. of Eastry, son of dean Bargrave, whose son Isaac Bargrave, gent. likewise of Eastry, sold it to Humphry Punder, esq. of Canterbury, whose daughter, and at length sole heir Catherine carried it in marriage to Thomas Barrett, esq. of Lee, and their only son and heir Thomas Barrett, esq. now of Lee, in Ickham, is the present proprietor of it. A court baron is held for this manor.

/p See more of them under Eastry.

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TREMHATCH is a manor here, situated about half a mile beyond the heath, on the Egerton side, which in the reign of king Edward III. was part of the possessions of Sir Ralph Sansaver, whom I find sometimes written Sawsamere, which I find confirmed by a deed in the Surrenden library, after which it passed into the

family of Barham, one of whom, Richard Barham, of Teston, in the 11th year of Henry IV. by fine levied, sold it to John Haut, esq. of Pluckley, who died possessed of Tremhatch in the 8th or 9th year of king Henry VI. and his two daughters and coheirs, by Joane de Surrenden his wife, succeeded him in it, Christiana, then the wife of Reginald Dryland, (whose first husband was John Dering, father of Richard Dering, who in her right, inherited Surrenden, of her mother's inheritance, and was ancestor of the Derings, baronets, of that place) and Alicia, wife of William Goldwell, of Great Chart, who possessed it in undivided shares. At length William Goldwell seems to have become possessed of the whole of this estate, of which he died possessed in 1485, and in his descendants it remained till the 42d year of queen Elizabeth, when it was sold by John Goldwell and Cicely his wife, to Robert Gaunt, gent. of St. Peter's, Canterbury, whose son Thomas Gaunt died possessed of it in 1625, and by will gave it first to his brother George Gaunt, and in default of his issue to Thomas Carlel, son of William Carlel, gent. of Barham, by Mary his sister, who accordingly succeeded to it, and soon after the year 1658, alienated it to Edward Taylor, gent. of Hollingborne, who died in 1668, and by his will devised his house and lands called Tremhatch, to his nephew William Reynolds, gent. of Hollingborne, who by will in 1687 devised it to his executors to sell, to fulfil the purposes of his will, and they sold it to John Crispe, who alienated it to George Buckhurst, whose descendant Mr. John Richard Buckhurst is now owner of this manor.

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BURLEIGH, or Burley, is a manor, lying in the western side of this parish, next to Lenham, which had antiently owners of that surname; one of whom, John de Burleigh, founded a chantry, afterwards called Burley's chantry, in this church of Charing. At length, after the descendants of that family were become extinct here, this manor came into the possession of the St. Johns, who bore for their arms, Argent, a mullet, sable, on a chief gules three mullets, pierced of the first, and resided at it; at length Avis, daughter of William St. John, esq. of Charing, carried it in marriage to Humphry Barrey, esq. who afterwards dwelt here, and was from thence usually stiled Barrey, of Charing; but it does not seem to have remained long in this name, for it soon afterwards came into the possession of a family, called Dalyngrygge, of eminent note in Hampshire, whose arms were, Argent, a cross engrailed, gules; and Sir Edward Dalyngrygge, by fine levied in the 1st year of king Richard II. passed it away to Roger Dalyngrygge and Alice his wife, and they not long afterwards conveyed it by sale to Thomas Brockhull, of Calehill, whose son Henry Brockhull, esq. in the 12th year of king Henry IV. alienated it, together with Calehill, to John Darell, esq. afterwards of that place, in whose descendants it has continued down, in like manner, to Henry Darell, esq. of Calehill, the present possessor of it.

The lands given for the support of the above-mentioned chantry were, at the suppression of it in

the reign of king Edward VI. granted to Darell, owner of the manor, and his descendant Henry Darell, esq. of Calehill, is now owner of them, as well as the manor of Burleigh, the mansion of which lies near the high footway leading from the upper part of Charing-street to Lenham, alias Royton-heath.

/q In the Prerog. off. Cant. is the will of Edward St. John, esq. of Charing, proved in 1458.

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ACTON is an estate, lying in the north-west part of this parish, in the borough of its own name, just below the chalk-hills; a place made eminent from its having been the property of the noble and antient family of Beaufitz, who made it their residence before they removed to Twidale, in Gillingham. Robert Beaufitz, as appears by an antient court-roll, held it in king Henry III.'s reign, and from him it descended to his grandchild Robert Beaufitz, who, about the 4th year of king Edward III. made that seat his residence; but yet Acton continued in the possession of him and his descendants till the reign of Henry VII./r when John Beaufitz leaving two daughters his coheirs, one of them, Joane, carried it in marriage to Robert Arnold, of Sussex, whose grandson William, in king Henry VIII.'s reign, alienated it to Sir Anthony Sondes, of Throwley, whose grandson Sir Richard Sondes, in the reign of king James I. conveyed it to Hutchins, and he by his will vested it in Nicholas Nicholson, as his feoffee in trust, for discharging the uses of his will, who sold this estate to Godden, by a female heir of which name it afterwards passed in marriage to Mr. Peter Twyman, of Rushbrooke, in Westbere, who devised it to his three sons, Arthur, Wheler, and John. Arthur, the eldest, died unmarried in 1779, and devised his third part to trustees, to fulfil the uses of his will. Wheler, the second son, was of Rushbrooke, clerk, and dying unmarried in 1779, devised his third part to Hannah Hall, since married to Mr. Peter Harrison, for her life, remainder to Lewis, lord Sondes. John, the third son, left a daughter Phœbe, in whose trustee, and in Mr. Peter Harrison, in right of his wife, the possession of this manor remains, in undivided thirds. A court baron is held for this manor.

/r Phillipott, p. 102. See more of the family of Beaufitz, vol. iv. of this history, p. 234.

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EVERSLEY is the last place remaining to be described lying above the hills, within the bounds of this parish and partly in that of Stalisfield, and though now of little note, yet was antiently of some consequence, as being one of the mansions of Bryan de Eversley, a man of much eminence in the reigns of king Henry III. and Edward I. who is mentioned in the ledger-book of Faversham abbey, as having been a benefactor to it. How long it continued in that name, I have not found; but about the beginning of king Edward III.'s reign, it was become the property of Peyforer; from which name it passed into that of Potyn, in which it remained, till at length Juliana,

only daughter and heir of Nicholas Potyn, carried it in marriage to Thomas St. Leger, of Otterden, who died possessed of it in the 10th year of Henry IV. and by will devised it to his only daughter and heir Joane, who entitled her husband Henry Aucher, esq. of Newenden, to it, /s in whose descendants this estate continued till about the latter end of queen Elizabeth's reign, when Sir Anthony Aucher, alienated it to Michael Sondes, esq. then of Eastry, but afterwards of Throwley, in whose descendants it continued down to Sir George Sondes, created by Charles II. earl of Faversham, whose youngest daughter and co-heir Katherine at length, by her father's entail, entitled her husband Lewis Watson, afterwards earl of Rockingham, to it; but his youngest grandson Edward, earl of Rockingham, dying s. p. devised it among the rest of his estates, to his kinsman the Hon. Lewis Monson, who afterwards took the name of Watson, and was created lord Sondes, and his eldest son the Right Hon. Lewis-Thomas Watson (now Lord Sondes) is the present possessor of it.

/s See more of the St. Legers and Auchers, vol. v. of this history, p. 535.

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CHARITIES.

MR. HART gave 20s. per annum to be distributed among 20 poor persons upon Easter Tuesday, payable out of lands now in the possession of Mr. Bash, in this parish.

AN UNKNOWN PERSON gave by will 40l. the interest of it, being 40s. to be distributed half-yearly to ten poor housekeepers, not receiving alms.

MRS. ELIZABETH LUDWELL, by will in 1761, gave, among many other charities elsewhere, to this parish 2650l. which is vested in the minister and churchwardens; the annual produce of which is 88l. 16s. 3d. to be applied towards the endowment of a free school here, in which there are now educated twenty-five children. The master's salary, who has no house, is 25l. per annum, and more for pens, ink, and books, about 8l. per annum; and likewise 3l. 10s. of the annual produce of it to be given, 30s. among poor persons, in bread, on Christmas-day; 20s. to the minister, for a commemoration sermon; 10s. to the clerk of the parish, and 10s. for lighting up the church, the residue of it to be applied to the apprenticing of poor children of this parish. And she likewise, by her will, founded two exhibitions in Oriel college, Oxford, with preference to the candidates from this parish, to be paid out of the rent of a farm in Throwley, devised to that college for this purpose, which is now of the annual produce of 35l.

The poor annually relieved are about eighty, casually one hundred and twenty-five.

CHARING is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of its own name, and is exempt from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is a handsome building, consisting of one isle and a transept, a high chancel and one small one on the south side of it. The tower, having a small beacon turret at one corner, is at the west end. There is only one bell in it. This tower was begun to be built of

stone (for it was before of wood) at the latter end of king Edward IV.'s reign, as appears by the several legacies to the rebuilding of it, in the wills in the Prebendary-office, Canterbury, from 1479 to 1545, about which time only it seems to have been finished. On

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the stonework at the outside of it, are the arms of Brent, and a coat, being a star of many points, still remaining. In the year 1590 this church was consumed by fire, to the very stones of the building, which happened from a gun discharged at a pidgeon, then upon the roof of it; by which the windows and gravestones of the family of Brent were defaced. John Brent, sen. of Charing, in 1501, was buried in this church, before the door of the new chapel of the blessed Virgin Mary, where no burial had as yet been; and Amy Brent, of Charing, gentlewoman, by will in 1516, was buried within that chapel of her own edification. This chapel, now called Wickins chancel, was much defaced by the fire as above-mentioned. In the south cross was Burleigh chantry, mentioned before, which being burnt down in 1590, was repaired by John Darel, esq. of Calehill, then proprietor of it, whose arms are on the pews of it, as mentioned below. In king Richard II.'s time, the block on which St. John the Baptist was said to have been beheaded, was brought into England, and kept in this church. In the high chancel is a memorial for Samuel Belcher, gent. of Charing, obt. 1756, æt. 6l. and for his two wives. In the little chancel, now called Wickins chancel, are memorials for the Nethersoles and Derings; in the middle isle, for Peirce, Henman, and Ludwell; in the north cross monuments for Sir Robert Honywood, of Pett, and the Sayer family; in the south cross, memorials for Mushey Teale, M. D. in 1760, and for Mary his wife; his arms, Azure, a cockatrice regardant, sable; in chief, three martlets of the second. The pews in it are of oak, and much ornamented at their ends next the space with carvework, among which are these arms, a coat quarterly, first and fourth, A lion rampant, crowned; second, A fess indented, in chief, three mullets; third, Three bugle-horns stringed, impaling a fess, between three cross-crosets, fitchee. Another, Three

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bugle-horns stringed. Another, A lion rampant, crowned, or. Another, the crest of a Saracen's head, 1598.

The church of Charing was antiently appendant to the manor, and was part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, to which it was appropriated before the 8th year of king Richard II. and it remained with it till archbishop Cranmer, anno 37 Henry VIII. granted that manor, and all his estates within this parish, and the advowsons of this rectory and vicarage, to the king; and these advowsons remained in the crown till Edward VI. granted them, together with the advowson of the chapel of Egerton, and other premises in Essex, in exchange, in his first year, to the dean and chapter of St. Paul's, London. In which state they continue at this time, the dean and chapter of St. Paul's being now proprietors of this rectory appropriate, together with the advowson of the vicarage

of this church.

King Henry VIII. in his 38th year, demised this rectory, and the chapel of Egerton, to Leonard Herington, gent. for twenty-one years, and the lease of it continued in his descendants till one of them sold his interest in it, in king James I.'s reign. to John Dering, esq. of Egerton, but by some means, long before his death in 1618, it had passed into the possession of Edward, lord Wotton. How long it continued in his family I have not found; but it afterwards was demised to the family of Barrell, of Rochester, with whom the demise of it remained for many years; and in one of their descendants it remained down to the Rev. Edmund Marshall, vicar of this parish, who died in 1797, possessed of the lease of it.

This vicarage is valued in the king's books at thirteen pounds, and the yearly tenths at 1l. 6s. and is now of the clear yearly certified value of seventy-two

/t Confirmed by the Chapter of Canterbury on Dec. 22, following. Augtn. off. box D. 75.

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pounds. In 1588 it was valued at fifty pounds. Communicants three hundred and twenty-six. In 1640, at eighty pounds. Communicants three hundred and seventy; and in 1700 it was valued at one hundred and ten pounds.

In 1535 this church was accounted a sinecure, which accounts for its having been formerly called a prebend.

CHURCH OF CHARING.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's. Robert Elye, A. M. Dec. 1595,
and in 1621.

John Cliffe, A. B. induct. Sept.
1660.

John Shepard, A. M. inducted
1674, obt. 1678.

William Swayne, A. B. inducted
Nov. 1679, resigned 1681.

Daniel Gardner, A. M. induct.
June 1681, obt. 1698.

Edward Dering, A. M. induct.
June 1698, obt. Sept. 30,
1742./u

James Carrington, A. B. Dec.
1742, resigned 1746./w

James Tattersall, A. M. Dec.
1746, resigned 1755./x

Robert Carr, A. M. Jan. 1755,
obt. 1755.

William Pinkney, A. M. Nov.
1755, resigned 1765./y

Edmund Marshall, A. M. 1765,
obt. 1797./z

/u He lies buried in the Wickins
chancel, in this church.

/w And curate of Egerton. He re=

signed these for the rectory of Clayworth, in Northamptonshire.

/x Likewise rector of Bletchington, in Sussex, and afterwards rector of St. Paul's, Covent-garden, and of Streat-ham, in Surry.

/y In 1764 he was sub-dean of St. Paul's, London.

/z In 1766, by dispensation, rector of Fawkham.

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EGERTON.

ADJOINING to Charing, south-westward, lies Egerton, which takes its name from its situation on the side of the hill.

IT IS MOSTLY situated on the height of the range of the lower or quarry hills, whence there is a most beautiful prospect over the Weald. The village, with the church, stands on the summit of the hill, the tower is a conspicuous object to the country round it, and is esteemed the boundary of the Weald; at the southern foot of these hills, one of the heads of the river Medway rises exactly in the same manner as the Stour does, at a small distance northward from them, under the down hills, each flowing in different contrary directions. The soil on the hill is both dry and healthy, where the quarry stone abounds pretty near the surface, being thinly covered with a loam, very fertile like the adjoining parishes, in a similar situation for corn, fruit and hops, of which latter there are several plantations, which thrive very kindly. It stretches below the hill southward into the Weald, where it is a deep miry clay country, overspread with thick hedge rows and towering oaks; in this part there are two greens, called Friggs forstall and Newland green, with hamlets round them; on the latter was a mansion called Newland, which in king Henry the VIIIth.'s reign was the residence of the Peirs's, it now belongs to Filmer Honywood, esq. about the same time the Burwash's were of Elmhurst, in this parish and Smarden, which afterwards became the property of the Barlings; and the Bachelors, in king Edward the VI.th's reign possessed a mansion here, called after them, now the Rev. Francis Dodsworth's; just

/a Wills in the Prerogative-office, Canterbury.

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below the village, on the other or northern side of the hill, is a spring of water which petrifies. About half a mile westward is a house called Goodale, formerly the residence of a branch of the family of Dering. John Dering, gent. fourth son of John Dering, of Surrenden, by Margaret Brent his wife, resided here in queen Elizabeth's reign, and bore for his arms the same coat as those of Surrenden, with a chief, gules, for difference, after which it descended down to his great-grandson of the same name, whose only daughter Jane carried this seat in marriage to George Hussey, esq. of Cuckfield, in whose descendants resident here

it continued till within memory, when it was sold to Galdfridus Mann, esq. whose son Sir Horace Mann, bart. now possesses it. Lower down, still further northward, is the hamlet of Stonebridge-green, and beyond it at the boundary of the parish, the branch of the Stour, which rises at Streetwell, in Lenham.

There is a fair held here on August 5, for toys, pedlary, &c. There are three boroughs in it, Greenhill, part of which extends into Pluckley; Sidney, which has within it the further side of the street, and Edgeley, which has in it that side of the street next the church.

THE MANOR OF Charing claims paramount over this parish, subordinate to which are THE MANORS OF WARDEN, alias EGERTON, and BRUSCOMBE; the former of which was once the property of a family of the name of Warden, who fixed their name on it; one of whom, John Warden, was possessed of it in the reign of Richard II. The latter was the property likewise of a family who gave name to it; one of which, Adam de Broxcombe, sometimes written Brestcombe, possessed it about the latter end of the reign of Edward I. but in the next of king Edward II. it had

/b See Robinson's Gavelkind, p. 214, on the plea of custom of Gavelkind for women at fifteen to alienate, &c.

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passed from one of his descendants to the Chidcrofts, usually called Chitcroft, a name of some antiquity both here and at Lamberhurst; and Agnes, the wife of Richard Chitcroft, held it at her death in the 18th year of the latter reign. After they were extinct here, the Beaumonts, or de Bellamonts, were possessed of it, and John de Beaumont died possessed of the manor of Bruscombe in the 20th year of king Richard II. leaving Henry his son and heir, who did not keep possession of it long; for it soon afterwards was become the property of Baron, a family originally extracted out of the West of England; and John Baron died possessed of Bruscombe in the 3d year of Henry V. They were succeeded about the latter end of king Henry VI. by the Wottons, and Nicholas Wotton, esq. of Boughton Malherb, died possessed of both the manors of Wardens and Bruscombe in the 7th year of king Henry VII. as did his grandson Sir Edward Wotton, in the 5th year of Edward VI. together with THE MANOR OF FYLTHER, alias FILL, now called Field farm, lying in this parish, about a mile northward from the church, in a borough of its own name, holding this manor, with that of Wardens, in capite, by knight's service, as was then found by inquisition, whose lands had been disgavelled by the act of the 2d and 3d of king Edward VI. His grandson Sir Edward Wotton was, in the 1st year of king James I. created lord Wotton, in whose descendants these three manors continued down in like manner as the adjoining manor of Boughton Malherb, heretofore described, and the rest of the Wotton estates in this county, to Philip Dormer Stanhope, earl of Chesterfield, who in 1750 sold them to Galfridus Mann, esq. and his only son Sir Horace Mann, bart. is the present possessor of them./c

/c See more of the Wottons, Stanhopes, and Manns, in vol. v. of this history, p. 400, and the following pages.

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BARLINGS is a manor in this parish, the farm of which, called Barling's hole, is situated about half a mile south-east from the church, has had from the earliest times possessors of the same name, who have constantly resided at it. At length, after they had remained here for so many generations, Richard Barling, gent. leaving an only daughter and heir, she carried it in marriage to William Sharpe, of this parish, whose son Barling Sharpe sold it to Mr. John Ashbee, of Little Chart, the present owner of it. A court baron is held for this manor.

CHARITIES.

RICHARD EDYNDEN, of this parish, priest, by will in 1521, devised the residue of all his goods, not before by him bequeathed, to the churchwardens, to the use of this church, and made the churchwardens his executors.

RICHARD SYDAY, of Egerton, by will in 1524, devised to the churchwardens a piece of land called Yoke-field, to the intent that they should find every Sunday in the year a pennyworth of white bread, holy bread to be made of; and 26 Sundays in every year, one halfpenny to be delivered in the said church to poor people; and to pay to the parish priest every year, to pray for his soul, &c. 8d. and the residue of the profits of it to the churchwardens, for their labour and attendance.

ELEANOR BAKER, widow, of Egerton, by will in 1602, devised to the poor of this parish a yearly gift of 26s. 8d. to be paid to them out of two parcels of land given by her will to John Baker her son, called Snotthfields, containing nine acres in Egerton, with power of distress, &c. if not paid annually, within fourteen days after Easter; which land is now vested in Mr. Pomfret.

CHRISTOPHER LAMBE, clothier, of Egerton, by will in 1624, devised to the poorest inhabitants of this parish, one annuity or yearly rent of 26s. 8d. out of his barn, orchard, close, and three pieces of land, meadow and pasture, containing six acres and an half in Egerton, dividedly, to the poorest inhabitants of this parish, on Christmas day and the feast of Easter, to be distributed among them at the discretion of his heirs, and assigns for ever; with power to distrain, if not distributed within fourteen days.

A PERSON UNKNOWN gave, for the use of the poor of this parish, ten shillings yearly in money; now vested in Mr. Peter White.

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THERE IS a school, for teaching children to read and write, kept in the church, which is supported by voluntary subscriptions.

The poor constantly relieved are about one hundred and ten, casually fifty.

EGERTON is situated within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church, which is exempt from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon, is dedicated to St. James. It is a very handsome building, and standing on the summit of the hill, is seen at a great distance both from the

north and south. It is built of the sand stone, and has a square tower, with a beacon turret at the west end. It has two isles and a high chancel. In both isles are memorials for the Husseys. On the outside of the tower is a coat of arms, obliterated by time. It is said that the steeples of this church, Little Chart, and Charing, were built by one man, Sir John Darell, of Calehill, in the reign of Henry VII. He might be a considerable benefactor and promoter of the work; but the wills in the Prerogative-office, Canterbury, shew, that the continued different benefactions of others were so necessary for the carrying it on, that the building of them went on by slow degrees for many years, for want of a sufficient fund to complete them. This steeple of Egerton seems to have been finished about the year 1476. John at Welle, of Egerton, by will anno 1531, gave five marcs to the buying of a new pair of organs for this church. There are two remarkable fine yew-trees in the church-yard.

The church of Egerton has ever been esteemed as a chapel to the church of Charing, and has always continued in the same proprietors with it, as may be seen before, in the account of that church; the tithes, both great and small, being now, as well as the parsonage of that parish, appropriated to the dean and

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chapter of St. Paul's, London. The lessees of both parsonages have likewise ever been the same, the present interest in the lease being vested in the heirs of the Rev. Edmund Marshall, deceased, late vicar of Charing.

This church has been for many years a distinct parish church from that of Charing, and is a perpetual curacy, in the gift of the dean and chapter of St. Paul's. It is endowed with no part of the tithes. The dean and chapter allowed formerly twenty pounds per annum stipend to the curate; but about the year 1675, they augmented it with ten pounds per annum more, and in that year the inhabitants of this parish raised a sum of money among themselves, and bought a little farm in Stalisfield, now rented at five pounds per annum, and settled it in trustees, for the use of the curate and his successors, if appointed with the consent of the churchwardens and the trustees; and for default, or on a vacancy for six months, the rents and profits of the farm during such time to be employed to such public use of the parish as they should think fit. At the same time the churchwardens, by consent of the parish, settled upon the trustees, to the same use, a small house in Egerton street, formerly given by one Nicholas Barling, to maintain lights in this church.

CHURCH OF EGERTON.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. CURATES.

Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's,
London. John Kidd, in 1642./e
Walter Palmer, ejected 1662./f
Stephen Haffenden, 1680, obt.
1715.

William Halford, A. B. April,
1716, obt. Oct. 11, 1730./g
Stephen Greenhill, A. B. 1731./h

/d In 1640 it was reckoned a chapel
of ease to Charing.

/e See White's Century, p. 11.

/f He was ejected by the Bartholo=
mew act.

/g He lies buried in the north isle.

/h Likewise rector of Sevington.

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PATRONS, &c. CURATES.

Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's,
London. John Appesley, Sept. 1737, re=
signed July 1743.

James Carrington, July 1743,
resigned 1746./i

Thomas Hare, 1746, resigned
1749.

James Tattersall, A. M. 1749,
resigned 1755./k

Francis Hender Foote, LL. B.
1755, obt. Jan. 27, 1773./l

Edmund Marshall, A. M. obt.
1798./m

/i Also vicar of Charing, which he
resigned, as well as this curacy, for
the rectory of Clayworth, in Notting=
hamshire.

/k Likewise vicar of Charing, where
see more of him.

/l Likewise rector of Boughton Mal=
herb, and vicar of Linton.

/m And vicar of Charing.

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LITTLE CHART

LIES the next parish to Egerton, south-eastward,
being written in antient records, Cert. It lies on the
north side of the range of quarry hills, where the soil
is mostly the quarry stone, thinly covered with a fertile
loam; the village is situated about a mile northward
from the summit of the hill, having the court-lodge
and church adjoining to it. The stream, which rises
at Streetwell, in Lenham, being a head of the Stour,
having passed Egerton as before related, runs through
the midst of this parish; on the hill northward of the
stream stands Calehill, an elegant well-built mansion,
beyond which the soil becomes a very deep and barren
sand, especially about the warren and Calehill-heath,
near which there is much open waste land, where the
late Mr. Darell made large plantations of the Scotch
fir, which seem to thrive exceedingly well.

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The very extensive demesnes of the manor of Little
Chart, the manors of Newland, Stilley, and Burleigh,
the lands of Raywood, with Calehill and its warren,
all belonging to Mr. Darell, form as complete and
compact an estate as any in this neighbourhood.

Across Calehill-heath the Ashford high road to Maidstone went, till by the late improvements it was made to go by several new cuts further northward through Charing and Lenham. The high road likewise from Faversham through Charing crosses this parish southward towards the top of the hill, through Pluckley towards Cranbrooke and Tenterden, in the Weald, a road of no great traffic, except for timber, and the produce of the woodlands. Near the warren-house by Calehill, on the left hand, as the road leads thither from Sandway towards Charing, not far from where the direction post stands, and from Stone-street, there were some years ago several urns, with bones and ashes in them dug up./n

THIS PLACE in the time of the Saxons, belonged to one of their princes, named Halethe, of whom it was purchased by archbishop Ceolnoth, with his own money, in the year 839, and given to the monks of Christ church, with the consent of king Ethelwulf, who declared it to be free from all secular service and regal tribute, excepting the repelling of invasions, and the repairing of bridges and castles, this land being de cibo eorum, i. e. allotted to the use of their refectory, for their food, and it was confirmed to them in 1044, by one Elgeric Bigge, in which state THE MANOR OF LITTLE CHART remained at the taking of Domesday, in the year 1080, in which it is thus entered, under the general title of their lands:

In Calehelle hundred, the archbishop himself holds Lintelcert. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was taxed at three sulings, and now for two hides and an half.

/n See Harris's History of Kent, p. 69.

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The arable land is . . . In demesne there are two, and nineteen villeins, with five borderers having seven carucates. There are two mills of five shillings and ten-pence, and eleven acres of meadow, and wood for the pannage of fifteen hogs. Of the arable land of this manor William holds of the archbishop half a suling, and there he has in demesne one carucate, with four servants and ten acres of meadow, and wood for the pannage of twenty hogs. The whole manor was worth, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, one hundred shillings, now eight pounds and eight shillings and four-pence. What William held was valued at forty shillings.

This manor continued in the possession of the prior and convent till the 8th year of king Henry III. when, on consideration of Peter de Bending's releasing to them all his right and claim to the manor of Westwell, they granted to him this their manor of Little Chart, with all its appurtenances, excepting Wadetune and the denne of Biddenden, with their appurtenances, to hold in fee farm.

In the 10th year of king Edward II. the prior obtained a charter of free-warren for this manor, among others. Soon after which it was become the property of the family of Brockhull, of Saltwood, in which it remained till Thomas de Brockhull, of Calehill, who bore for his arms, A cross engrailed, between twelve cross-crosetts, fitchee, as appears by the seal appendant

to the deed in the Surrenden library, in the 12th year of king Henry IV. enfeoffed John Darell in it, together with the manors of Calehill and Hacchenden; in whose descendants his interest in this manor continued down to George Darell, esq. of Calehill, who, after the dissolution of the priory of Christ-church, in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. was found to hold this manor to him and his heirs in fee farm, at the yearly rent of 18l. 4s. 3d. and when the king founded the new dean and chapter of Canterbury, in the 33d year of his reign, he granted the fee of this manor, held as

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before-mentioned, among others to them, as part of their endowment. Since which it has continued to be held, in like manner, in fee-farm, at that yearly rent, by the family of Darell, of Calehill, and is now by Henry Darell, esq. of Calehill. A court baron is held for it.

CALEHILL is a manor in this parish, which in former times was so eminent as to give name to this whole hundred, and it has been rendered still more so since, by having been for such a length of time the residence of the family of Darell. In the reign of Henry III. it was the inheritance of the family of Frene, one of whom, Hugh de Frene, had a charter of free-warren for this manor, and Stilley, in Charing, in the 1st year of king Edward I. He was the grandson of Osbert de Pluckley, junior, the second son of Osbert de Pluckley, of Pluckley, whose eldest son John inherited that manor, which by a female heir passed to the Surredens, and thence in like manner to the Hauts and Derings. This junior branch of Pluckley, and the Frenes, bore for their arms, Or, a fleur de lis, sable, being the arms of Pluckley, and, as a difference, within a bordure of the second. But before the middle of king Edward III.'s reign, this family was become extinct here; for about the 23d year of it, Richard de Frene, his descendant, passed it away to Thomas de Brockhull, of Saltwood, whose son Thomas de Brockhull, of Calehill, in the 12th year of Henry IV. enfeoffed John Darell, esq. in it, together with his interest in the manor of Little Chart, as has been mentioned before. He afterwards resided at Calehill, which he rebuilt. It seems that he resided here before the above year, having been a knight of the shire for this county anno 9 Henry IV. sheriff of it in the 11th year of the same reign, at which time he was stiled of Calehill, and he again kept his shrievalty here in the 5th and 10th years of king Henry V. In the 3d year of Henry VI. he had by inspeximus the charter of free warren, granted to Hugh de Frene as before-mentioned, renewed for this manor and Stilley,

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in Charing. The family of Darell is descended from one of this name, who is mentioned in the roll of Batel abbey, a descendant of whom was of Sesay, in Yorkshire, in king Henry III.'s reign, and bore for his arms, Azure, a lion rampant, argent, crowned, or, membered, gules; from whom came all the different branches of Darell in this kingdom. At length his descendant William Darrel, esq. of Sesay, left three sons, Marmaduke, who inherited Sesay, where his descendants continued; William, the youngest, who was of

Littlecote, in Wiltshire, and under-treasurer of England, ancestor of the Darells of that place; and John, the second son, who was of Calehill, which he purchased as before-mentioned, and died in 1438, having married first Joane, daughter and heir of Valentine Barrett, of Perry court, by whom he had William, who succeeded him at Calehill. He married secondly Florence, niece of archbishop Chichele; who made him steward of the archbishopric, by whom she had one son Thomas, who inherited Scotney in this county, where his descendants remained till the reign of king George I. In the descendants of John Darell, esq. by his first wife, who were of eminent reputation among the gentry of this county constantly resident here, whose monuments and memorials are still remaining in the church of Little Chart, it continued down by the strict entail made of it at different times to Philip Darell, esq. who rebuilt this seat on an eminence, at a small distance from the antient mansion of Calehill, in which he afterwards resided. He died at Canterbury, and was brought to this church and buried among his ancestors. He left by Mary his wife, daughter of Robert Constantine, who died in 1785, four sons and two daughters, John, Edward, Philip; Catherine, who married Michael Bray, esq. of London, and Barbara; of the former, Henry Darell, esq. the eldest son, is the present possessor of this manor and seat. He married Elizabeth, second daughter of Sir Thomas Gage, bart. by whom

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he has several children. The antient arms of the family of Darell are, Azure, a lion rampant, argent, crowned, or, armed and langued, gules; but when the antient house of Sesay branched off into the two houses of Calehill and Littlecote, in the two sons of Sir Mar- maduke Darell, of Sesay, the difference of the coat armour of those two houses was thus ordered: That the house of Calehill should bear a trefoil, slipt on the shoulder of the lion; and that of Littlecote, A cross-croset, fitchee, for difference sake; but by the death of Thomas Darell, of Sesay, without issue male, anno 17 king Henry VIII. the Darells of Calehill becoming the eldest heirs male of this family, gave of right the antient arms entire without difference, in which manner they are borne by the Darells of Calehill at this time. Those of Scotney, descended from John Darell, of Calehill, by Florence Chichele his second wife, bore A crescent, within the trefoil, slipt, for difference.

CHARITIES.

JOHN FOTHERBY, clerk, by will in 1619, gave to the minister, churchwardens and overseers of the parishes of Little Chart and Hedcorne, one annuity or yearly rent charge of 4l. out of all his messuages, lands, &c. in those parishes, to be paid on the first day of the month in which he should be buried, with power of distress, &c. upon trust, that yearly on the same day 10s. should be given to the minister of Little Chart, or such other as should preach there that day; and 30s. among such poor people and householders of the poorer sort of the parish, as should be at the sermon; and he gave the like sums, in like manner, to the minister, &c. and poor householders of Hedcorne.

THOMAS AND ROBERT CHITTENDEN, by indenture in

1698, assigned a house and garden, and half an acre of land in Charing, to trustees, for the use of the poor of this parish. — The present rent is about three guineas per annum.

JANE JENNINGS, by will in 1773, gave to the poor of this parish, 5l. 10s. per annum, the principal money being vested in the public funds, in the names of Mr. Richard Jennings and Mr. John Ashbee, who pay the interest of it.

The number of poor constantly relieved are about twenty-four, casually eighteen.

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THIS PARISH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church, which is dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary and the Invention of the Holy Cross, is a handsome building of sand-stone, consisting of two isles and two chancels, and having a tower steeple at the west end, with a beacon turret, in which are five bells. The steeple is said to have been built in Henry VII.'s reign, by Sir John Darell, then of Calehill. In the high or south chancel is a gravestone, robbed of its brasses, except the shield of arms, being A cross, lozeny, florette; another, the brasses of the inscription, the figures of a man and woman, and four shields of arms, gone. A monument within the altar-rails for Richard Camden, gent. of London, obt. 1642, arms, Or, a fess engrailed, between six cross-crosetts, fitchee, sable; a crescent for difference. Another for Rhoda, wife of Richard Camden, gent. of London, obt. 1625. In the second south window these arms, Azure, a lion rampant, argent, impaling the like arms, the glass very antient. Between the pillars which separate the north from the south isle, there is a partition of wood, in the gothic stile, with open spaces like window-frames, which returns across it from the west end of the isle, inclosing the eastern part above it as a chancel or chapel, dedicated to St. Catherine, for the burial-place of the Darell family, in which are several of their monuments and gravestones, and a vault underneath the whole of it; in which isle there is likewise a monument for Mary Halles, widow of John Halles, esq. late of Tenterden, deceased, daughter of Robert Horne, bishop of Winchester, obt. 1629. This isle or chancel is not ceiled, and for want of repair of the roof of it, is, in many places, exposed to the open air; the pavement in the middle is fallen into the vault underneath; the monuments are broken and defaced; and the whole is in a very dirty and ruinous condition.

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This church is a rectory, and was parcel of the antient possessions of the see of Canterbury, and continues so now, his grace the archbishop being the present patron of it.

It is valued in the king's books at 13l. 10s. 10d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 7s. 1d. In 1588 here were communicants eighty-four. In 1640 it was valued at ninety pounds. Communicants one hundred and twenty-six. In 1778 the tithes were let for one hundred and twenty pounds per annum, and the house, glebe, &c. were worth besides 27l. 6s. 8d.

By an antient manuscript it appears that twenty-nine

acres of land were given to this church in Edward II.'s reign, by Peter de Bending, a descendant of Peter de Bending, who in the reign of king Henry III. had a grant of the manor of Little Chart from the convent of Christ-church in fee farm. He built the north part of this church, where he was buried in the middle passage of that isle, which was soon after the purchase of Calleshill, by John Darell, esq. beautified and glazed by him, as a burying-place for himself and his posterity.

CHURCH OF LITTLE CHART.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

The Archbishop. Francis Lyndley, S. T. B. Dec.
12, 1582, obt. 1602.

John Fotherby, A. M. May 6,
1602, obt. 1619.

John Moseley, S. T. P. June
11, 1619.

The King, hac vice. Francis Drayton, A. M. April
11, 1646./o

The Archbishop. Basil Drayton, August 11, 1669,
obt. 1715.

The King, sede vac. Thomas Pearson, Jan. 15, 1715,
obt. Jan. 1744.

/o See Biog. Brit. vol. vii. append. p. 111, note c.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

The Archbishop. Edward Watkinson, M. D. May
25, 1744, obt. October 19,
1767./p

William Allen, A. B. Jan. 30,
1768, the present rector.

/p He was author of many useful and valuable treatises.

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PLUCKLEY

IS the next adjoining parish southward, being written in Domesday, Pluchelei, and in other records, Plukele.

It is situated on the lower ridge of hills called the Quarry-hills; the parish is about two miles across, extending itself as far below the hills into the Weald, where the greatest part of it consists of that portion of Pevington allotted to it; as it does northward on the other side, where the river Stour bounds it; as it does again eastward, in which parts are the hamlets of Ford Mill and Proting-street. The village and church of Pluckley, which latter is a boundary of the Weald northward, stand on the summit of the hill. Not quite a mile eastward is the mansion and park of Surrenden, finely situated on an eminence, having a most extensive variegated prospect towards the south-east, in a park beautifully cloathed with timber and rich pastures; a situation, says Weaver, so elegant that it compares with most that are, in rich pastures, healthful air, and plenty of both fuel and timber, in a very delicate and various prospect; and what should make it still more highly esteemed by the owner is, that from the time of the grant of it in the Conqueror's reign, by

the archbishop, it has never been alienated, but has continued without intermission in the descendants of the same family to the present owner of it. Below the hill, in the Weald, there are several forstals and hamlets, as Pluckley, Thorn, Dowle-street, &c. Near the latter, at Newland green, is a good house, the property

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and residence of Mr. Richard Ashbye. Further at the southern boundary of the parish is that branch of the river Medway which rises at Great Chart.

The soil of this parish is much the same as Eger-ton, Boughton, and other adjoining ones in the like situation on the summit of these hills, where the Quarry stone prevails, and is there very fertile both for corn and hops. Southward in the Weald it is alike a miry deep clay, covered with woods, broad hedge rows, and spreading oaks.

There is a fair held here on Whit Tuesday, for toys, and another on St. Nicholas's feast, Dec. 6, for cattle, but especially for hogs, which are brought hither in great numbers, and the price they bear at it is generally a rule for that of all the neighbouring country round about it.

THE MANOR OF PLUCKLEY was part of the ancient possessions of the see of Canterbury, and accordingly is thus entered, in the record of Domesday.

The archbishop himself holds in demesne, Pluchelei. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is twelve carucates. In demesne there are two carucates and an half, and sixteen villeins, with seven borderers having eleven carucates. There are eight servants, and twelve acres of meadow and an half. Wood for the pannage of one hundred and forty hogs. In the whole, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth twelve pounds; when he received it, eight pounds; and now fifteen pounds, and yet it pays twenty pounds.

By which it appears that the archbishop then held this place in demesne, that is, in his own possession; but archbishop Lanfranc soon afterwards granted it to one John de Plukele, who is stiled in the grant Miles Archiepi, that is, one who held this land of the archbishop by knight's service, for it was very customary for the prelates and great men of those times to make such grants, till they were restrained by a statute in the 18th year of king Edward I. This statute is stiled from the

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first words of it, Quia Emptores Terrarum; from whence it is held, that all manors in being now must have existed from immemorial prescription, at least before the making of this statute, because it is essential to it, that there be tenants to hold of the lord, that in future no subject should enfeoffe any new tenants to hold of himself. His descendant Osbert de Pluckley died possessed of it in the reign of king John, and bore for his arms, Or, a fleur de lis, sable; after which, from three coheirs of this name and family, this manor became divided into three parts, and became three distinct manors, the principal of which retaining the name of Pluckley, remained in that name till Agnes, daughter and at length one of the coheirs of William de

Pluckley, entitled her husband John de Surrenden to the possession of it. He bore for his arms, Argent, a bend gules, between two cotizes, nebulee, the outer sides, sable. His son John de Surrenden, living here in the 44th year of Edward III. and about that time, upon the old scite of this manor-house, erected a new mansion, which Weever, who wrote anno 1631, says, was a fair one in his time, and by the antiquity of it seemed to have been the like, or much fairer, at its first building. To distinguish this manor from the other two before-mentioned, then known, from the owners of them, by the names of Malmains and Shurland; it from this time was called from him THE MANOR OF SURRENDEN, which he was succeeded in by his only daughter and heir Joan, who, in the 20th year of Richard II. was married to John Haut, esq. and he died possessed of this manor about the 9th year of Henry VI. leaving two daughters his coheirs, of whom Christian, the eldest, was married to John Dering, esq. of Westrooke, in Lid.

THE FAMILY of Dering, as appears from the family papers and manuscripts in the Surrenden library, and from other evidences, is descended from Norman de Morinis, whose ancestor Vitalis Fitz Osbert lived in

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the reign of king Henry II. and married Kineburga, daughter of Deringus, descended from Norman Fitz-Dering, sheriff of this county in king Stephen's reign, who married Matilda, sister and heir of William de Ipre, earl of Kent; and at the battle of Lincoln, in which king Stephen was taken prisoner, was slain near the king's person, and being found afterwards with his shield covered with blood, his posterity were allowed to add to their paternal coat of arms, the three tor-teauxes in chief, in memory of his bravery, being a descendant of that Dering who is mentioned in several parts of the Textus Roffensis, and in the Book of Domesday, as holding lands in Farningham in the time of the Saxons, before the conquest. They had issue Deringus de Morinis, whose son Deringues Fitz-Dering was the first who deserted the name of Morinis. His son Wymund Fitz-Dering was, as well as his father, a good benefactor to the abbey of Boxley, in which they were both buried. He bore for his arms, Or, a fess, sable, in chief, three torteauxes, as his descendants did for some time afterwards, the family de Morinis bearing, Or, a saltire, sable. His son Richard Fitz-Dering, filius Deringi, was of Hayton, and died at the latter end of king Henry III.'s reign. His descendant Sir John Dering, of Westbrooke, in Lyd, died anno 38 Edward III. his arms, A fess, in chief, three roundells, being carved in stone on the roof of the cloysters at Canterbury. He was father of Sir Richard Dering, of Hayton, who was lieutenant of Dover castle in king Richard II.'s reign, whose seal affixed to a deed in the Surrenden library is a shield of his arms, A fess, in chief, three roundells; on each side, A horse, seiant, on a ducal crown, placed on a close helmet, mantled; the legend, SIGILLUM RICARDI DERING, MILITIS. He lies buried in Lyd church; his son John Dering, esq. of Westbrooke, who married Christian Haut as before-mentioned, seems to have been the first who as=

sumed the arms of De Morinis, being the saltier, in=

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stead of those of Dering, which latter his descendants transferred and afterwards constantly bore in the second quartering of their arms. He lies buried in the south chancel of this church, rebuilt by his eldest son, in which most of his descendants lie buried, where many of their memorials in brass, and monuments of sculptured imagery yet remain. He had two sons, of whom Richard Dering, esq. the eldest, was of Surrenden, and was twice married, first to the daughter and heir of Bertyn; and secondly to Eyton, of Eyton, in Salop. He died in 1481, and was buried in the chapel of the Virgin Mary, in Pluckley church, which chapel he had rebuilt, as appears by his arms at the bottom of the arches. His eldest son Richard Dering, esq. of Surrenden, left by his second wife, John, of Surrenden; Richard, monk and cellarer of Christ-church, Canterbury, and William, who was of Petworth, in Sussex, and ancestor of the Derings, of that place, and of Hampshire, who bore for their arms, the saltier, with a canton, gules, for difference. John Dering, esq. the eldest son, was of Surrenden, which in his time, from their long possession of it, acquired the name of Surrenden-Dering; he was admitted into the Society of Modenden, in this county. The curious admission of him may be seen, vol. v. p. 327. His descendant of the same name resided at Surrenden, and in the reign of Hen. VIII. married Margaret, daughter of J. Brent, esq. by whom he was ancestor of the Derings, of Surrenden, Charing and Egerton, in this county. Richard Dering, esq. the eldest son, succeeded him at Surrenden, whose grandson Sir Edward Dering, in 1623, was made lieutenant of Dover castle, and created a baronet on February 1, 1626, anno 2 Charles I. and in the 16th of that reign one of the knights in parliament for this county. In which parliament, the levity of his disposition, and at the same time his vanity to display his learning, got the better of his good and loyal principles; which, however, he soon repented of, and made

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his public apology for it. But so much were the republicans offended at both his repentance and apology, that this change soon occasioned his commitment to the Tower, and his being declared a delinquent; and though he escaped himself safe to the king, yet, as his estates were sequestered, and being reduced to extreme poverty, he afterwards retired with his wife and children to one of his farm-houses, where he died in 1644, and was buried in the family chancel in this church. During his continuance with the king, his whole estate was sequestered, his newly furnished house was four several times plundered by the parliament's soldiers, his goods and stock were all seized and took away, his farmhouses and fences ruined and destroyed, his woods and timber felled, and all his rents abated; so that few suffered more than he did, for his inconsistent conduct. He published a volume of his speeches in parliament, a manuscript copy of which is in the British Museum, among the Harleian MSS. He was the founder of the library at Surrenden, for which

he collected a great number of books, charters, and curious manuscripts, and caused others to be transcribed with great labour and expence; among which were, the registers and chartularies of several of the dissolved monasteries in this county, and a series of deeds and muniments relating not only to the family of Dering, but to others connected at different times with it; but most of these valuable manuscripts have been unwarily, not many years since, dispersed into other hands./q His eldest son Sir Edward Dering, bart. succeeded him in title and estate, and married Mary, daughter of Daniel Harvey, esq. of Combe, in Surry; of which marriage I had the following anecdote from a late respectable clergyman in this county, lately deceased: That Da=

/q The different characters given of him may be seen in Collins's Bar. vol. ii. p. 17, and in Peck's Desid. Curios. vol. ii. B. 14, 19, 20.

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niel Harvey, her father, an eminent citizen of London, and great loyalist at the death of king Charles I. had this Mary, his only daughter and heir to all his wealth; at the same time he had an apprentice in the house, his first-cousin, who found an opportunity of marrying the daughter clandestinely, and had bedded with here twelve months before the marriage was discovered, which was occasioned by her father's intention of marrying her to Sir Edward Dering; on which he found means to get the marriage dissolved, and obtained testimonials for it, not only from bishop Juxon, but from the most eminent civilians of that time. Two of their opinions were: One, that the young man's father was great-uncle to her, and he being dead, his son represented him, and consequently was great-uncle to her; the other, that it was so notorious a breach of honesty in him, that no state should suffer so bad an example to be countenanced. Some years ago, the late Mr. Eliab Harvey, king's council, found this relation, with the above-mentioned opinions, in a black box, among his families papers. In his descendants, baronets of Surrenden, who constantly represented this county in parliament, it continued down to Sir Edward Dering, bart. who represented this county in the four first parliaments of king George II.'s reign. He greatly improved the mansion of Surrenden, making great additions to it, and inclosing the park with a brick wall; he resided at it with much liberal hospitality, and died in London, greatly lamented by the county in general, for his many amiable good qualities, in 1762, and was brought hither and buried among his ancestors, in the south chancel. He married first, Elizabeth, daughter and at length coheir of Edward Henshaw, esq. of Eltham, by whom he had two sons, Edward and Daniel; secondly, Mary, daughter of Charles Fotherby, esq. of Barham, and widow of Henry Monpesson, esq. by whom he had Charles Dering, esq. of Barham, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Farnaby,

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bart. Thomas Dering, esq. of London, and Mary, married to Robert Hilyard, now Sir Robert Hilyard, bart. His eldest son by his first wife, now Sir Edward Der=

ing, bart. succeeded him in title and estates, and represented the town and port of New Romney in several parliaments. He married first Selina, daughter and coheir of Sir Robert Furnese, bart. by whom he had a son Edward Dering, esq. who married Anne, fourth daughter of William Hale, esq. of King's Walden, in Hertfordshire, and a daughter Selina. He married secondly, Deborah, daughter of John Winchester, esq. of Nethersole, by whom he has several children; he is the present owner of this manor, with the mansion of Surrenden-Dering, the park and demesnes adjoining to it. The family of Dering bear for their arms, Or, a saltier, sable, being that of de Morinis; and in the second quartering those of Dering, being Argent, a fess, sable, in chief, three torteauxes. For crest, A ducal coronet, or, within the coronet a crimson cap, on it, a horse passant, sable, maned, or. For supporters, Two horses, sable, maned, or; which supporters were granted by Sir William Segar to Sir Edward Dering, the first baronet of this family.

THE MANOR OF MALMAINES is situated at the foot of the hill between Surrenden and Pluckley church, and was formerly a part of the manor of Pluckley, till it was divided as has been mentioned before; after which it took this name from the family of Malmaines, who were then become owners of it, and who had held lands in this parish as early as the reign of Henry III. in the 56th year of which Henry Malmaines was sheriff, being then stiled both of Pluckley and of Waldershare. Richard Malmaynes, his descendant, died in 1440, and lies buried with his father Henry, in the north isle of this church, leaving John Malmaynes his heir. After which there is no further mention of them, but it appears to have come into the possession of the heirs of Toke, descended by the female side

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from Henry Malmaines before-named, from one of which name this manor passed by sale to the Derings, of Surrenden, in which it has continued to the present time, Sir Edward Dering, bart. being now owner of it.

THE MANOR OF SHURLAND was the remaining third part of the manor of Pluckley, lying south of the way leading through the fields from Surrenden to Pluckley church, which, on the division of it before-mentioned, took the name of Shurland from one of the family of that name, to whom it was allotted. How long they continued in the possession of it, does not appear; but it probably passed from them to the Betenhams, of Betenham, in Cranbrooke, in which it remained for several hundred years. Stephen de Betenham is mentioned in very antient court-rolls of the date of Henry III.'s reign, and was certainly that Stephen de Betenham, mentioned as one of the Recognitores Magæ Assisæ, or justices of the great assise, an office of great importance in those times, in the pipe-rolls of the reign of king John. From him this place descended to another Stephen de Betenham, who left two sons; the eldest of whom, Thomas, inherited Shurland; and John, the youngest, had Betenham, in Cranbrooke. From Thomas Betenham above-mentioned this estate of Shurland continued down almost to within memory, when it passed by sale from the Betenhams to Sir Edward Der-

ing, bart. whose descendant Sir Edward Dering, bart. is the present proprietor of it.

EVERING ACRE is a manor, lying in this parish and in Bethersden, which, in the 7th year of Edward III. was in the possession of William, son of Eudo de Shillinghelde, who that year conveyed it to John, son of Thomas Chiche, of Canterbury. How it passed afterwards, I have not found; but in the 1st year of king Henry V. it was in the possession of John Dering, esq. of Westbrooke, in whose descendants, seated at Surrenden, it has continued down to Sir Edward Dering, bart. the present owner of it.

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WEST KINGSNOTH is a manor here, lying in the borough of its own name, which borough is within the royal manor of Wye, belonging to Mr. Hatton, of Eastwell; but the principal estate in it formerly belonged to the Bakers, of Sissinghurst, with whom it staid till John Baker, esq. in the 37th year of queen Elizabeth, sold it to Richard Dering, esq. of Surrenden, in whose descendants it still continues, the present owner of it being Sir Edward Dering, bart.

PIRIFIELDS, alias OUSDEN, is another manor here, lying upon the denne of Ousden, alias Tuesnoth, at the southern bounds of this parish, which had antiently owners of the name of Pirifield, one of whom, Hamo de Pirifeld, appears to have been possessed of it in the reign of king Richard I. as was his descendant Stephen de Pirifeld, of Pluckley, in the 20th year of king Edward IV. After which it passed into the family of Dering, but when does not appear, only that it has remained in that family down to Sir Edward Dering, bart. who is at this time entitled to it.

ROTING is a manor, lying on the western confines of this parish, near the stream, in a hamlet of its own name, called Rotting-street. At the time of taking the survey of Domesday, it was part of the possessions belonging to the monastery of St. Augustine, in Canterbury, and is thus entered in it, under the general title of them:

In Caleheue hundred, the abbot himself holds half a yoke in Rotinge, which in the reign of king Edward the Confessor was taxed at half a suling. There was and is one carucate in demesne. It is and was worth separately fifteen shillings.

This manor was afterwards held of the abbot in free socage, by a family which took their name from it; and Celestia, daughter of John Rotyngg, and William Rotyngg, are both mentioned in a deed of the 39th year of king Edward III. concerning lands at this place. After which I find it in the possession of the family of

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St. Leger, in which it remained till Sir Warham St. Leger, of Leeds, in the 12th year of queen Elizabeth, sold this manor, lying in Pluckley, Little Chart, and Hothfield, to Richard Dering, esq. of Pluckley, in whose descendant it has continued down to Sir Edward Dering, bart. the present owner of it.

PEVINGTON is situated about three quarters of a mile north-westward from Pluckley church, on the

summit of the hill, nearly midway between it and the church of Egerton. It was formerly a distinct parish of itself; but the church having been ruined for some time, this parish was, about the year 1583, united to the parish, of Pluckley, part of which it continues at this time, though there is a tradition here, that Pevington was allotted in three divisions to the parishes of Egerton, Little, Chart, and Pluckley; that the greatest part of it lying below the hill, as well as the site of the church, was allotted to this parish; and that the rest consisting of two narrow strips of land, adjoining to Little Chart, was allotted to that parish and Egerton; but I can find no further authority for it.

THE MANOR OF PEVINGTON was parcel of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Baieux, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the survey of Domesday:

In Caleheve hundred, Ralph de Curbespine holds Pevintone of the fee of the bishop, and Hugh of him. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is five carucates. In demesne there is one and an half, and seven villeins, with seven borderers having three carucates and an half. There is a church, and nine servants, and one mill of fifty-five pence, and twenty acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of sixty hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth eight pounds, and afterwards one hundred shillings, now six pounds. Sbern Biga held it of king Edward.

The same Ralph held three dennes, which remained without the division of Hugo de Montfort of Pistinges

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manor; and there is one yoke of arable land and one rood, and there are two villeins. It was and is worth separately fifteen shillings.

After the bishop's disgrace, which happened about the year 1084, and the confiscation of all his possessions to the crown, the chief seignory of this manor was granted, among others, to Gilbert Maminot, and made a part of his barony, being held of the king by barony for the defence of Dover castle. From this family the fee of this manor descended to Alice, sister and coheir of Wakelyn Maminot, who carried it in marriage to Geffry de Saye, of one of whose descendants, as chief lord of the fee, it was held in the reign of Henry III. by a knightly family, who took their surname from it; one of whom, Sir Ralph de Pevington, held it in the beginning of that reign. At length his descendants John and William Pevington, dying in the reign of king Henry IV. without issue, Amabilia, their sister, became their heir, being then the widow of John Gobion, of Essex, who died possessed of this manor, with the advowson of the church of Pevington in the year 1405, anno 7 Henry IV. and was buried in the church of the White Friars, in Canterbury, to which house she had been a liberal benefactor. She entailed this manor, with the advowson of the church, on her grandson John, son of John Spelsell, by Joane her eldest daughter, with divers remainders over to her other grand-children. He seems to have died possessed of the fee of this estate in the beginning of Henry VI.'s reign, having enfeoffed his kinsman Hugh Brent, gent.

of Charing, together with others, in the possession of it. After which, in the 12th year of Edward IV's reign, the rest of the co-feoffees released to him all their right in this manor, with the advowson, both which continued in his descendants down to Thomas Brent, esq. of Wickins, in Charing, and afterwards of

/r Battely's Somner, p. 68. Philipott, p. 276.

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Wilsborough, who died s. p. in 1612. Upon which it came by his will to his nephew and residuary legatee Richard Dering, esq. of Surrenden, son of John Dering, esq. of Surrenden, by Margaret Brent, his sister and heir. Their grandson Sir Edward Dering, knight and baronet, died possessed of this manor in 1644, and by will gave it to his eldest son, by his third wife, Henry Dering, esq. who was afterwards of Pevington, and was succeeded in it by his eldest son Edward Dering, esq. who died in 1742, and was buried in Pluckley church, having by will given this manor to Sir Edward Dering, bart. whose son of the same name, is the present owner of it.

The church of Pevington, which was dedicated to St. Mary, was always accounted an appendage to the manor, and in the patronage of the lords of it. It was a rectory, and valued in the king's books at 5l. 13s. 4d. and the yearly tenths at 11s. 4d. which tenths are now payable to the crown receiver.

The church becoming ruined, was by archbishop Whitgift united to Pluckley, in 1583, and in a suit afterwards concerning the tithes of it, Copley, rector of Pluckley, versus Spice, it was agreed to withdraw a juryman, and to refer it to archbishop Abbot, who made his decree concerning them in 1618. The church is now converted into a stable. The tradition here is, that on the division of Pevington among the three parishes as before-mentioned, the tithes of it were allotted to each of them accordingly; but what authority there is for it, I have never been able to learn.

John Hinde was presented to this rectory on June 23, 1584. The queen patron, hac vice. And John Craige, A. M. was presented to it on May 20, 1636. Patron the crown, by lapse, but with what intent does not appear.

/s Rym. Fœd. vol. xx. p. 135.

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CHARITIES.

WILLIAM HILLS, by will in 1589, gave towards the maintenance of three old persons, whose labour is almost spent, who have no weekly pay, lands in this parish, the annual produce of which is 8l.

A PERSON UNKNOWN, more than 100 years since, gave towards the repairing of the church, lands called Parish-field, in this parish, of the annual produce of 1l.

THERE IS a school here for the teaching of reading and writing, supported by voluntary subscriptions. It was first begun by archdeacon Head, whilst rector of this parish, and is now principally supported by Sir Edward Dering and the Rev. Dr. Disney, the present rector.

The poor constantly relieved are about fifty-five, casually thirty-five.

PLUCKLEY is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Nicholas, is a handsome building of sand-stone, consisting of two isles and two chancels. The steeple is a spire, in which are five bells. It is shingled, as is good part of the roof of the church, which appears to have been formerly all so. The south chancel of this church, dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary, belongs to the Dering family; it was rebuilt by Richard Dering, esq. of Surrenden, who died in 1481, in which he lies buried, as do his several descendants, as well as several of the family of Malmain. The monuments, as well as many of the gravestones of the former especially, still remaining with their brasses richly inlaid, on the pavement of it, as well as in the south isle. In the high chancel is a memorial for Nathaniel Collington, rector here sixty-three years, obt. Dec. 12, 1735; and within the rails for Mabella Austin, obt. 1711; on the left hand of the rails for Mabella Bettenham, widow, obt. 1710; and at the foot of them for Major Anthony Nowers, of this parish, obt. 1679.

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This church is a rectory, the patronage of which was part of the antient possessions of the see of Canterbury, and remains so at this time, his grace the archbishop being the present patron of it.

It is valued in the king's books at 20l. 1s. 5½d. and the yearly tenths at 2l. 0s. 1¾d. In 1588 here were communicants one hundred and four; in 1640, two hundred and thirty-seven, and it was then valued at one hundred and eighty pounds per annum.

The rector now takes his tithes by composition, which amounts to about three hundred pounds per annum. The glebe land is worth upwards of thirty pounds per annum. There are no tithes in this parish, but what are paid to the rector, nor have been time out of mind.

Archbishop Lanfranc, in the time of the Conqueror, gave the tithes of the demesne lands of the lordship of Pluckley, which he had given to William de Pluckley, as has been already mentioned before, to the priory of St. Gregory, in Canterbury, which had been founded by him in 1084. Which gift was confirmed by archbishop Hubert.

CHURCH OF PLUCKLEY.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

The Archbishop. Edward Deringe, S. T. P. Nov. 28, 1568.

John Pickerde, A. M. Feb. 13, 1570, obt. 1616.

John Copley, July 13, 1616./t

Edward Simpson, S. T. P. in 1628, resigned 1649./u

Ezrael Tongue, S. T. P. in 1649, resigned about 1657./w

/t Walker's Suff. of the Clergy,
pt. ii. p. 220.

/u He was prebendary of Coringham
in the church of Lincoln. Willis's
Cath. vol. ii. p. 171. Wood's Ath.
vol. ii. p. 671.

/w He left this benefice, being much
vexed with factious parishioners and
Quakers; after which he had the vi=
carage of Lentwarden, in Hereford=
shire, and then the cure of St. Mary
Staining, London, afterwards united

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

The Archbishop. Thomas Daffe, 1657./x

John Bargrave, S. T. P. July
14, 1662, resigned 1676./y

Nathaniel Collington, A. M.
March 21, 1676, obt. 1735.

John Head, S. T. P. Dec. 30,
1735, resigned 1760./z

John Frost, A. M. July 11,
1760, obt. April 28, 1765./a

William Jones, A. M. July 15,
1765, resigned 1777./b

William Disney, S. T. P. August
2, 1777, the present rector.

to St. Michael, Wood-street, of which
he was made rector, and kept it till
his death in 1680. See a full account
of him and his writings, in Wood's
Ath. vol. ii. p. 671.

/x Walker's Suff. of the Clergy,
pt. ii. p. 330.

/y And prebendary of Canterbury,
where he died in 1680, and was there
buried.

/z He was likewise rector of St.
George's, Canterbury, which he re=
signed, as well as this rectory, for that
of Ickham, under which see more of
him.

/a Nephew to archbishop Secker, and
held the rectory of Bishopsborne, with
this of Pluckley.

/b He resigned this rectory for that
of Paston, in Northamptonshire.

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SMARDEN

IS the last parish to be described in this hundred.
It lies the next south-westward from that of Pluckley,
below the quarry-hill, within the bounds of the Weald.
Such part of it as is in the borough of Povenden, is in
the hundred of Blackborne; and that part which is in
the boroughs of Omenden and Stepherst, is in the hun=
dred of Barkley; and both these are in the west divi=
sion of the county. But the residue of this parish,
having the town and church of Smarden within it, is
in this hundred of Calehill, and eastern division of the

county.

The manor of Shurland claims over the denne of Holmherst, in this parish; the manors of Otterden and Throwley claim over part of this parish, the latter of them over the denne of Toppenden, alias Tappenden

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here, from whence the family of Tappenden, since of later times of Sittingborne, in this county, who bear for their arms, Or, two lions passant, in chief, and one in base, rampant, azure, claim their origin and name, a direct descendant of which is Mr. James Tappenden, gent. now of Faversham, in this county.

THE PARISH of Smarden is about four miles across, it lies at a small distance southward of the quarry hills, within the Weald, in a flat low situation, very unpleas= sant and watry, the soil being a deep miry clay. The eastern parts of it are mostly covered with large coppice woods, and the whole of it, from the flatness of it, the wide hedge-rows, and quantity of oak trees spread over it, has a very gloomy appearance. The town or village, having the church in it, is situated at the southern bounds of this hundred, on the turnpike road leading from Faversham through Charing hither, and so on to Biddenden, Cranbrooke, and Tenterden; a road, which, from the depth of the soil, and the want of having had any improvement ever made on it since the trust has been created, is in winter, or indeed after any wet weather, hardly passable, throughout this pa= rish, even for waggons. That branch of the river Medway, which rises near Goldwell, in Great Chart, flows through this parish close below the town, under a stone bridge of two arches, westward towards Hed= corne, and thence to Stylebridge, and joins the main river at a small distance below Yalding bridge. There is a market-house remaining in the town; but the mar= ket, which is said to have been held on a Friday weekly, has been disused for upwards of thirty years. The fair is held yearly on Old Michaelmas day, Oct. 10, by the change of the stile, for toys and pedlary. There is a modern well built meeting-house, with a burial- ground, in which are several handsome tomb-stones, and the minister's house adjoining to it, on Omenden- green, at the end of this parish, next Biddenden: this is for Calvinistical Baptists; but the minister and con=

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gregation being at variance, they are decreasing very fast. One Tilden left several pieces of land, of about thirty pounds per annum value, and his house, to the minister, for a writing school at this meeting. And there is another meeting-house, about half a mile north- west from the town, near Spiers Ash, for Methodistical Baptists. About a third part of the housekeepers in this parish are dissenters.

THE MANOR OF THE DENNE OF SMARDEN, is said to have belonged to the archbishops of Canterbury. When they first became possessed of it, I have not found; but it must have been since the taking of the survey of Domesday, as it is not mentioned in it among the manors belonging to the archbishop; and yet it was before the reign of king Edward III. in the 6th year of which archbishop Simon Meopham, had a grant of a

market here weekly on a Monday, and a fair yearly for five days at the feast of St. Michael. And this manor seems to have continued in the possession of the succeeding archbishops down to cardinal archbishop Kempe, who in the 10th year of king Henry VI. settled it, among other premises, on his new-founded college of Wye, with which it staid till the dissolution of it in the 36th year of Henry VIII. when this manor came into the hands of the crown; whence it was immediately afterwards granted to Walter Bucler, to hold in capite by knight's service. After which it passed into the family of Newenden, in which it remained till James and Richard Newenden, gent. of Smarden, conveyed it by their deed in the year 1689 to George Sayer, esq. afterwards of Pett's, whose descendant the Rev. George Sayer, LL. B. is the present possessor of it. A court baron is held for this manor.

ROMEDEN-PLACE is an antient seat in the eastern part of this parish, which was formerly the patrimony of the antient family of Engeherst, afterwards written and called Henherst, who were possessed of good estates at Staplehurst, Woodchurch, Yalding, and other places

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in this county; but they did not continue long owners of this seat, for William, son of Osbert de Henherst, being so described in his deed without date, demised it by sale to John de Calch, in whose descendants it remained until the latter end of king Richard II.'s reign./c Who succeeded them afterwards, I have not found; but in the reign of king Henry VI. the family of Guldeford appear to have been possessed of it; one of whom, in the 23d year of it, founded a chapel in this church of Smarden,/d nor can I find how long they continued here; but in king Henry VIII.'s reign it was become the property of Rogers, and John, son of Stephen Rogers, in the 24th year of it, alienated it to Stephen Drayner, alias Dragoner, in which name it continued till William Drayner, in the 17th year of queen Elizabeth, passed it away to Sir Roger Manwood, who the next year conveyed it to Martin James, esq. remembrancer of the court of exchequer, whose great-grandson Walter James, esq. possessed it at the restoration of king Charles II. His son of the same name left an only daughter Auria, who, at the age of fourteen, carried it in marriage to John Otway, gent. of Mitcham, in Surry, who bore for his arms, Argent, a chevron, sable, over it a pile, counterchanged; by whom she had twenty children, of whom seven sons only survived, who on his death became entitled to it in undivided shares. At length the eldest of them, colonel James Otway, having at different times purchased of his brothers their shares in it, became possessed of the whole of Romeden. He was a general officer, and lieutenant-governor of Minorca, and at the latter part of his life resided at Romeden, of which he died possessed in 1721, and was succeeded in it by his eldest son Charles-James Otway, a general officer in the army likewise. He died in 1767, and was buried

/c Philipott, p. 312, /d Weever, p. 290.

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here, leaving by Bridget, daughter of Basil, earl of Denbigh, one son and two daughters. Charles Otway, esq. the son, resided at Romeden, but he sold it in 1786 to Thomas Witherden, of Wisenden, in Bethersden, the present owner of it.

CHARITIES.

MR. JOHN HAMDEN, of this parish, in 1361, gave by deed 6s. per annum, to be paid out of his land called Hamdens, in this parish, now belonging to John Toke, esq. to the churchwardens for the time being, towards maintaining the bell-ropes.

MR. JOHN GLOVER, of this parish, in 1593, gave by will 5s. per annum to the poor, to be paid out of his lands to the surveyors for the time being, towards mending the highways of this parish; which lands are now in the possession of Matthew Parker.

JACOB TURNER, merchant, of London, as appears by a deed of trust made in 1686, gave in his life-time 100l. for repairs of the church, and 100l. more for the benefit of the superannuated poor of this parish, of honest reputation; one half of the yearly product of it to be laid out in clothes, and the other half in flour. Which money was, by order of his son, laid out in the purchase of a house and land, vested in trustees, the yearly rents of which, now 13l. 2s. are applied to those purposes.

MR. STEPHEN DADSON, of Bethersden, by will in 1716, founded a free school in this parish, and endowed it with a dwelling-house, barn, and four pieces of land, containing fifteen acres and an half, in Bethersden, and with a dwelling-house in Smarden town, with the liberty of six boys from the parish of Bethersden to be taught in it; which premises are now vested in feoffees. Reading, writing, and arithmetic, are now taught in it, to near forty boys and girls.

The poor constantly relieved are about one hundred and forty, casually thirty-five.

THIS PARISH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Michael, consists of one isle or body, and a chancel; the former is of a most curious structure, being forty feet wide, with a span roof over it, singularly constructed. At

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the west end is a tower steeple, with a beacon turret, in which there are five bells. In the chancel is a monument for Capt. Jacob Turner, of Hamden, in this parish, mentioned before. He died in 1709, his arms, Per pale and fess, counterchanged, sable, and ermine, three fer-de-molines, or. In the north-east corner of the isle is the burial-place of the Otways, of Romeden. In the chancel is a memorial for Anne, daughter of John Marshall, of Halden, wife of George Carter, gent. and for the said George Carter, who died in 1728; for Solomon Pawley, vicar of Aylsham, in Norfolk, obt. 1777; and for Henry Parsley, rector of this church.

This church is a rectory, the patronage of which was granted by queen Mary, in her last year, anno 1558, among others, to cardinal archbishop Pole, and it has continued part of the possessions of the see

of Canterbury ever since, his grace the archbishop being the present patron of it.

This church is valued in the king's books at 24l. 2s. 6d. per annum, and the yearly tenths at 2l. 8s. 3d. There are about three acres of glebe-land belonging to it.

In 1588 it was valued at eighty pounds. Communicants three hundred and fifty. In 1640 it was valued at one hundred and nine pounds. Communicants seven hundred; and in 1741 it was valued at two hundred and thirty pounds per annum. In 1782 it was valued at only one hundred and seventy pounds, but there has lately been a new composition made for tithes, both great and small, which has much increased the value of this rectory.

/e See Rym. Fœd. vol. iv. p. 177.

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CHURCH OF SMARDEN.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

The Archbishop. John Fotherbye, A. M. May 18,
1586, obt. 1619.

Robert Elye, A. M. April 27,
1619, obt. 1644.

Thomas Vaughan, July 19, 1644,
ejected 1662./f

Robert Cole, S. T. B. Oct. 14,
1662.

Richard Rands, A. M. March
10, 1667.

Jonathan Whiston, A. M. Aug.
9, 1669, obt. 1698.

Henry Parsley, A. M. April 20,
1698, obt. 1710./g

Simon Hughes, A. M. March
17, 1710, obt. July 23,
1728./h

William Bedford, Oct. 1728,
obt. Oct. 11, 1783./i

John Porter, 1783, obt. 1794.

William Mackenzie, 1794, the
present rector.

/f See Calamy's Life of Baxter,
p. 287.

/g He lies buried in the chancel of
this church.

/h He was also vicar of St. Stephens,
alias Hackington, and prebendary of
Chichester.

/i And vicar of Bekesborne, where
he resided.

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THE HUNDRED OF CHART AND LONGBRIDGE

LIES the next hundred southward from that of Calehill. It was formerly two separate half hundreds, viz.

of Great Chart and of Longbridge, called in Domes-

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day, Cert and Langebrige; and they appear to have been distinct in the reign of king Edward III. that of Great Chart contained Ashford, Chart, Bethersden, and Hothfield; and that of Longbridge contained Wilsborough, Kennington, Sevington, Kingsnoth, Mersham, Hinxhill, and part of Ashford.

IT CONTAINS WITHIN ITS BOUNDS THE FOLLOWING PARISHES:

1. BETHERSDEN in part.
2. GREAT CHART in part.
3. HOTHFIELD in part.
4. KENNINGTON.
5. HINXHILL.
6. WILLSBOROUGH.
7. MERSHAM in part.
8. SEVINGTON, and
9. KINGSNOTH.

And the churches of those parishes, and likewise part of the parishes of ASHFORD and SHADOXHURST, the churches of which are in other hundreds. Two constables have jurisdiction over it. It likewise formerly had within it the town and liberty of Ashford, comprehending the church and the greatest part of that parish, which has long since been made a separate jurisdiction from it, having a constable of its own.

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BETHERSDEN

IS situated the next parish eastward from Smarden last-described. So much of this parish as is in the boroughs of Hales, Bridge, and Engeham or Povenden, is in the hundred of Blackborne, and west division of this county; and the residue of it, being part in the hundred of Chart and Longbridge, in which the church stands, and part in the hundred of Calehill, is in the eastern division of the county. The liberty of the manor of Wye claims over the borough of Snodehill, in the northern part of this parish.

THIS PARISH is situated within the bounds of the Weald, adjoining to Pluckley, at no great distance below the quarry hills southward, and contains about 4000 acres of land. It lies very low and flat; the soil is in most parts of it a stiff miry clay, and the face of

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the country very unpleasant and dreary; the roads wide, with a considerable breadth of green sward on each side of them, much like those about Halden and Woodchurch, described before. There is a great deal of coppice wood of oak, with much good timber in them, interspersed throughout the parish, the houses in which are mostly built round the small greens or forstalls in the different parts of it. The head of the river Medway, which rises near Goldwell, in Great Chart, runs along the northern part of it westward towards Smarden, as has been already mentioned. The turnpike road from Tenterden to Halden, crosses this parish over Bull-green, round which there is a hamlet of houses, towards Great Chart, and thence to Ashford

north-eastward; but this road, from the natural depth of the soil, and its never having had any improvement made on it since the trust has been created, is, like that part of it at Smarden before-described, hardly passable without the greatest danger, during the winter months; indeed there is a causeway, of the greatest use for the safety of travellers, along the side of it throughout this parish, made of the grey turbinated marble, which abounds in the northern part of it, especially about Frid, where much of this sort has been formerly dug; but those quarries are now but little used. This kind of marble, from its being dug up both here and at Petworth, in Sussex, is known by the names both of the Bethersden and the Petworth marble. It bears a good polish, and is very hard and durable, if dug up in its perpendicular state; but if horizontally, it usually peels off in flakes. It was formerly in great esteem in this county, for decorating the several religious buildings and churches in it; the cathedrals of Canterbury and Rochester abound with it; in which, as well as in many of the churches, most of the antient tombs and monuments of the bishops and gentry are made of it; and in several of the antient mansions, the chimney-pieces of the grandest apartments are composed of it.

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On the south-east side of Bull-green is a house, which has been for some years possessed by the Wilmotts, who bore for their arms, Argent, on a fess, gules, two escallops, between a bull, couchant, or, between three eagles heads, erased. The church stands at a small distance northward from the above green, on a small rise of ground, with the village close to the southward of it, at the east end of which is a good house, called THE THORNE, from a large thorn-tree growing near it, which in the time of king Charles I. belonged to a branch of the family of Whitfield, of Tenterden, one of whom, Francis Whitfield, gent. resided here, and died possessed of it in 1660. His grandson Francis Whitfield, gent. of Thorne-house, died in 1782, leaving two daughters his coheirs, the youngest of whom dying unmarried, the eldest, Elizabeth, became entitled to the whole of it, which she carried in marriage to William Curteis, esq. merchant, of London, youngest son of Edward Curteis, esq. of Tenterden, who has, in right of his wife, the entire property of it.

A fair is kept here yearly on St. Margaret's day, now, by the alteration of the stile, on July 31.

THE MANOR OF OLD SURRENDEN, alias BETHERSDEN, lies near the eastern bounds of this parish, and was formerly the original seat of the family of Surrenden, whence it gained the name of Old Surrenden, being prior to that at Pluckley, which afterwards became the residence of a junior branch of them, which ended about the beginning of king Richard II.'s reign. The arms of Surrenden, twice singly, and once impaled with Crouch, are in this church. In the reigns of king John and Henry III. Adam de Surrenden, called likewise in old dateless deeds, Suthrinden, was owner of this manor and resided here, as did his descendant Robert de Surrenden in the reign of king Edward II. in the 11th year of which he was bailiff of Westgate, and was then possessed of lands in this parish, Smarden, and

Pluckley; and in this name it continued till king

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Henry VI.'s reign, in the beginning of which John Surrenden alienated it to cardinal archbishop Kempe, who in the 10th year of king Henry VI. settled it, among other premises, on his new-founded college of Wye, with which it staid till the dissolution of it in the 36th year of king Henry VIII. when this manor came into the hands of the crown; whence it was granted that year, to Walter Bucler, esq./k who two years afterwards alienated it to Sir Maurice Dennys, and he, in the 2d year of king Edward VI. sold it to Sir Anthony Aucher, who, in the 6th year of the same reign, passed it away to Philip Choute, esq. standard bearer to king Henry VIII. at the siege of Bullein, where for his gallant behaviour, which the king rewarded, by assigning to him a canton to his antient coat of arms, of the like bearing as on the standard, viz. Party, per fess, argent, and vert, a lion, passant-guardant, or, being the lion of England; in whose descendants this manor continued down to Edward Choute, esq. whose name was frequently spelt, and usually pronounced Chewte. Their paternal coat was, Gules, semee of mullets, or, three swords in fess, argent, pomelled, or, the middlemost encountering the other two; which is authenticated by the books of the Heralds office; but on Sir G. Choute's monument in this church, they are, erroneously painted Gules, three swords, in pale, argent, pomelled, or; on a canton, parted per fess, argent and azure, a lion passant-guardant, gules; when from its long continuance in them, and improvements they had made to this antient mansion, it had gained the name of Surrenden-Choute; as that at Pluckley had from its owners, in like manner, the name of Surrenden-Dering. He removed his residence to Hinxhill, the manor of which he had purchased, where he kept his shrievalty anno 11 king Charles I. and where his son Sir George Choute likewise resided; who was succeeded in this manor of Sur-

/k Rot. Esch. 32, N. 124. See Pluckley before.

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renden by his son George Choute, esq. who in 1684 was created a baronet, and afterwards resided at Lovelace, in this parish, of which he was only tenant, and dying there s. p. in 1721, devised this manor by will to Edward Austen, esq. of Tenterden, afterwards baronet, who soon afterwards sold it to Thomas Best, esq. of Chatham, and his grandson, Thomas Best, esq. of Chilston, in Boughton Malherb, died possessed of it s. p. in 1793, and by will gave it to his youngest nephew George Best, esq. now of Chilston, the present owner of it.

THE MANOR OF LOVELACE is situated at a very small distance south-westward from the church. It was in early times the property of a family named Greensted, or Greenstreet, as they were sometimes called, the last of whom, Henry de Greensted, a man of eminent repute, as all the records of this county testify, in the reigns of both king Edward II. and III. passed away this manor to Kinet, in which name it did not remain long; for William Kinet, in the 41st year

of king Edward III. conveyed it by sale to John Lovelace, who erected that mansion here, which from thence bore his name in addition, being afterwards stiled Berthensden-Lovelace; from whence sprung a race of gentlemen, who in the military line acquired great reputation and honor, and by their knowledge in the municipal laws, deserved well of the commonwealth; from whom descended those of this name seated at Bayford, in Sittingborne, and at Kingsdown, in this county, the lords Lovelace of Hurley, and others of Berkshire.^{/l} At length, after this manor had continued in this family for many generations, resident at Lovelace-place, Colonel Richard Lovelace, soon after the death of king Charles I. passed it away to Mr. Richard Hulse, descended from the antient family of that name,

^{/l} Philipott, p. 72. See a further account of this family and its different branches, vol. ii. of this history, p. 479.

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of Norbury and Nantwich hundred, in Cheshire, and bore the same arms, being Argent, three piles, sable, one issuing out of the chief, between the other two, reversed of the second. He resided at Lovelace-place, in which, together with this manor of Lovelace, he was succeeded by his son of the same name. His son and grandson of both, resident here, the latter of whom alienated it soon after his coming to the possession of it, to Sir Edwyn Stede, colonel and governor of Barbadoes, who died possessed of it in 1695, and in his descendants it continued down to Edwyn Stede, esq. of Harrietsham, who sold it soon after the year 1735, together with Harrietsham-place and other estates in this county, to William Horsemonden Turner, esq. of Maidstone, who died possessed of it in 1753, s. p./m and by will devised it to his wife Elizabeth, for her life. She died in 1782, being succeeded in this, as well as the rest of her estates, according to the limitation in her husband's will, by Charles Booth, esq. afterwards knighted, who died s. p. in 1795, upon which it came by the entail and limitations in Mr. Turner's will, to William Baldwin, esq. now of Harrietsham-place, who is the present owner of this manor.

FRID, usually called the Frid farm, corruptly for the Frith, is a manor in the northern part of this parish, which was antiently the patrimony of the family of Mayney, as appeared by several old deeds formerly in the hands of Mr. George Choute, one of whom, John Mayney, of Biddenden, died possessed of it in the 50th year of king Edward III. After they were become extinct here, the Darells, of Calehill, became possessed of it, in which it continued down to Sir John Darell, who in the reign of king Richard III. was a great promoter of the earl of Richmond's interest, insomuch that the king declared him a rebel and a traitor, and

^{/m} See more of the Stedes and Turners, vol. v. of this history, p. 449, 450.

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seized on all his estates, and in his 3d year granted this manor, by the name of Fridin Bodersdon, to the duke of Norfolk, who losing his life in the battle of Bosworth, in which the king likewise was slain, and being

attainted in the 1st year of Henry VII. that king restored Sir John Darell, in his 2d year, to this manor, among the rest of his forfeited estates. His descendant George Darell, esq. died possessed of it in the year 1578, as appears by his will in the Prerogative-office, Canterbury, whose son Sir John Darell, at the latter end of queen Elizabeth's reign, alienated it to Thomas Gibbon, a younger branch of those of Rolvenden, who afterwards resided here, and Harris says, /n their arms, being Sable, a lion rampant, or, between three escallops, argent, were in this church; as were those of Mayney, Party, per pale, argent and sable, three chevrons between three cinquefoils, all counterchanged. He left issue three sons; Robert, who possessed this manor, and died without issue; Thomas, who succeeded his brother in it; and John, who was of Bishopsborne. Thomas Gibbon, the second son, resided here in the reign of king James I. and left two daughters his coheirs; the youngest of whom, Lydia, entitled her husband Edward Choute, esq. of Surrenden, in this parish, to the possession of this manor; since which it has passed in like manner as the manor of Lovelace before described, down to William Baldwin, esq. of Harriesham, who is the present possessor of it.

HACCHESDEN, now called Eytchden, is another manor, which lies adjoining to a heath or haugh, at the north-east bounds of this parish, and was formerly reputed a member of the manor of Boughton Aluph, which was held of the honor of Bologne, of which it was held for some time by the same owners; though in Henry III.'s reign I meet with one William de Hacchesden, who had some claim to the possession of it.

/n See his History of Kent, p. 39.

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Stephen de Bocton died possessed of that manor, with this of Hacchesden, in the 14th year of king Edward I. holding it in capite by knight's service. Soon after which it passed into the family of Burghersh, one of whom, Stephen de Burghersh, in the 1st year of king Edward II. obtained a charter of free-warren in all his demesne lands within it, and died two years afterwards. Thomas de Aldon died possessed of it in the 35th year of the next reign of king Edward III. Soon after which Sir Thomas Tryvet became possessed of the reversion of it, in right of his wife, leaving two daughters his coheirs, from one of whom it passed into the family of Brockhull, of Saltwood, one of whom, Thomas de Brockhull, of Calehill, in the 12th year of king Henry IV. enfeoffed John Darell in this manor, in whose family it continued till about the reign of king James I. when it was alienated to Tufton, in whose descendants, earls of Thanet, excepting the woods belonging to it which have been sold off, it has descended down to the right hon. Sackville, earl of Thanet, the present owner of it.

There was once a chapel at this manor of Hecchinden, which has been time out of mind ruined. Archbishop Hubert, in the reign of king Richard I. confirmed the church of Bethersden, together with this chapel, to the priory of St. Gregory, in Canterbury, among the rest of their possessions.

WISENDEN is a district, lying at the north-west bounds of this parish, in which there is a seat of that name, which has been for several centuries in the family of Witherden, whose name was antiently written Wetherynden, who have constantly resided at it; one of whom, Robert Wetherynden, of Betrysdan, appears, by his will, to have died owner of it, anno 18 Henry VIII. bearing for his arms, Argent, on a chief, azure, three catherine wheels, or. Thomas Witherden, gent. died possessed of it in 1663, and was buried in this church, in whose descendants it has continued, together with

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the manor of Thornden, in this parish, in a direct line, down to Thomas Witherden, esq. now of Wisenden.

CHARITIES.

THOMAS MARGANT gave an house, barn, stable, and seven pieces of land, containing about fourteen acres, in this parish, of the yearly rent of 9l.

STEPHEN GLOVER gave to the poor of this parish, a parcel of land in it, containing about eight acres, of the yearly rent of 4l.

EDWARD TUESNOAD gave 10s. per annum, out of land, known by the name of Tuesnoad-land, now vested in John Hills.

A SMALL PIECE of ground, containing about 20 perches, adjoining to Bull-green; and the land of Mr. Whitaker, of the yearly rent of 2s. 6d. were given by a person unknown.

The number of poor constantly relieved are about eighty-five, casually one hundred and fifteen.

BETHERSDEN is situated within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Margaret, consists of three isles and three chancels, having a tower steeple, with a beacon turret, in which are six bells. In the middle isle of this church lie the Wil-motts, of this parish, and in the middle chancel the Witherdens, both which have been taken notice of before. In this chancel is likewise a gravestone, with brass, and an inscription for William Lovelace, gent. once citizen of London, obt. 1459. On another, the figure of an old man in robes, and an inscription for Thomas, one of the sons of Wm. Lovelace, serjeant-at-law, obt. 1591, æt. 28, a much younger age than his figure denotes. And within the altar-rails are several memorials for the Dynes, ancestors of those of Milton, Rochester, and Malling, in this county. The south chancel is called the Lovelace chancel, in which several of the Hulses of this parish lie buried. The north chancel is called the Frid chancel, in which the Choutes likewise of this parish lie buried, all whom have been already noticed before.

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In a peculiar chancel on the north side of this church, built by one of the Lovelaces, there was a perpetual chantry, founded about the 38th year of Henry VI. anno 1459, by William Lovelace, mercer and merchant adventurer of London, a younger son of this family, who lies buried in the middle chancel of it as be-

fore-mentioned, which foundation was confirmed by the above-mentioned king. This chantry was dissolved anno 2 Edward VI. but the tenths of it, being 13s. 0³4d. are still paid to the crown-receiver./o

This church was part of the antient possessions of the priory of St. Gregory, founded by archbishop Lanfranc; and archbishop Hubert confirmed this church of St. Margaret of Beatrichesdenne, with the wood and tithes, together with the chapel of Hecchisdenne to it, in king Richard I.'s reign. In the 8th year of Richard II. this church was become appropriated to the above priory, and a vicarage endowed of it. The church, with the advowson of the vicarage, remained part of the possessions of the above-mentioned priory till the dissolution of it in king Henry VIII.'s reign, when it was, with all its lands and possessions, surrendered into the king's hands, where this church and advowson remained among the other possessions of the priory but a small time, for an act passed that year to enable the archbishop to exchange the scite of the late dissolved priory of St. Radigund, with all its possessions, with the king, for the scite of the late dissolved priory of St. Gregory, and the greatest part of its possessions. This church of Bethersden becoming thus part of the revenues of the see of Canterbury, was demised by the archbishop, among the rest of the revenues of the above-mentioned priory, in one great beneficial lease for twenty-one years, in which all advowsons and nominations of churches and chapels were excepted; under which same kind of demise it has con=

/o Philipott, p. 73. Bacon's Liber Regis, p. 21.

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tinued from time to time ever since. Philip, earl of Chesterfield, as heir to the Wottons, was lessee of the above premises, in which this parsonage was included; since whose decease in 1773, his interest in the lease of them has been sold by his executors to George Gipps, esq. of Canterbury, who is the present lessee under the archbishop for them.

The rectory or parsonage of Bethersden, to which there is a manor appendant, pays 6s. 4d. procurations to the archbishop, and 7s. 6d. for the same to the archdeacon of Canterbury.

The vicarage is valued in the king's books at twelve pounds per annum, and the yearly tenths at 1l. 4s. In 1587 there were communicants here three hundred and fifty-two, and it was valued at sixty pounds. In 1640 there were four hundred, and it was then valued at one hundred and twenty pounds. Archbishop Juxon, anno 13 and 28 Charles II. augmented this vicarage with thirty pounds, to be paid yearly by the lessee of the great tithes. There is a modus claimed of four-pence an acre for all land in this parish, (excepting woodland, which claims an exemption from the payment of tithes) paid to the vicar, in lieu of all tithes whatsoever. The lessee of the parsonage claims the tithe of corn only. The archbishop continues the patron of this vicarage.

The vicarage-house, which was built of timber and thatched, was burnt down in 1669, and was rebuilt of brick, as at present, by Jonathan Whiston, vicar, in 1676.

CHURCH OF BETHERSDEN.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

The Archbishop. Richard Gresbrooke, A. M. Nov.
14, 1598, obt. 1609.

John Hepborne, A. M. Oct. 27,
1609, obt. 1612.

John Copley, Oct. 17, 1612, re=
signed 1616.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

The Archbishop. John Arnoyn, A. M. Nov. 3,
1616, deprived 1622.

Richard Taylor, A. M. May 27,
1622.

John Thrifte, A. B. Feb. 23,
1626, obt. May 1630./p

William Turner, obt. 1631.

Ralph Abbot, A. B. Dec. 19,
1631, and in 1642.

..... Wood, in 1653./q

Richard Rands, A. M. March
19, 1667.

Jonathan Whiston, A. M. Aug.
9, 1669, obt. November 30,
1697./r

Henry Hughes, A. M. June 8,
1698, obt. 1704.

Simon Hughes, A. M. Sept. 2,
1704, resigned 1711./s

Thomas Muriell, A. B. April 3,
1711, obt. 1717.

Thomas Hardis, LL. B. Oct. 3,
1717.

James Barham, obt. 1734.

John Fetherston, A. M. inducted
April 6, 1734, obt. 1747./t

Henry Dell, April 2, 1747, ob.
Oct. 18, 1763./u

William Jones, A. B. Dec. 16,
1763, resigned 1765.

Henry Kent, D. D. Nov. 24,
1765, resigned 1780.

David Martin, Jan. 24, 1781,
resigned 1786./w

Lisc. M. Stretch, A. M. May,
1786./x

Daniel Wilcox, 1787, the pre=
sent vicar.

/p Buried here. His will is in the
Prerog. off. Cant.

/q See Cries of the Quakers, p. 3.

/r See History of archbishop Laud's
Troubles, p. 16.

/s And rector of Herst. See Smar=
den before.

/t Before rector of Warden, and vi=
car of Leysdown.

/u He had been for some time mini=
ster of a Presbyterian congregation in

Canterbury.

/w He resigned this vicarage for that of Leysdown, in Shepey.

/x He resigned the vicarage of Leysdown for this of Bethersden.

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GREAT CHART

LIES adjoining to Bethersden north-eastward, It was called in the time of the Saxons, both Selebertes and Sybertes Chert, no doubt from the owners of it at that time. In Domesday it is written Certh; in other later, though antient, records, East Chart; but more usually, Great or Mochel Chart, from its extensiveness, and to distinguish it from the parish of Little Chart in this neighbourhood. There are two boroughs in it, viz. those of Bucksford and Chelmington. It is in the division of East Kent.

GREAT CHART is a very healthy situation, lying partly on the lower or southern ridge of hills, usually called the Quarry-hills, which cross this parish, having the village and church on the summit of them, and the court-lodge near them. The inhabitants have a tradition here, that Great Chart was once a far more considerable place than at present, having had a great street of houses on the east side, in the road which goes up by Singleton to the top of the hill, where there have been many houses in the memory of man. The ruins of the market-house were to be seen in the field where the fair is now kept, over against the church, which probably was but a kind of a chapel, when this town was burnt down by the Danes, and then Ashford began to rise and grow out of the ruins of it. The church is the northern boundary of the Weald, into which this parish extends about two miles southward, and about half a mile northward, on the other side of the hill, it is from east to west about one mile. It has no coppice wood in it, three or four small shaves excepted. The high road from Tenterden through Bethersden to Ashford, goes through this parish and the village of Great Chart, north-eastward. This parish is watered by the separate heads of the river Medway and the

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Stour, which direct their course directly contrary ways through it; the former, rising near Goldwell, directing its course westward along the southern bounds of it; and the latter flowing on the other side of the hills, along the northern part of it eastward, towards Ashford, and turning in its course through this parish two corn-mills, at Wurting and Buksford. The soil is in general a stiff clay. Upon the hill there is, as in other parts of it, much of the quarry-stone. The face of it, in the Weald, is much the same as described before, in Halden, Bethersden, and other places adjoining to it. From the foot of the hill northward towards Godinton, it is mostly a fertile pasture and good fatting land. The mansion of Godinton has had great improvements made to it by Mr. Toke, of Canterbury, whilst he resided here. The front, which is towards the north, is modern; the eastern one is antient. In the hall

there is a series of fine family portraits, several of which are by Cornelius Johnson, and others equally good. The staircase is of very antient carvework; in the windows of which are collected all the arms, quarterings, and matches, in painted glass, of the family, formerly dispersed throughout the house; they are numerous, very perfect, and well preserved. The drawing-room up-stairs is curiously wainscotted with oak, and carved; particularly along the upper part of it, all round the room, is a representation of the exercise and manœuvres of the antient militia, with the men habited and accoutred with their arms, in every attitude of marching, exercise, &c. which makes a very droll exhibition of them. There are several handsome chimney-pieces throughout the house, of Bethersden marble, well carved and ornamented with the arms of the family. Driver laid out the gardens and shrubberies, which were planted about 1770. The trees are now of a surprising size for their time, and well shew the fertility, as well as depth of the soil, especially from the oaks growing faster and more luxuriant than the ash

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or chesnut planted close by them. There was a vineyard at Godinton in Captain Nicholas Toke's time, from which was made wine of an extraordinary fine sort and flavour; instances of this have been already mentioned in this history, at more places than one in it, as the reader may see by referring to the former volumes of this history. The parish does not extend more than one hundred rods from Godinton, before it is joined by that of Ashford. The fair is held here, by alteration of the stile, on April 5, being a great one for stock, both bullocks and sheep. It ought not to be forgotten in regard to the healthiness. of this place, that the ages of Captain Nicholas Toke, who died in 1680, æt. 93, and of his four predecessors, successive owners of Godinton, made up 430 years; and those of four of the family of Engeham, of Singleton, in this parish, each the others heir there, made up 329 years.

In the night of May 1, 1580, there happened a great earthquake in this parish, which frightened the inhabitants so much, that they rose from their beds.

IN THE YEAR 799 king Cenewlf, at the request of archbishop Athelard, restored to Christ-church, in Canterbury, the lands which king Offa, his almost immediate predecessor, had taken from archbishop Janibert, among which was this manor, then called Sebertes Ceart; and he gave it, with the consent of his bishops and nobles, free from all secular and regal tribute, ad vestimentum monichorum, i. e. towards the cloathing of the monks there. In which state this manor remained at the taking of Domesday, in which it is thus entered under the general title of the archbishop's lands, as all the possessions of this church were, as follows:

In Cert hundred, the archbishop himself holds Certh. It was taxed at three sulings. The arable land is twelve

/y See a discourse of the introduction and progress of the Vine in Britain, in the Archæologia, vol. i. p. 326, vol. iii. p. 53.

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carucates. In demesne there are two, and thirty six vil=leins, with eleven cottagers, having twenty-two carucates and an half. There are five servants, and two mills of six shillings, and a salt-pit of six-pence, and twenty-seven acres of pasture, and wood for the pannage of one hundred hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and when he received it, it was worth twelve pounds, now twenty pounds, and yet it pays twenty-seven pounds.

In the 10th year of king Edward II. the prior of Christ-church obtained a grant of free warren in all his demesne lands in this manor of Great Chart, among others which he or his predecessors had acquired since the time of the king's grandfather, so that the same were not within the bounds of his forest. King Henry VI. in his 25th year, granted to the prior a market weekly, and a fair yearly on Lady-day./z It continued afterwards part of the possessions of the priory of Christ-church till its dissolution, in the 31st year of Henry VIII. when it was surrendered into the king's hands, with whom this manor did not continue long; for the king settled it, among other premises, in his 33d year, on his new-founded dean and chapter of Canterbury, part of whose inheritance it still continues. The company of haberdashers in London, are the present lessees of the demesnes of this manor; but the manerial rights, with the court leet and court baron belonging to it, the dean and chapter reserve in their own hands.

CHELMINGTON is a manor in the southern part of this parish, within the boundary of the Weald, next to Kingsnoth, in the borough of its own name, being written in antient records both Chelmanton and Chelmandon. It was once the property of a family who took their name from it, and had a mansion here, at which they continued resident for many generations, bearing for their arms, Argent, three chevrons, azure,

/z Rot. Cart. anno 25 and 26 Henry VI. No. 30.

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nine cross-crosets, sable. At length it devolved to John Chelmington, whose figure, habited in armour, was formerly in a window of the north chancel of this church. He died in king Henry V.'s reign, leaving Elizabeth his daughter and sole heir, who entituled her husband Roger Twysden, gent. to the possession of it. He afterwards resided at Chelmington, as did his descendants, till William Twysden, esq. of Chelmington, whose lands were disgavelled by the act of the 2d and 3d Edward VI. in which he is spelt William Twysden, having married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Roydon, esq. of Roydon-hall, in East Peckham, removed thither,/a where his posterity have continued ever since. Sir Thomas Twysden, bart. about the reign of queen Anne, alienated it to Mr. Thomas Hooker, whose son Thomas Hooker, esq. of Great Chart, died possessed of it in 1765, and lies buried in the south chancel of this church, whose arms were, A cross, between four escallops. His daughter Elizabeth married Walter Bartelot, esq. of Stopham, in that county, who bore for his arms, Sable, three falcons sinister gloves pendant, argent, and tasselled, or; granted to his ancestor Walter Bartlett, esq. of Stop=

ham, in 1616; by her he had three sons, Walter, who took the name of Smith, and was of that place, esq. George Smith, and Hooker. By his will he gave this estate to his second grandson George Smith Bartelot, who died unmarried; on which it came, by the entail of the same will, to the youngest brother Hooker Bartelot, esq. the present owner of it.

The borsholder for the borough of Chelmington used to be chosen at the manor court; but this has been sometime disused, and he is chosen at the court of Chart manor.

/a See an account of the family of Twysden, of East Peckham, vol. v. of this history, p. 96.

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SHINGLETON, corruptly so called for Singleton, its original name, is an estate here, lying likewise near the southern boundary of this parish, about a mile north-westward from Chelmington. It was in former times of some note, having had owners of that surname, who bore for their antient arms, as appears by their deeds, Two chevrons, between three martlets. Henry de Singleton was one of the persons of note, whose figures, in armour, were formerly in the window of the north chancel of this church. His successor John Singleton was a justice of the peace in the reigns of king Richard II. and Henry IV. as appears by an old roll of the justices of those times, collected by Thinne and John Syngleton, is among the list of those gentlemen of this county, taken anno 12 Henry VI. who were entitled to bear the antient coat armour of their ancestors./b He passed this estate away to Engeham, or Edingham, as they were antiently written, who added much to the building of this mansion, which continued in this name till the beginning of king James I.'s reign, when Sir Edward Engham conveyed it to Richard Brown, esq. descended of a younger branch of the Browns, of Beechworth-castle, from whom it descended to his grandchild of the same name, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Andrews, of Buckinghamshire, and dying soon after the death of king Charles I. she afterwards became entitled to this seat as part of her dower, and on her death was succeeded in it, as well as in other considerable property in this parish and in Kingsnoth, by Thomas, lord Leigh, baron of Stoneleigh, in Warwickshire, who had married Elizabeth their only daughter and heir; and he alienated it to Andrews; from which name it passed, at the latter end of the last century, with Wurthin mill, in this parish, to the company of haberdashers of London, as trus=

/b See Fuller's Worthies of Kent, p. 87.

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tees for the support of the hospital at Hoxton, commonly called Aske's hospital, in whom it is at this time vested.

GOLDWELL is a manor of great antiquity here, lying on the Quarry-hills, about a mile westward from Chart church, being described in Domesday by the name of Godeselle, at which time it was part of the possessions of the bishop of Baieux, under the descrip=

tion of whose lands it is thus entered in it.

The same Hugo, (grandson of Herbert) holds of the bishop Godeselle. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is two carucates, in demesne there is one, and five villeins having one carucate and an half. There is a church, and two servants, and two acres of meadow, and wood for the pannage of ten hogs. In the time of king Edward III. and afterwards, and now, it was and is worth four pounds. Edwin held it of the king, and could go with his land wherever he would.

This manor, afterwards known by the name of Goldwell, became the property and mansion of a family who assumed their name from it, who bore for their arms, Azure, a chief or, over all a lion rampant, argent, bezantee, sable. Sir John Goldwell was a commander of considerable note in the reign of king John, and resided at Goldwell; from whom it descended down to John Goldwell, who lived in the reign of Edward III. He left two sons, John, who succeeded him here; and Thomas, who purchased the seat of Godington in this parish, as will be further taken notice of hereafter. In the descendants of John Goldwell above-mentioned, two of whom were learned bishops, viz. James Goldwell, made bishop of Norwich in 1472, who was principal secretary to Edward IV. and Thomas Goldwell, made bishop of St. Asaph in 1555;/c this manor continued down to John Gold-

/c See more of the former and his preferments, in Newc. Rep. vol. i. p. 71.

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well, esq. who in king James I.'s reign, alienated it to Sir William Wythins, of Eltham, who again parted with it to Sir John Tufton, knight and baronet, of Hothfield, whose eldest son Nicholas was created lord Tufton and earl of Thanet; and in his descendants, earls of Thanet, this estate, which has long since lost the name of a manor, and is now known by the names of Great and Little Goldwell farms, has continued down to the present Right Hon. Sackville, earl of Thanet, the present possessor of it.

NINNEHOUSE is a manor, situated on the northern side of the quarry-hill, not far from the river Stour, which was antiently the residence of John at Nin, whose figure, in armour, was with those of other eminent men formerly in the north window of the north chancel of this church; in whose descendants it continued till the reign of Henry VI. when it was alienated to Sharpe; one of whom, William Sharpe, of this place, died possessed of it in 1499, and lies buried in the middle isle of this church, with his five wives, as does his descendant William Sharpe the elder, who died in 1583. At length, after it had continued in this name and family for many generations, it was conveyed by sale by William Sharpe, gent. at the beginning of the present century, to Mr. Thomas Curteis, who sold it to the Rev. Mr. Hilkieh Bedford, the famous, and learned nonjuring writer, descended of a family seated at Sibsey, near Boston, in Lincolnshire. He was deprived of his preferments in 1689, for nonconformity, and in 1714 was tried and re-

ceived sentence, for printing and publishing the hereditary Right of the Crown asserted; of which, however, he is said not to be the real author. He left three sons, of whom William was physician to Christ's hospital,

/e See an account of him and his writings in Biog. Brit. vol. vi. p. 3732, note [B.]

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and register of the college of physicians; Thomas, was of Ashburn, in Derbyshire, and John was M. D. of Durham. He died possessed of it, and was succeeded by his eldest son William Bedford, M. D. who died in 1747, and his only daughter and heir Elizabeth marrying with Mr. John Claxton, of Shirley, near Croydon, in Surry, has entitiled him to the possession of this estate.

COURT-WURTIN, now usually called Worting farm, lies further westward, at a small distance southward from the river Stour. It was formerly accounted a manor, and was the residence of owners of that surname; one of whom, William de Wurtin, by his deed without date, demised land which lay within his manor of Wurtin to Quickemannus de Bere. The figure of Henry de Wurtin, in armour, was with those of other eminent persons formerly in the window of the north chancel of this church. The last of this name here was Thomas de Wurtin, who about the beginning of king Henry IV.'s reign, passed it away to Thomas Goldwell, of Godinton, in this parish, whose son William Goldwell died in 1485; by the marriage of whose heir-general, this manor at length, with his seat of Godinton, came to Thomas Toke, esq. of Bere, who settled it on his third son John Toke, esq. afterwards of Godinton, in whose descendants it has continued down, with that seat, to Nicholas Roundell Toke, esq. now of Godinton, the present possessor of it.

GODINGTON is an antient mansion, in the southwest part of this parish, on the other or northern side of the river, next to Hothfield, which was once the residence of a family of the same name. Simon de Godington, who was likewise possessed of lands in Stroud, Frindsbury, and Chelsfield, in this county, which were named after him, lived here, as appeared by very antient deeds. John de Godington's figure, in armour, and looking up to a crucifix placed above

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him, was with those of several other eminent persons of note in these parts, formerly in the window of the north chancel of this church. William de Godington, his son, lived here, as appeared by his deed in the 4th year of Richard II. but before the end of that reign, he had passed away his interest in it to Richard, Simon, and John Champneys; and they, in the 6th year of Henry IV. joined in the sale of it to Thomas, younger son of John Goldwell, of Goldwell before-mentioned, who died anno 5 Henry V. His son William Goldwell, was of Godinton, where he died in the 1st year of Henry VII. leaving a son Thomas and a daughter Joane, married to Thomas Toke, of Westbere. Thomas Goldwell, the son, in=

herited this seat, and left an only daughter Avice his heir, who became the wife of Robert a Rowe; but she died s. p. on which Joane, above-mentioned, entitled her husband Thomas Toke, as heir-general, to this seat of Godington, with other estates in this parish and elsewhere.

The family of Toke, Tooke, or Tucke, as they have at different times been variously spelt, are supposed to be descended from Le Sire de Touque, called in some copies Toc, and in others Touke, mentioned in the Battel abbey roll, having among others, attended William the Conqueror in his expedition hither, and being present on his behalf in the memorable battle of Hastings. His descendant Robert de Toke, who is the first mentioned in the pedigrees of this family, bore for his arms, Parted per chevron, sable, and argent, three griffins heads, erased and counterchanged. He was present with king Henry III. in 1264, at the battle of Northampton. His great-grandson is called Toke, de Toke & Westcliffe, from whom descended in the fifth generation John Toke, of Bere, who lived in the reigns of Henry V. and VI. and had three sons; of whom Thomas, the eldest, was of Bere; Ralph, the second, was ancestor of those of Cam-

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bridgeshire, Dorsetshire, and Hertfordshire; and John, the third, died without male issue. Thomas Toke, of Bere, the eldest son, is mentioned before, as having married Joane, daughter of William Goldwell, esq. of Godinton, whose heir general she at length was; he married secondly Cecilia, daughter of Sir Robert Chicheley, niece to the archbishop, by whom he had no issue. By his first wife he had three sons, Ralph, who succeeded to the family estate at Bere, where his posterity remained till the latter end of the last century, as will be mentioned under the description of that place; Richard, who died s. p. and John, the youngest, who had Godinton by his father's will, where he afterwards resided, and had an augmentation of honor granted to his arms by king Henry VII. as a reward for his expedition in a message on which he was employed to the French king, being an additional coat of arms, viz. Argent, on a chevron, between three greyhounds heads erased sable, collared, or, three plates; which coat the Tokes of Godinton have ever since borne, in the first quarter of their arms, placing the original arms of Toke in the second place; in whose descendants, resident here, most of whom lie buried in this church, this seat continued down to Nicholas Toke, esq. of Godington, usually called Captain Toke, sheriff in 1663, who dying in 1680, was buried in the chancel of this church, with his five wives. His portrait at full length is in the hall here, and that of Diana his fifth wife, daughter of the earl of Winchelsea. There is an anecdote of him in the family, that at the age of ninety-three, being left a widower, he walked from hence to London, to pay his addresses to a sixth wife; but being taken ill, he presently died. His portrait well expresses the strength of his frame and constitution. Leaving no male issue by either of his wives, he devised this seat of Godington, with the rest of his estate, to his nephew and

heir-at-law, Nicholas Toke, of Wye, son of his next

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brother Henry Toke, M. D. of Ofham. Which Nicholas kept his shrievalty at Godington in 1693, and was, the year afterwards, knighted. He left by his second wife, Katherine, daughter of Sir Tho. Dyke, of Sussex, two sons, John and Thomas; and five daughters; Catherine, married to William, son of John Henden, of Biddenden; Elizabeth, to Edward, son of Charles Paine, of East Grinstead; Margaret to John Handfield; Sarah, first to Thomas Nower, and secondly to Matthew Rutton; and Bridget to Thomas, son of Tho. Brett, LL. D. of Spring-grove. After which this seat descended down to his eldest great-grandson John; (Nicholas, the youngest, clerk, is rector of Barnstone, in Essex), which John Toke, esq. was of Godinton, where he kept his shrievalty in 1770, having married Margaret, daughter of Dr. Roundell, by whom he had three sons, Nicholas-Roundell, John, and William; and two daughters. After his wife's death he removed to Canterbury, where he now resides, leaving the possession of this seat with the rest of his estates in this parish and Hothfield, to his eldest son Nicholas Roundell Toke, esq. who now resides in it./f

BUCKSFORD, alias NORTH STOWER, lies about a quarter of a mile northward of the river Stour, on the high road to Ashford. It was formerly accounted a manor, and at the latter end of king Henry VIII.'s reign was the property of Baker. It was afterwards possessed by the Clarks, of Woodchurch; one of whom, Humphry Clarke, esq. resided for some time here. After which it passed to Richard Toke, the youngest son of John Toke, of Godinton, by Cicely Kempe his wife, who likewise resided here; and thence again to Fleete; at length William Fleet sold it to Henry Crispe, esq. of Quekes, in Thanet, who by will

/f There are pedigrees of Toke in Vistn. co. Kent of 1574 and 1619, and among the Harl. MSS. No. 1195-55 and 1196-108.

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in 1663 devised it to his nephew Thomas, son of his brother Thomas Crispe, of Goudhurst, who conveyed it by sale to Andrews; and Alexander Andrews, in the year 1690, sold it, together with the manor of Shingleton before mentioned, and his other estates in this parish, to the company of haberdashers, in London, as trustees for the support of the hospital commonly called Aske's hospital, at Hoxton, in whom it is now vested.

CHARITIES.

JOHN TOKE, ESQ. of Godinton, by will in 1560, gave to the poor an annuity of 21s. to be yearly received out of a house, with its appurtenances, and one piece of land, in Chart-street.

ROBERT MORECOCK, one of the gentlemen of queen Elizabeth's chapel, by will in 1581, gave to the poor one piece of land, called Morecock's garden, Cockridge, or Upton, containing half an acre, in this parish, now of the annual value of 12s.

FRANCIS TOKE, ESQ. of Great Chart, by will in 1583, gave

towards the maintenance and support of two poor inhabitants, upon certain conditions therein mentioned, three houses, with their appurtenances, and eleven acres of land belonging to them in this parish, the annual produce of which is 11l. 2s. 6d.

THOMAS KIPPS, gent. of Canterbury, by will in 1680, gave to the poor one annuity of 20s. out of two houses and certain lands called Chillmarsh, in this parish.

The poor constantly relieved are about thirty, carefully eighty.

BENEFACCTIONS GIVEN TO THE CHURCH.

ONE ANNUITY of 30s. out of all the lands and tenements, formerly of Richard Toke, gent. of this parish, in Kennington and Boughton Aluph, given by indenture in 1576.

TWO PIECES OF LAND, called Crouchfield and Bournfield, containing seven acres, in the denne of Brickenden, in Bidden=den, as was found by inquisition taken in 1562, to be given by the will of John Goldwell, gent. anno 13 Henry VII.

THE MANOR OF HAMMONDECOT, alias HENDECOT, and one piece of land called Lords grove, in Woodchurch, and the several quit-rents belonging to it, were given by William Clark, of Woodchurch, by indenture, anno 22 Henry VII.

THERE IS a school here, supported by the voluntary subscription of Mr. Toke, the rector, and some others, for reading English and writing.

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THIS PARISH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church, which is dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary, is a large handsome building, consisting of three isles and three chancels, having a well-built tower steeple at the west end, in which are five bells. The north and south isles are leaded, the middle isle and chancel tiled. The north chancel is divided lengthways, as to its property; the north side belonging to the haberdashers company, and the south side to the Tokes, of Godinton. Between the middle and this north chancel is an altar-tomb, the brasses on which, as well as the inscription, are lost. It was for William de Goldwelle, and Avice his wife, they both died in 1485. Between every word was the figure of a well. Against the north wall is an antient tomb, one side of which is nearly covered by the vault which is raised against it, for the Toke family, built by Sir Nicholas Toke in 1701. On the pavement are several gravestones for the family of Toke, most of which are enriched with their figures and shields of arms in brass. In the windows are several coats of arms, among which are those of the see of Norwich and of Goldwell, and several figures of saints. In the lower north window were formerly, according to Weever, sixteen (Philipott says only twelve) figures of men, all kneeling, ten of which remained in his time; three of the others are supplied by Philipott, being Johannes de Godinton, Henry de Wurtin, and Henricus de Singleton, owners of lands in this parish, as has been noticed before, in the midst of whom were two priests. The current tradition, time out of mind, has been, that these were principal persons here, owners of lands and builders of this church. The south chancel is likewise divided, as to its property, lengthways; the north part belonging to Bartelot, and the south to the earl of Thanet, whose grandfather refused to re=

pair his part of it, which his ancestors had done time out of mind. In the south part lies buried Thomas Hooker, esq. and Mary his wife, mentioned before. Weever says, the portrait of bishop Goldwell was in the east window, kneeling, and in every quarry a golden well, and these words, Jacobo Goldwelle Episcopo Norwicen . . . qui . . . opus fundavit ann Xti MCCCCLXXVII; by which it appears he was the founder of it; fragments of this still remain, most of which have been transposed from their proper places, and added to parts not belonging to them. At the end of the south isle, a stone with the figures in brass, for Thomas Twesden and Benet his wife. In the middle isle, a stone with figures in brass, for William Sharpe and his five wives. He died in 1499. In the cross isle, a memorial for William Sharpe the elder, obt. 1583. In this isle, in an upper range of windows, are several figures of men, with arms under them; one of them is those of Toke. The church has been lately handsomely pewed, at the charge of the parish, and the pews painted at the charge of John Toke, esq. In the church-yard, on the north side of the north chancel, there appear the foundations of a building once adjoining to it, which has been down for many years, and on the outside of the east wall of the same chancel, is a square stone in the wall, with an inscription for Clare Cowldwell, widow, sometime wife of John Cowldwell, bishop of Sarum, and daughter of John Toke, esq. who died s. p. in 1608. At the east end of the church-yard is a very antient tomb, for Susan, wife of Thomas Brett, and daughter of Thomas Kadwell, gent. the rest is hid under ground by the sinking of the tomb. Further is another tomb for Richard Toke, gent. son of John Toke, esq. and Cicely his wife, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Humphry Clarke, esq. He died in 1598.

James Goldwell, bishop of Norwich, born at Goldwell, in this parish, as mentioned before, who died in

1499, and was buried in his cathedral at Norwich, was a great benefactor to this church, and a principal repairer of it. He founded a chantry in the south chancel of it, at the altar of the Blessed Trinity; which chantry was dissolved by the act of the 1st year of king Edward VI. This chantry, usually called Goldwell's chantry, in a trial had, on a writ of prerogative, anno 10 Elizabeth, is said to have been founded by Nicholas Goldwell, clerk./g

CLEMENT FRENHAM, of this parish, by will in 1544, bequeathed an obit of 6s. 8d. upon Relic Monday in this church, for divine mass by note, and other divine service; and what was spared to be given to the poor, for ever. For which he bound all his lands in Kent, and among others, a house and fifteen acres of land, called Bets, with a garden, in Great Chart; and he appointed the curate of this parish, and his successors, overseers of his will.

The advowson of the rectory of Great Chart was ever esteemed as an appendage to the manor, and as such was part of the possessions of the priory of Christ

church, in Canterbury, with which it remained till the dissolution of the priory in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. after which it was granted by the king, in his 32d year, by the description of, the advowson of Moche Chart, in exchange for other premises, to Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Alyngton, to hold in capite by knight's service; but his son, of the same name, being attainted in the 1st year of queen Mary, this advowson, among the rest of his estates, became forfeited to the crown, where it seems to have remained till queen Elizabeth, in exchange for other premises taken from the archbishopric, granted it to the archbishop of Canterbury, with whom it has continued ever since, his grace the archbishop being the present patron of it.

/g See Coke's Entries, p. 439, and vol. vi. of this history, p. 517.

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This rectory is valued in the king's books at 25l. 6s. 0¹/₂d. and the yearly tenths at 2l. 10s. 7¹/₄d. In 1640 it was valued at one hundred pounds, communicants three hundred. It is now worth two hundred pounds per annum.

The parsonage is situated some way down the hill southward, on the west side, about a quarter of a mile from the church. There are twelve acres of glebeland.

CHURCH OF GREAT CHART.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

The Archbishop. Nicholas Simpson, A. M. Jan. 7, 1595, obt. 1609./h

Adrian Saravia, S. T. P. March 23, 1609, obt. 1612./i

John Abbot, S. T. P. Feb. 5, 1612, obt. 1615.

William Kingsley, S. T. P. resigned 1616./k

Thomas Jackson, S. T. P. Feb. 7, 1616, resigned 1629./l

Thomas Westley, S. T. P. October 15, 1629, obt. April 1639./m

William Axon, LL. B. July 12, 1639.

Edward Line, ejected 1662./n

Thomas Tomkins, S. T. B. July 18, 1667.

Valentine Chadwick, A. M. Dec. 9, 1669, obt. 1719.

/h Prebendary of Canterbury, and lies buried in that cathedral.

/i Ibid. His will is in the Prerog. off. Cant.

/k Prebendary and afterwards archdeacon of Canterbury. He died in 1649, and was buried in that cathedral.

/l Likewise prebendary of Canterbury. He resigned this rectory, and dying in 1646, was buried in that cathedral.

/m And prebendary of Canterbury.
He was buried in the Savoy church,
London, of which he was preacher.
Wood's Ath. p. 253.

/n He was ejected by the Bartholo=
mew act.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

The Archbishop. David Wilkins, S. T. P. Sept.
12, 1719, resigned 1719./o

John Clark, A. M. Jan. 21,
1719, obt. June 1737./p

William Hull, A. M. Oct. 7,
1737, obt. Oct. 1742./q

Walter Walker Ward, S. T. P.
Nov. 3, 1742, resig. 1747./r

James Tunstal, S. T. P. March
6, 1747, resigned 1757./s

Thomas Wray, A. M. Nov. 26,
1757, resigned 1762./t

John Benson, A. M. 1762, resig.
1780./u

William Nance, LL. B. Nov.
1780, the present rector./w

/o Prebendary of Canterbury, and
archdeacon of Suffolk. He died in
1745, at Hadleigh, in Suffolk, of
which he was rector, as well as of
Monks Isleigh, in that county, a pub=
lisher of several learned works.

/p Prebendary of Canterbury, and
dean of Sarum. He died, and lies bu=
ried in the chancel of this church.

/q He had been observed to be me=
lancholy for some time, and went on a
visit to a friend's house at Romney,
where sibi ipsi necem conscivit.

/r He before held the rectory of Bid=
denden with the vicarage of Marden
by dispensation, the latter of which
he resigned, and held the former with
this rectory by dispensation.

/s And vicar of Minster, in Tha=
net, which, as well as this rectory, he
resigned for Rochdale, in Lancashire.

/t Also rector of Rucking by dis=
pensation, which he resigned for that
of Wittersham, which latter he held
with this of Chart by dispensation.
He resigned both these for Rochdale,
as before-mentioned.

/u Before vicar of Shepherdswell
with Coldred; he held this rectory
with that of Rucking by dispensation,
and was six preacher of Canterbury
cathedral; in 1762 a dispensation
passed for his holding the rectory of
St. Michael, Harbledown, both which
he exchanged for the vicarage of Box=
ley with his successor, which he now
holds, and is prebendary of Canterbury,

and register of Gloucester.

/w He holds this with Harbledown by dispensation. See the foregoing note (/u).

- - -

HOTHFIELD

IS the next parish northward from Great Chart, and is so called from the hothe, or heath within it. The greatest part of this parish lies within the hundred of Chart and Longbridge, and the remainder in that of Calehill. It is in the division of East Kent.

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THE PARISH of Hothfield lies a little more than two miles from Ashford north-westward, the high road from which towards Lenham and Maidstone goes through it over Hothfield heath. It contains about 1250 acres, and fifty houses, the rents of it are about 1300l. per annum. It is not a pleasant, nor is it accounted a healthy situation, owing probably to the many low and watry lands in and about it. The river Stour, which rises at Lenham, runs along the southern side of the parish, which is watered likewise by several small streams, which rise about Charing and Westwell, from under the chalk hills, and join the Stour here. The heath, which contains near one half of the parish, consists mostly of a deep sand, and has much peat on it, which is continually dug by the poor for firing. On the east and west sides of the heath, the latter being called West-street, are two hamlets of houses, which form the scattered village of Hothfield. The Place-house stands on a hill, at a small distance from the corner of the heath southward, with some small plantations of trees about it, forming a principal object to the country round it. It is a square mansion, built of Portland stone, by the late earl of Thetford, on the scite of the antient mansion, close to the church; it has a good prospect round it. The adjoining grass grounds are extensive, and well laid out for the view over them; the water, which rises at no great distance from the house, becomes very soon a tolerable sized stream, and running on in sight of it, joins the Stour a little above Worting mill; these grass lands are fertile and good fatting land, like those mentioned before, near Godington, in Great Chart. The parsonage house, which is a neat dwelling of white stucco, stands at the southern corner of the heath, at the foot of the hill, adjoining the Place grounds, near West-street. Between the heath and Potter's corner, towards Ashford, the soil begins to approach much of the quarry stone.

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Though the land in the parish is naturally poor, it is rendered productive by the chalk and lime procured from the down hills. The inhabitants have an unlimited right of commoning with those of the adjoining parish of Westwell, to upwards of five hundred acres of common, which affords them the means of keeping a cow and their poultry, which, with the liberty of digging peat, draws a number of certificated poor to

reside here. There is not one dissenter in the parish.

Jack Cade, the noted rebel, in Henry the VI.th's reign, though generally supposed to be taken by Alexander Iden, esq. the sheriff, in a field belonging to Ripple manor, in the adjoining parish of Westwell, was discovered, as some say, in a field in this parish, still named from him, Jack Cade's field, now laid open with the rest of the grounds adjoining to Hothfield-place.

The plant caryophyllata montana, or water avens, which is a very uncommon one, grows in a wood near Barber's hill, in this parish.

THE MANOR OF HOTHFIELD seems, in very early times, to have had the same owners as the barony of Chilham, and to have continued so, for a considerable length of time after the descendants of Fulbert de Dover were become extinct here. Bartholomew de Badlesmere, who in the 5th year of king Edward II. had a grant of this manor as well as of Chilham in fee, appears to have held this manor of Hothfield by grand sergeantry of the archbishop, and accordingly, in the 8th year of it, at the enthroning of archbishop Walter Reynolds, he made his claim, and was allowed to perform the office of chamberlain for that day, and to serve up the water, for the archbishop to wash his hands; for which his fees were, the furniture of his bedchamber, and the bason and towel made use of for that purpose; and in the next year he obtained of the

/x See Battely's Somn. part ii. p. 59, and append. p. 20.

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king, a charter of free-warren for his demesne lands within this manor among others. After this the manor of Hothfield continued to be held by the like service, and continued in the same owners as that of Chilham, down to Thomas lord Roos, who became entitled to the fee of it, who for his attachment to the house of Lancaster, was, with others, attainted, in the 1st year of king Edward IV.'s reign, and his lands confiscated to the crown. But Margaret his mother, being possessed of it for her life, afterwards married Roger Wentworth, esq. whom she survived, and died possessed of it in the 18th year of that reign; upon which, by reason of the above attain, the crown became entitled to it, the inquisition for which was found in the 4th year of that reign; immediately after which, the king granted it to Sir John Fogge, of Repton, who was comptroller of his household and one of his privy council, for his life. On king Richard III.'s accession to the crown, he took shelter in the abbey of Westminster, from whence he was invited by the king, who in the presence of a numerous assembly gave him his hand, and bid him be confident that from thenceforward he was sure to him in affection. This is rather mentioned, as divers chronicles have erroneously mentioned that he was an attorney, whom this prince had pardoned for forgery. He died possessed of it in the 17th year of Henry VII. where it remained till Henry VIII. granted it, at the very latter end of his reign, to John Tufon, esq. of Northiam, in Sussex, whose lands were disgavelled by the acts of 2 and 3 Edward VI. who afterwards resided at Hothfield,

where he kept his shrievalty in the 3d year of queen Elizabeth. He was descended from ancestors who were originally written Toketon, and held lands in Rainham, in this county, as early as king John's

/y See Chilham before, p. 470, and more of the family of Badesmere, vol. vi. of this history, p. 471.

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reign; z one of whom was seated at Northiam, in Sussex, in king Richard the 1st's reign, at which time they were written as at present, Tufton, and they continued there till John Tufton, esq. of Northiam, before-mentioned, removed hither. He died in 1567, and was buried in this church, leaving one son John Tufton, who resided at Hothfield-place, and in July, in the 16th year of queen Elizabeth, anno 1573, entertained the queen here, in her progress through this county. In the 17th year of that reign he was sheriff, and being a person of eminent reputation and abilities, he was knighted by king James, in his 1st year, and created a baronet at the first institution of that order, on June 19, 1611. He married Olimpia, daughter and heir of Christopher Blower, esq. of Sileham, in Rainham, by whom he had three daughters; and secondly Christian, daughter and coheir of Sir Humphry Brown, a justice of the common pleas. He died in 1624, and was buried in this church, having had by her several sons and daughters. Of the former, Nicholas the eldest, succeeded him in title and estates. Sir Humphry was of Bobbing and the Mote, in Maidstone, and Sir William was of Vinters, in Boxley, both baronets, of whom further mention has already been made in the former parts of this history.

Sir Nicholas Tufton, the eldest son, was by letters patent, dated Nov. 1, anno 2 Charles I. created lord Tufton, baron of Tufton, in Sussex; and on August 5, in the 4th year of that reign, earl of the Isle of Thanet, in this county. He had four sons and nine daughters; of the former, John succeeded him in honors, and Cecil, was father of Sir Charles Tufton, of Twickenham, in Middlesex. John, the eldest son, second earl of Thanet, married in 1629 Margaret, eldest daughter and coheir of Richard, earl of

/z Among the Harleian MSS. No. 2043-42, are notes illustrating the descent of the family of Tufton, alias Toketon.

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Dorset, by his wife the lady Anne Clifford, sole daughter and heir of George, earl of Cumberland, and baroness of Clifford, Westmoreland, and Vescy, by which marriage these tithes descended afterwards to their issue. In the time of the commonwealth, after king Charles the 1st's death, he was, in 1654, appointed sheriff, and however inconsistent it might be to his rank, yet he served the office. He left six sons and six daughters, and was succeeded by Nicholas his eldest son, third earl of Thanet, who by the deaths of his mother in 1676, and of his cousin-german Alethea, then wife of Edward Hungerford, esq. who died s. p. in 1678, he became heir to her, and sole heir to his grandmother Anne, lady Clifford, and consequently to the baronies of Clifford, Westmoreland, and Vescy;

dying s. p. he was succeeded as earl of Thanet and lord Clifford, &c. by his next brother John, who, on his mother's death, succeeded likewise by her will to her large estates in Yorkshire and Westmoreland, and to the hereditary in sheriffdoms of the latter and of Cumberland likewise, for it frequently happened in these hereditary sheriffdoms that female heirs became possessed of them, and consequently were sheriffs of those districts; but this was not at all an unusual thing, there being many frequent instances of women bearing that office, as may be seen in most of the books in which any mention is made of it, some instances of which the reader may see in the dissertation on the office of sheriff, in vol. i. of this history. That part of their office which was incompatible for a woman to exercise, was always executed by a deputy, or shyre-clerk, in their name. But among the Harleian MSS. is a very remarkable note taken from Mr. Attorney-general Noys reading in Lincoln's inn, in 1632, in which, upon a point, whether the office of a justice of a forest might be executed by a woman; it was said, that Margaret, countess of Richmond, mother to king Henry VII. was a justice of peace; that the

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lady Bartlet, perhaps meant for Berkley, was also made a justice of the peace by queen Mary, in Gloucestershire; and that in Suffolk one Rowse, a woman, did usually sit upon the bench at assizes and sessions among other justices, *gladio cincta*. John, earl of Thanet, died unmarried, as did his next brother earl Richard, so that the titles devolved to Thomas Tuf-ton, who became the sixth earl of Thanet, and lord Clifford, which latter title was decreed to him by the house of peers in 1691. He left surviving issue five daughters and coheirs, the eldest of whom, Catherine, married Ed. Watson, viscount Sondes, son and heir of Lewis, earl of Rockingham; and the four others married likewise into noble families. He died at Hothfield in 1729, having by his will bequeathed several legacies to charitable purposes, especially towards the augmentation of small vicarages and curacies. He died without male issue, so that the titles of earl of Thanet and baron Tuf-ton, and of baronet, descended to his nephew Sackville Tuf-ton, eldest surviving son of his brother Sackville Tuf-ton, fifth son of John, second earl of Thanet. But the title of baroness Clifford, which included those of Westmoreland and Vescy, upon the death of Thomas, earl of Thanet, without male issue, became in abeyance between his daughters and coheirs above-mentioned, and in 1734, king George II. confirmed that barony to Margaret, his third surviving daughter and coheir, married to Thomas Coke, lord Lovel, afterwards created earl of Leicester, which title is now again in abeyance by his death s. p. Which Sackville Tuf-ton died in 1721, leaving Sackville the seventh earl of Thanet, whose eldest son of the same name succeeded him as eighth earl of Thanet, and rebuilt the present mansion of Hothfield-place, in which he afterwards resided, but being obliged to travel to Italy for his health, he died there at Nice in 1786, and was brought to England, and buried in the family vault at Rain-

ham, in this county, where his several ancestors, earls of Thanet, with their countesses, and other branches of the family, lie deposited, from the time of their first accession to that title. He married Mary, daughter of lord John Philip Sackville, sister of the present duke of Dorset, by whom he had five sons and two daughters, Elizabeth; and Caroline married to Joseph Foster Barham, esq. Of the former, Sackville, born in 1769, succeeded him in honors; Charles died unmarried; John is M. P. for Appleby; Henry is M. P. for Rochester, and William. He was succeeded by his eldest son, the present right hon. Sackville Tufton, earl of Thanet, baron Tufton, lord of the honor of Skipton, in Craven, and baronet, and hereditary sheriff of the counties of Westmoreland and Cumberland, who is the present possessor of this manor and seat, and resides here, and is at present unmarried./a

The antient arms of Tufton were, Argent, on a pale, sable, an eagle displayed of the field; which coat they continued to bear till Nicholas Tufton, the first earl of Thanet, on his obtaining that earldom, altered it to that of Sable, an eagle displayed, ermine, within a bordure, argent; which coat was confirmed by Sir William Segar, garter, in 1628, and has been borne by his descendants to the present time. The present earl of Thanet bears for his coat of arms that last-mentioned; for his crest, On a wreath, a sea lion, seiant, proper; and for his supporters, Two eagles, their wings expanded, ermine.

SWINFORT, or Swinford, which is its more proper name, is a manor in this parish, lying in the southern part of it, near the river Stour, and probably took its name from some ford in former times over it here. However that be, it had formerly proprietors, who took their name from it; but they were never of any

/a See Collins's Peer. edit. 4th, vol. iii. p. 276. and Baronies by Writ, p. 306. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 454. Vistn. co. Kent, 1619, and the MSS. pedigrees of Tufton.

eminence, nor can I discover when they became extinct here; only that in king Henry V.'s reign it was in the possession of Bridges, descended from John atte Bregg, one of those eminent persons, whose effigies, kneeling and habited in armour, was painted in the window often mentioned before, in Great Chart church; and in this family the manor of Swinford continued till the latter end of king James I.'s reign, when it passed by sale from one of them to Sir Nicholas Tufton, afterwards created earl of Thanet, whose son John, earl of Thanet, before the 20th year of that reign, exchanged it for other lands, which lay more convenient to him, with his near neighbour Nicholas Toke, esq. of Godinton, in which family and name it has continued down, in like manner as that seat, to Nicholas Roundell Toke, esq. now of Godinton, the present possessor of it. A court baron is held for this manor.

FAUSLEY, or FOUSLEY, as it is now usually called, is the last manor to be described in this parish; its more antient name was Foughleslee, or, as it was

usually pronounced, Faulesley; which name it gave to owners who in early times possessed and resided at it. John de Foughleslee, of Hothfield, was owner of it in the second year of king Richard II. and in his descendants this manor seems to have continued till about the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign, when it passed by sale to Drury; from which name, at the latter end of it, this manor was conveyed to Paris, who immediately afterwards alienated it to Bull, who soon afterwards reconveyed it back again to the same family, whence, in the next reign of king James I. it was sold to Sir Nicholas Tufton, afterwards created earl of Thanet, in whose successors, earls of Thanet, it has continued down to the right hon. Sackville, earl of Thanet, the present owner of it.

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CHARITIES.

RICHARD PARIS, by deed in 1577, gave for the use of the poor, a rent charge of 16s. per annum, out of land called Hanvilles, in this parish; the trustees of which have been long ago deceased, and no new ones appointed since.

THOMAS KIPPS, gent. of Canterbury, by will in 1680, gave for the use of the same, an annual rent charge of 1l. out of lands in Great Chart.

RICHARD MADOCKE, clothier, of this parish, by will in 1596, ordered that the 11l. which he had lent to the parishioners of Hothfield, towards the rebuilding of their church, should, when repaid, be as a stock to the poor of this parish for ever.

SIR JOHN TUFTON, knight and baronet, and NICHOLAS his son, first earl of Thanet, by their wills in 1620 and in 1630, gave certain sums of money, with which were purchased eight acres of land in the parish of Kingsnoth, of the annual produce of 10l.

DR. JOHN GRANDORGE, by deed in 1713, gave a house and land in Newington, near Hythe, of the annual produce of 7l. which premises are vested in the earl of Thanet.

THOMAS, EARL OF THANET, and SACKVILLE TUFTON, ESQ. grandfather of the present earl, by their deeds in 1720 and 1726, gave for a school-mistress to teach 24 poor children, a rent charge and a house and two gardens, in Hothfield, the produce in money 20l. The premises were vested in Sir Penyston Lambe and Dr. John Grandorge, long since deceased; since which the trust has not been renewed; and the original writings are in the earl of Thanet's possession.

Such of the above benefactions as have been contributed by the Tufton family, have been ordered by their descendants to be distributed annually by the steward of Hothfield-place for the time being, without the interference of the parish officers, to such as received no relief from this parish; the family looking upon these rather as a private munificence intended to continue under their direction.

The poor annually relieved are about twenty-five, casually as many.

HOTHFIELD is situated within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church, which is small, is dedicated to St. Mary, and consists of three isles and a chancel, having a low spire steeple, covered with shingles at the west

end, in which are five bells, and though it stands on a hill, is yet very damp. There is not any painted glass in the windows of it. On the north side in it, is a monument of curious workmanship, having the figures of a man and woman, in full proportion, lying at length on it; at three corners of it are those of two sons and one daughter, kneeling, weeping, all in white marble; round the edges is an inscription, for Sir John Tufton, knight and baronet, and Olympia his wife, daughter and heir of Christopher Blower, esq. On the monument are the arms of Tufton, with quarterings and impalements; on the sides are two inscriptions, one, that he re-edified this church after it was burnt, at his own charge, and under it made a vault for himself and his posterity, and after that he had lived eighty years, departed this life; the other enumerating his good qualities, and saying that by his will he gave perpetual legacies to this parish and that of Rainham. This monument is parted off from the north isle by a strong partition of wooden balustrades, seven feet high. The vault underneath is at most times several feet deep with water, and the few coffins which were remaining in it were some years since removed to the vaults at Rainham, where this family have been deposited ever since. On the north side of the chancel is a smaller one, formerly called St. Margaret's chapel, now shut up, and made no use of. In the south isle is a memorial for Rebecca, wife of William Henman, esq. obt. 1739, and Anna-Rebecca, their daughter, obt. 1752; arms, A lion, between three mascles, impaling a bend, cotized, enrailed. This church, which is a rectory, was always esteemed an appendage to the manor, and has passed accordingly, in like manner with it, down to the right hon. Sackville, earl of Thanet, lord of the manor of Hothfield, the present patron of it.

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 17l. 5s. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 14s. 6d.

There was a pension of ten shillings paid from it to the college of Wye. In 1588 here were communicants one hundred and ninety-three, and it was valued at eighty pounds. In 1640, communicants one hundred and ninety, and valued at only sixty pounds per annum. There is a modus of two pence an acre of the pasture lands in the parish. There are twelve acres of glebe. It is now worth about one hundred and twenty pounds per annum.

Richard Hall, of this parish, by will in 1524, ordered that his feoffees should enfeoffe certain honest persons in his house and garden here, set beside the pelery, to the intent that the yearly ferme of them should go to the maintenance of the rode-light within the church.

This church was burnt down in the reign of king James I. and was rebuilt at the sole expence of Sir John Tufton, knight and baronet, who died in 1624. His descendant Thomas, earl of Thanet, who died in 1729, gave the present altar-piece, some of the pewing, and the pulpit.

CHURCH OF HOTHFIELD.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Thomas Horsemonden, in 1680,

obt. Aug. 1607./b

Sir John Tufton, knt. and bart. John Viney, A. M. Nov. 24,
1607.

William King, obt. 1682.

Richard, earl of Thanet. Gideon Maude, A. M. Oct. 25,
1682, obt. 1721.

Thomas, earl of Thanet. John Grandorge, S. T. P. obt.
Jan. 19, 1730./c

/b Prerog. off. Cant.

/c Before rector of St. Dionis, Fen=
church-street, which he exchanged for
the donative of Upton Grey, in Hants,
and he was prebendary of Canterbury.
He lies buried in Magdalen college
chapel, Oxford, of which college he
had been fellow. See Biog. Brit. v. vi.
p. 3737.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

Sackville, earl of Thanet. John Norcross, 1730, obt. June
1773./d

Stephen Barret, A. M. Oct. 16,
1773, the present rector./e

/d Likewise vicar of Wilsborough.

/e He had been before master of Ash=
ford free grammar school, to which he
was a good benefactor.

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THE TOWN AND PARISH OF ASHFORD

LIES the next adjoining to Hothfield eastward.

It is called in Domesday both Estefort and Essetesford,
and in other antient records, Esshetisford, taking its
name from the river, which runs close to it, which,
Lambarde says, ought not to be called the Stour, till
it has passed this town, but Esshe or Eschet, a name
which has been for a great length of time wholly for=
gotten; this river being known, even from its first
rise at Lenham hither, by the name of the Stour only.

A small part only of this parish, on the east, south
and west sides of it, containing the borough of Hen=
wood, alias Hewit, lying on the eastern or further
side of the river from the town, part of which extends
into the parish of Wilsborough, and the whole of it
within the liberty of the manor of Wye, and the bo=
rough of Rudlow, which adjoins to Kingsnoth and
Great Chart, are in this hundred of Chart and Long=
bridge; such part of the borough of Rudlow as lies
adjoining to Kingsnoth, is said to lie in in jugo de Bea=
vor, or the yoke of Beavor, and is divided from the
town and liberty by the river, near a place called Poll=
bay; in which yoke there is both a hamlet and a
green or common, of the name of Beavor; the remain=
der of the parish having been long separated from it,
and made a distinct liberty, or jurisdiction of itself,

having a constable of its own, and distinguished by the name of the liberty of the town of Ashford.

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ASHFORD, at the time of taking the general survey of Domesday, was part of the possessions of Hugo de Montfort, who had accompanied the Conqueror hither, and was afterwards rewarded with this estate, among many others in different counties; in which record it is thus entered, under the general title of his lands:

Maigno holds of Hugo (de Montfort) Estefort. Turgisus held it of earl Godwin, and it is taxed at one suling. The arable land is half a carucate. There is nevertheless in demesne one carucate, and two villeins having one carucate. There are two servants, and eight acres of meadow. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth twenty five shillings; when he received it, twenty shillings; now thirty shilling.

The same Hugo holds Essela. Three tenants held it of king Edward, and could go whither they would with their lands. It was taxed at three yokes. The arable land is one carucate and an half. There are now four villeins, with two borderers having one carucate, and six acres of meadow. The whole, in the reign of king Edward the Confessor, was worth twenty shillings, and afterwards fifteen shillings, now twenty shillings.

Maigno held another Essetisford of the same Hugo. Wirelm held it of king Edward. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is four carucates. In demesne there are two, and two villeins, with fifteen borderers having three carucates. There is a church, and a priest, and three servants, and two mills of ten shillings and two pence. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth seventy shillings, and afterwards sixty shillings, now one hundred shillings.

Robert de Montfort, grandson of Hugh above-mentioned, favouring the title of Robert Curthose, in opposition to king Henry I. to avoid being called in question upon that account, obtained leave to go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, leaving his possessions to the king; by which means this manor came into

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the hands of the crown. Soon after which it seems to have come into the possession of a family, who took their name from it. William de Asshetesford appears by the register of Horton priory to have been lord of it, and to have been succeeded by another of the same name. After which the family of Criol became owners of it, by whom it was held by knight's service of the king, in capite, by ward to Dover castle, and the repair of a tower in that castle, called the Ashford tower. Simon de Criol, in the 27th and 28th year of Henry III. obtained a charter of free warren for this manor, whose son William de Criol passed it away to Roger de Leyborne, for Stocton, in Huntingdonshire, and Rumford, in Essex. William de Leyborne his son, in the 7th year of king Edward I. claimed and was allowed the privilege of a market here, before the justices itinerant. He died possessed of this manor in the 3d year of Edward II. leaving

his grand-daughter Juliana, daughter of Thomas de Leyborne, who died in his father's life-time, heir both to her grandfather and father's possessions, from the greatness of which she was stiled the Infanta of Kent,^{/g} though thrice married, yet she died s. p. by either of her husbands, all of whom she survived, and died in the 41st year of Edward III. Upon which this manor, among the rest of her estates, escheated to the crown, and continued there till king Richard II. vested it, among others, in feoffees, for the performance of certain religious bequests by the will of king Edward III. then lately deceased; and they, in compliance with it, soon afterwards, with the king's licence, purchased this manor, with those of Wall, and Esture, of the crown, towards the endowment of St. Stephen's chapel, in the king's palace of Westminster, all which was confirmed by king Henry IV. and VI.

^{/f} See Libr. Rub. in Scacc. f. 195, 197.

^{/g} See more of the Leybornes, vol. iv. of this history, p. 498.

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and by king Edward IV. in their first years; the latter of whom, in his 7th year, granted to them a fair in this town yearly, on the feast of St. John Port Latin, together with all liberties, and to have a steward to hold the court of it, &c. In which situation they continued till the 1st year of Edward VI. when this collegiate chapel was, with all its possessions, surrendered into the king's hands, where these manors did not continue long; for that king, in his 3d year, granted the manor of Esshetford, with that of Wall, and the manor of Esture, to Sir Anthony Aucher, of Otterden, to hold in capite; and he, in the 2d and 3d of Philip and Mary, sold them to Sir Andrew Judde, of London, whose daughter and at length heir Alice, afterwards carried them in marriage to Thomas Smith, esq. of Westenhanger, commonly called the Customer, who died possessed of them in 1591, and lies buried in the south cross of this church, having had several sons and daughters, of whom Sir John Smythe, of Ostenhanger, the eldest, succeeded him here, and was sheriff anno 42 Elizabeth. Sir Thomas Smith, the second son, was of Bidborough and Sutton at Hone, and ambassador to Russia, of whom and his descendants, notice has been taken in the former volumes of this history;^{/h} and Henry, the third son, was of Corsham, in Wiltshire, whence this family originally descended, and Sir Richard Smith, the fourth, was of Leeds castle. Sir John Smythe, above-mentioned, died in 1609, and lies buried in the same vault as his father in this church, leaving one son Sir Thomas Smythe, of Westenhanger, K. B. who was in 1628 created Viscount Strangford, of Ireland, whose grandson Philip, viscount Strangford, dying about 1709, Henry Roper, lord Teynham, who had married Catherine his eldest daughter, by his will, became possessed of the manors of Ashford, Wall, and Esture.

^{/h} See vol. ii. p. 349, and vol. v. of this history, p. 274.

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By her, who died in 1711, he had two sons, Philip and Henry, successively lords Teynham; notwith=

standing which, having the uncontrolled power in these manors vested in him, he, on his marriage with Anne, second daughter and coheir of Thomas Lennard, earl of Sussex, and widow of Richard Barrett Lennard, esq. afterwards baroness Dacre, settled them on her and her issue by him in tail male. He died in 1623, and left her surviving, and possessed of these manors for her life. She afterwards married the hon. Robert Moore, and died in 1755. She had by lord Teynham two sons, Charles and Richard-Henry,^{/i} Charles Roper, the eldest son, died in 1754 intestate, leaving two sons, Trevor-Charles and Henry, who on their mother's death became entitled to these manors, as coheirs in gavelkind, a recovery having been suffered of them, limiting them after her death to Charles Roper their father, in tail male; but being infants, and there being many incumbrances on these estates, a bill was exhibited in chancery, and an act procured anno 29 George II. for the sale of them; and accordingly these manors were sold, under the direction of that court, in 1765, to the Rev. Francis Hender Foote, of Bishopsborne, who in 1768 parted with the manor of Wall, alias Court at Wall, to John Toke, esq. of Great Chart, whose son Nicholas-Roundell Toke, is the present possessor of it; but he died possessed of the manors of Ashford and Esture in 1773, and was succeeded in them by his eldest son John Foote, esq. now of Bishopsborne, the present owner of them. There are several copyhold lands held of the manor of Ashford. A court leet and court baron is regularly held for it.

BUT THE FARM OR DEMESNE LANDS of the manor of Esture, or Eastover, was many years ago alienated by one of the Smythes, viscounts Strangford, and

^{/i} See vol. vi. of this history, p. 300.

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has been from that time in the possession of separate owners from those of Ashford manor. It is now the property of the heirs of Mr. Rooke, late an officer in the East-India company's service.

THE MANORS OF GREAT AND LITTLE REPTON, called in Domesday, Rapentone, were formerly part of the possessions belonging to St. Augustine's monastery, and are accordingly thus entered in that survey, under the general title of the abbot's lands:

The abbot himself holds one yoke, Rapentone, and Answered of him, and it was taxed at one yoke. The arable land is two carucates. In demesne there is one, with four borderers. There are eleven acres of meadow, and the fourth part of a mill, of fifteen pence, and wood for the pannage of ten hogs, and as yet there are two yokes, which the abbot gave to it of his demesne, and there are two villeins, with eight borderers. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth three pounds, now four pounds.

Of the abbot, the manor of Rapentone, or Repton as it was afterwards called, and since split into two manors, called Great and Little Repton, was held by knight's service by the family of Valoigns, who made this mansion of Repton one of their seats of residence;

for at times they resided both at Tremworth in Crundal, and Swerdling in Petham. Ruellon de Valoigns held these manors at the latter end of king Stephen's reign, of the abbot, by knight's service, and resided at times at Repton, as did his descendants, several of whom served the office of sheriff, and were knights in parliament for this county, and in the south window of the cross isle of this church, was once the figure of one of this family, habited in his surcoat of arms, Argent, three pales, wavy, gules, with his spurs on, kneeling at an altar; and opposite to him, in the same attitude, two women, in their surcoats of arms likewise, on the first those of Haut, and on the second, Fogge. Henry de Valoyns possessed these manors in

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the reign of king Edward III. in the 14th year of which he had a charter of free-warren for his lands and manors in this county. His descendant Waretius de Valoyns left by his wife, daughter and coheir of Robert de Hougham, two daughters his coheirs, one of whom married Thomas de Aldon, and the other, Sir Francis Fogge, and on the partition of their inheritance, these manors were allotted to the latter, in right of his wife. This family was originally of Lancashire, from whence Otho Fogge came into this county in the beginning of king Edward I.'s reign, and was grandfather of Sir Francis Fogge, who became possessed of Repton as above-mentioned, which his descendants, whose possessions afterwards spread widely over the eastern parts of this county, made their future residence, bearing for their arms, Argent, on a fess, between three annulets, sable, three mullets, pierced of the first, which coat is carved in stone on the porch of Ashford church, on the roof of the cloysters at Canterbury, and in several windows of the cathedral there.^{/k} He died possessed of these manors, and lies buried in Cheriton church, having had his figure, habited in armour, lying cross-legged on his tomb, with his arms on his surcoat, impaling those of Valoyns. His descendant Sir John Fogge, resided at Repton-house in the reign of king Edward IV. with whom he was in great esteem, being comptroller and treasurer of his household, and a privy councillor. He was several times sheriff of this county, and served as knight for it in parliament. But his attachment to that king brought on an attainder in the 3d year of king Richard III. and the forfeiture of his lands, though king Richard gave him his royal word for the protection of his person; and

^{/k} There is a pedigree of this family in the Heraldic Visitations of Kent, of the years 1574 and 1663, in a MSS. in the Heralds office, marked D. 18, and among the Harleian MSS. No. 1548 and 1104.

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he lived to be restored, by a reversal of the above act on the accession of king Henry VII. He died in the 6th year of that reign, anno 1490, and was buried in this church under a handsome tomb; and his figure, among those of other great personages, kneeling, with his surcoat of arms, on which were those of Fogge, quar-

tered with Valoyns, was formerly in one of the windows of it, having rebuilt the church in his life-time. He founded a college in it, and became still a further benefactor to it by his will, which is in the Prerogative-office, Canterbury, in which he mentions his chapel at his seat of Repton, and much of the costly ornaments and furniture in it; and in his descendants these manors of Great and Little Repton continued down to Sir John Fogge, of Repton, who, on the dissolution of the college of Wye, in the 36th year of king Henry VIII. had a grant of THE MANOR OF LICKTOPP, in this parish likewise, which had been part of the possessions of it, and then, by reason of the dissolution of that college, in the hands of the crown. In the 31st year of that reign he procured his lands to be disgavelled, and being afterwards knighted, kept his shrievalty here in the 36th year of it, and dying in 1564, anno 7 Elizabeth, was buried with his ancestors in this church, being succeeded in these manors by his only son and heir Edward Fogg, esq. who dying s. p. in the 20th year of that reign, they came, by the entail of it made in his father's will, to his uncle, next brother to his father, George Fogg, esq. of Braborne, who soon afterwards sold them to Sir Michael Sondes, of Throwley, and he conveyed them to John Tufton, esq. of Hothfield, afterwards knight and baronet, whose son Nicholas was created Earl of Thanet anno 4 king Charles I. and in his descendants, earls of Thanet, these manors of Great and Little Repton and Licktopp have continued down to the right hon. Sackville, earl of Thanet, the present possessor of them.

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A court baron is held for the manor of Great Repton, and another likewise for that of Licktopp.

The manor court of Repton is first called on at a great stone, north westward, in the road from Ashford to Potters corner, from whence it is adjourned to Repton-house, which is situated on the west side of that road, at one field's distance from it, and somewhat more than half a mile from the town of Ashford. There was formerly a park here, which was in being when Lambard wrote his Perambulation, in 1570. The lands of it are still called the Old Park, and with the adjoining warren, lie on the northern or opposite side of the above-mentioned road from Repton-house. Great part of this mansion, in which Sir John Fogge dwelt temp. Edward IV. is remaining.

THE TOWN OF ASHFORD stands most pleasant and healthy, on the knoll of a hill, of a gentle ascent on every side, the high road from Hythe to Maidstone passing through it, from which, in the middle of the town, the high road branches off through a pleasant country towards Canterbury. The houses are mostly modern and well-built, and the high-street, which has been lately new paved, is of considerable width. The market-house stands in the centre of it, and the church and school on the south side of it, the beautiful tower of the former being a conspicuous object to the adjoining country. It is a small, but neat and chearful town, and many of the inhabitants of a genteel rank in life. Near the market place, is the house of the late Dr. Isaac Rutton, a physician of long and extensive practice in

these parts, being the eldest son of Matthias Rutton, gent. of this town, by Sarah his wife, daughter of Sir N. Toke, of Godinton. He died in 1792, bearing for his arms, Parted per fess, azure, and or, three unicorns heads, couped at the neck, counterchanged; since which, his eldest son, Jsaac Rutton, esq. now of Ospringe-place, has sold this house to Mr. John Basil Duckworth, in whom it is now vested. In the midst of

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it is a large handsome house, built in 1759, by John Mascall, gent. who resided in it, and died possessed of it in 1769, and was buried in Boughton Aluph church, bearing for his arms, Barry of two, or, and azure, three inescutcheons, ermine; and his only son, Robert Mascall, esq. now of Ashford, who married the daughter of Jeremiah Curteis, esq. is the present owner, and resides in it. At the east end of the town is a seat, called Brooke-place, formerly possessed by the family of Woodward, who were always stiled, in antient deeds, gentlemen, and bore for their arms, Argent, a chevron, sable, between three grasshoppers, or; the last of them, Mr. John Woodward, gent. rebuilt this seat, and died possessed of it in 1757; of whose heirs it was purchased by Martha, widow of Moyle Breton, esq. of Kennington, whose two sons, the Rev. Moyle Breton, and Mr. Whitfield Breton, gent. alienated it to Josias Pattenson, esq. the second son of Mr. Josias Pattenson, of Biddenden, by Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Felix Kadwell, esq. of Rolvenden; he married Mary, daughter of Mr. Henry Dering, gent. of this parish, and widow of Mr. John Mascall above-mentioned, by whom he has no issue, and he is the present owner of this seat, and resides in it. There have been barracks erected lately here, which at present contain 4000 soldiers. The market is held on a Saturday weekly, for the sale of corn, which is now but little used; and a market for the sale of all sorts of fat and lean stock on the first and third Tuesday in every month, which has been of great use to prevent monopolies. Two fairs are annually held now, by the alteration of the stile, on May 17, and Sept. 9, and another on Oct. 24; besides which, there is an annual fair for wool on August 2, not many years since instituted and encouraged by the principal gentry and landholders, which promises to prove of the greatest utility and benefit to the fair sale of it. That branch of the river Stour which rises at Lenham, runs along the southern part of this parish,

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and having turned a corn mill belonging to the lord of this manor, continues its course close at the east end of the town, where there is a stone bridge of four arches, repaired at the expence of the county, and so on northwards towards Wye and Canterbury. On the south side of the river in this parish, next to Kingsnoth, within the borough of Rudlow, is the yoke of Beavor, with the hamlet and farm of that name, possessed in very early times, as appears by the register of Horton priory, by a family of that name, one of whom, John Beavor, was possessed of it in the reign of Henry II. and was descended from one of the same surname, who attended the Conqueror in his expedition hither. The

parish contains about 2000 acres of land, and three hundred and twenty houses, the whole rental of it being 4000*l.* per annum; the inhabitants are 2000, of which about one hundred are dissenters. The highways throughout it, which not many years ago were exceeding bad, have been by the unanimity of the inhabitants, which has shewn itself remarkable in all their public improvements, a rare instance in parochial undertakings, and by the great attention to the repairs of them, especially in such parts as were near their own houses, are now excellent. The lands round it are much upon a gravelly soil, though towards the east and south there are some rich fertile pastures, intermixed with arable land, and several plantations of hops; but toward the west, the soil is in general sand, having much quarrystone mixed with it, where there is a great deal of copice wood, quite to Potter's corner, at the boundary of this parish.

At the latter end of the summer of the year 1625, the plague raged dreadfully in this town and neighbourhood, insomuch, that the justices of the peace, finding the inhabitants unable to support and relieve the sick who were poor and in necessity, taxed this and the neighbouring hundreds for that purpose, according to the directions of the privy council; lest, as was said,

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the sick should be forced, for the succour of their lives, to break forth of the towne, to the great danger of the country.

The family of Osborne, of which his grace Thomas Osborne, duke of Leeds, is descended, was of this town; Richard Osborne, esq. of Ashford, being father of Sir Edward Osborne, cloth-worker, lord-mayor of London in the 25th year of queen Elizabeth, the duke's direct ancestor.

Robert Glover, esq. Somerset herald, a laborious antiquary, son of Thomas Glover, gent. of this town, was born here. He died in 1588, and was buried in Criplegate church, in London.

King William III. in 1696, created Arnold Joost Van Keppel, baron Ashford, of Ashford, in Kent, viscount Bury, in Lancashire, and earl of Albermarle, in Normandy, whose great-grandson William-Charles now enjoys the titles.

CHARITIES.

SIR JOHN FOGGE, of this parish, who died in 1490, gave to the use of the poor, three acres and two roads of land, near Barrow-hill, in this parish, now vested in trustees, the annual produce of which is 4*l.* 10*s.* per annum; and three roads of land, now the work-house garden, vested in like manner, the trustees being Isaac Rutton and Edward Norwood, esqrs. And likewise a tenement in Marsh-lane, in Ashford, called the Bridwell, inhabited by such poor as have no parish relief, and now vested in the churchwardens and overseers.

In the return made to parliament anno 1786, by the officers of this parish, of the charities given to it, these donations are said to have been made for the above purposes, by the will of Sir John Fogge, in 1490; but this must be a mistake, for in his will, proved that year, there is no mention of such donations in it. But I think it very probable, that this tenement and the lands above-mentioned, were those left by Sir John

Fogge, towards the perpetual repair of the church, as may be further seen hereafter.

THOMAS MILLES, ESQ. of Davington, (descended from Richard Milles, of this parish, by Joane, sister of Robert Glover, Somerset herald) by his will in 1627, gave to the churchwardens 200l. for the use and relief of the poor, to be employed as a stock for their maintenance, to set them to work, and to re=

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main in perpetuity for that purpose for ever. With this money, and 20l. more from the interest of it, a house and 21 acres of land in Hinxhill, were purchased, and vested in trustees, being now of the annual produce of 14l.

MARTHA COPLEY, widow, by her will in 1663, gave to be distributed yearly on June 3, to ten poor householders of this parish, after a sermon on the same day, 10s. per annum, out of a tenement now in the possession of John Austen, vested in the churchwardens and overseers.

THOMAS TURNER, D. D. president of Corpus Christi college, in Oxford, by indenture in 1702, gave a barn and 14 pieces of land, containing 60 acres, for putting to school some poor children of this parish, and placing out one of them an apprentice yearly; which premises are now vested in trustees, and are of the annual produce of 24l. 10s.

WILLIAM BRETT, gent. gave by will in 1704, 20s. to be annually paid out of land called Pellicars, towards the clothing of the poor.

There has been a parish workhouse erected with workshops, storehouses, a large yard, with every necessary implement for the carrying on a complete manufactory on an excellent plan, for the bleaching of Irish linen, a process lately established here, in which about sixty poor persons are employed, who earn on an average about 1s. a week, or 160l. per annum.

The poor constantly relieved are about eighty four, casually sixty-six.

SIR NORTON KNATCHBULL, in the reign of king Charles I. began the foundation of A FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL in the town of Ashford, and for that purpose erected a school-house adjoining the church-yard, and having appointed a master, he allowed him a salary of thirty pounds per annum, which, by a proviso in his will in 1636, he ordered his executor, his heirs and assigns should yearly pay for ever, to the master of the free school by him founded in Ashford, for the good of the town, out of all those his lands in Newchurch, containing thirty acres. This endowment, with several other necessary regulations, were afterwards confirmed by deed by his executor, who was his nephew and heir, Norton Knatchbull, esq. afterwards knighted and created a baronet. The schoolmaster is appointed by the Knatchbull family, and must be always a master of arts at least, of one of the universities.

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This school acquired a very high reputation some few years ago, under the care of the Rev. Mr. Barrett, master of it, now rector of Hothfield; most of the sons of the neighbouring gentry having received their early part of education at it under him. He resigned in 1773, having been a good benefactor to it, and was succeeded by the Rev. Charles Stoddart, A. M. the present master. Besides the above school, there is an

exceeding good English academy kept by Mr. Alderson, one for teaching writing to the poor children of the town, and a boarding-school for young ladies.

ASHFORD is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a large handsome building, consisting of three isles, with a transept, and three chancels, with the tower in the middle, which is lofty and well proportioned, having four pinnacles at the top of it. There are eight bells in it, a set of chimes, and a clock. In the high chancel, on the north side, is the handsome tomb of Sir John Fogge, the founder of the college here, who died in 1490, and his two wives, the brasses of their figures gone; but part of the inscription remains. And formerly, in Weever's time, there hung up in this chancel six achievements, of those of this family whose burials had been attended by the heralds at arms, and with other ceremonies suitable to their degrees. Underneath the chancel is a large vault, full of the remains of the family. On the pavement in the middle, is a very antient curious gravestone, having on it the figure in brass of a woman, holding in her left hand a banner, with the arms of Ferrers, Six mascles, three and three, in pale; which, with a small part of the inscription round the edge, is all that is remaining; but there was formerly in brass, in her right hand, another banner, with the arms of Valoyns; over her head those of France and England quarterly; and under her feet a

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shield, being a cross, impaling three chevronels, the whole within a bordure, guttee de sang, and round the edge this inscription, Ici gist Elisabeth Comite D'athels la file sign de Ferrers . . . dieu asoil. qe morust le 22 jour d'octob. l'an de grace MCCCLXXV. Weever says, she was wife to David de Strabolgie, the fourth of that name, earl of Athol, in Scotland, and daughter of Henry, lord Ferrers, of Groby; and being secondly married to John Malmayns, of this county, died here in this town. Though by a pedigree of the family of Brograve, she is said to marry T. Fogge, esq. of Ashford; if so, he might perhaps have been her third husband. Near her is a memorial for William Whitfield, gent. obt. 1739. The north chancel belonged to Rep-ton manor. In the vault underneath lay three of the family of Tufton, sometime since removed to Rainham, and it has been granted to the Husseys; Thomas Hussey, esq. of this town, died in 1779, and was buried in it. In the south chancel are memorials for the Patensons, Whitfields, and Apsleys, of this place; and one for Henry Dering, gent. of Shelve, obt. 1752, and Hester his wife; arms, A saltier, a crescent for difference, impaling, on a chevron, between three pheons, three crosses, formee; and another memorial for Thomasine, wife of John Handfield, obt. 1704. In the north cross are several antient stones, their brasses all gone, excepting a shield, with the arms of Fogge on one. At the end is a monument for John Norwood, gent. and Mary his wife, of this town, who lie with their children in the vault underneath. The south cross is parted off lengthways, for the family of Smith, lords of Ashford manor,

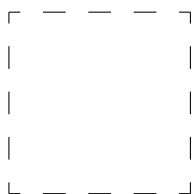
who lie in a vault underneath. In it are three superb monuments, which, not many years since, were beautified and restored to their original state, by the late chief baron Smythe, a descendant of this family. One is for Thomas Smith, esq. of Westenhanger, in 1591; the second for Sir John Smythe, of Ostenhanger, his

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son, and Elizabeth his wife; and the third for Sir Richard Smyth, of Leeds castle, in 1628: all which have been already mentioned before. Their figures, at full length and proportion, are lying on, each of them, with their several coats of arms and quarterings blazoned. In the other part of this cross, is a memorial for Baptist Pigott, A. M. son of Baptist Pigott, of Dartford, and schoolmaster here, obt. 1657, and at the end of it, is the archbishop's consistory court. In the south isle is a memorial for Thomas Curteis, gent. obt. 1718, and Elizabeth his wife; arms, Curteis impaling Carter. Under the tower is one for Samuel Warren, vicar here forty-eight years, obt. 1720. The three isles were new pewed and handsomely paved in 1745. There are five galleries, and an handsome branch for candles in the middle isle; the whole kept in an excellent state of repair and neatness. There was formerly much curious painted glass in the windows, particularly the figures of one of the family of Valoyns, his two wives and children, with their arms. In the south window of the cross isle, and in other windows, the figures, kneeling, of king Edward III. the black prince, Richard, duke of Gloucester, the lord Hastings, Sir William Haute, the lord Scales, Richard, earl Rivers, and the dutchess of Bedford his wife, Sir John Fogge, Sir John Peche, Richard Horne, Roger Manstone, and — Guildford, most of which were in the great west window, each habited in their surcoats of arms, not the least traces of which, or of any other coloured glass, are remaining throughout this church. Sir John Goldstone, parson of Ivechurch, as appears by his will in 1503, was buried in the choir of this church, and gave several costly ornaments and vestments for the use of it.

In the Philosophical Transactions, No 474, mention is made of a date, cut in Arabian figures, on a beam running from the north-east corner of the steeple, expressed as follows:

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which some have supposed to mean the year 1295, but it is certainly of a much later time, though probably earlier than the repair of the church by Sir John Fogge. On the outside of the church, on the point of the arch over the west door, is a shield of arms, being a lion, rampant, double tailed; on the south side, those of Leeds abbey; and on the north, oblit. impaling a chevron. On the north porch are two shields; one, three quaterfoils;

the other, the arms of Fogge.

This church was re-edified, as has been already noticed before, by Sir John Fogge, in the reign of king Edward IV. who built the present beautiful and costly tower of it from the ground, and out of gratitude for the favours he had received from that king, founded, with his licence, a college, or choir, to consist of one master or prebendary, as head, being the vicar of this church for the time being, two chaplains, and two secular clerks, to celebrate divine service in it, according to the ordinances and statutes made by him for the welfare of the king, George, archbishop of Yorke, and Sir John Fog and Alicia his wife, during their lives, and afterwards for the souls of them and some others of the king's liege subjects of this county, lately slain at several battles in defences of his right and title. And Sir John gave them books, jewels, and other ornaments, and obtained of the king an endowment of lands sufficient for their support in this county, and those of Essex and Sussex. All which were confirmed by the king in his 7th year, to the vicar of Ashford, Thomas Wilmote, and his successors, in pure and perpetual alms, for the purposes above-mentioned./l

/l See Morant's Essex, vol. i. p. 220.

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king dying before the whole of this foundation was legally completed, and Sir John Fogge being in the next reign of king Richard III. attainted, nothing further was done towards it; so that having no common seal, the members were removeable at pleasure; though on the death of William Sutton, who succeeded Wilmote before-mentioned, as vicar of Ashford and second master of this college, in the 12th year of Henry VII. Hugh Hope, the next vicar, succeeded him in the mastership of it, of which he appears to have been possessed in 1503. Not long after which there seems to have been a dissolution of it, and it is not unlikely that John Poynt, the succeeding vicar, who was likewise bishop of Rochester, and held this vicarage in commendam, might surrender it, and the lands with which it was endowed, into the hands of the crown; and I find no further mention whatever made of it. Sir John Fogge, the founder, by his will, took care towards the repair of this church, for which he had intended and done so much, by devising a legacy in trust for that purpose, being a tenement and lands in Asshetisford, which he had purchased, to four the most trustiest and discrete dwellers in the parish, to the entent, that the hoole revenues be paid yerely to the wardens of the church, to be applied by them in the reparacion of it; and that where two of the said four dwellers decease, that the other two make good state of the same to four other like dwellers, that the same might continue for evermore.

William de Sodington, rector of this church, had licence anno 17 Edward III. to found a perpetual chantry in the chapel of St. Mary, in this church; which he endowed with lands lying in this parish, Kennington, Wilsborough, and Charing./m It was suppressed, with others of the like kind, in the 1st year of Edward VI.

/m Pat. anno 17 Edward III. p. 2, m. 37. Tan. Mon. p. 228.

The church of Ashford was once part of the possessions of the priory of Horton, having been given at the first foundation of that priory, by Robert de Ver, constable of England, and Adeleia his wife; which gift king Stephen confirmed to it, as did Henry de Essex, constable of England, likewise in the reign of king Henry II. How long this church remained with the priory of Horton, I have not found; but in the reign of king Edward III. it was become part of the possessions of the priory of Ledes, to which it was appropriated in the 48th year of that reign. In which state it remained till the dissolution of that priory in the reign of king Henry VIII. when this parsonage appropriate, together with the advowson of the vicarage, came into the hands of the crown, and the king settled them in his 32d year, on his new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, part of whose inheritance they remain at this time.

The parsonage is demised by the dean and chapter, on a beneficial lease, to the Rev. Francis Whitfield, vicar of Godmersham, and in 1649, with the tithes, barn, and twenty-four acres of glebe, was valued at seventy-two pounds per annum; but the advowson of the vicarage they retain in their own hands.

This vicarage is valued in the king's books at 18l. 4s. 2d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 16s. 5d.

In 1640 it was valued at one hundred pounds. Communicants six hundred and thirty. In 1649 it was valued at only fifty pounds.

CHURCH OF ASHFORD.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Dean and Chapter of Rochester Thomas Poulter, A. M. Nov. 19, 1594, obt. 1602.

John Wallis, A. M. April 9, 1602, obt. Nov. 30, 1622./n

/n He was father of the famous Dr. Wallis, who was born here.

PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Dean and Chapter of Rochester Edmund Hayes, A. M. Dec. 20, 1622, obt. 1638.

Walter Balcanquall, S. T. P.

dean of Rochester. John Maccuby, A. M. Sept. 29, 1638.

Nicholas Sprigg, ejected 1662./o

Dean and Chapter of Rochester Richard Whitlock, LL. B. Sept. 13, 1662, obt. 1667./p

Thomas Rysden, A. M. April 5, 1667, obt. 1673.

Samuel Warren, A. B. Oct. 16, 1673, obt. March 16, 1721./q

John Clough, August 29, 1721, obt. Dec. 1764./r

Charles Colcall, A. M. May 11, 1765, resigned 1765./s

James Andrew, A. M. Dec. 13, 1765, resigned 1774./t

James Bond, A. M. 1774, the

present vicar./u

/o Kennet's Chron. Calamy's Life of Baxter, p. 330

/p Walker's Suff. of Clergy, pt. ii. p. 399.

/q Buried in this church, under the steeple, æt. 84.

/r In 1728 he was presented to the rectory of Monks Horton, which he held with this vicarage by dispensation.

/s And prebendary of Rochester. He resigned this for the vicarage of Aylesford, as he did that in 1782 for the rectory of Kingsdown, near Wrotham; each of which he held by dispensation, with the vicarage of Ashburnham, in Sussex.

/t He was prebendary of Rochester, and in 1766 created S. T. P. by the university of Oxford.

/u In 1786 he was collated to the perpetual curacy of Bilsington.

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KENNINGTON

IS the adjoining parish, northward from Ashford, and was so called, most probably, from its having anciently belonged to some of the Saxon kings during the heptarchy. Kennington, or as it was written in Saxon, Cining-tune, signifying in that language, the king's town; and there is at this time a small street of houses northward of the village of Kennington, called King-street.

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THE PARISH is situated in a healthy country, being for the most part a gravelly, though not an unfertile soil, not much more than a mile from Ashford, close to the west side of the high road from Canterbury, which is joined by that from Faversham, which runs along the opposite side of the parish, and joins the former a little beyond Burton. It is watered by two small streams which rise northward of it, the one at Sandyhurst, the other near Eastwell park; the former running by Bybrooke, where it is called Bacon's water, and the other at the opposite part of the parish by Clipmill and Frogbrook, near Wilsborough leas, into the river Stour, which flows along the eastern side of the parish. The village is situated on rising ground, at a small distance from the Canterbury road, with the church at the further end of it, close to the edge of the leas, or heath, called Kennington leas. The places of note in this parish, are situated near the last-mentioned road; besides which, there is near Kennington-house, a small neat box, built by the late Geo. Carter, esq. of this parish, and given by him to his daughter Mary, who married the Rev. John Clotworthy Skeffington. She died s. p. and her two sisters, Mary and Anne Carter, now possess it; and at the further part of the parish, beyond Clipmill, on the same road, is a large handsome seat, built by Mr. Carter above-mentioned, for his own

residence, on an estate which he bought for this purpose of the family of Brett, who had resided here for some generations. He was the second son of George Carter, of Smarden, son of James, of Wilsborough, a younger son of George Carter, gent. of Crundal, whose family has already been mentioned before under that place. He died here in 1782, and his only son the Rev. George Carter is the present possessor of this seat, and resides in it.

There is a fair held here for pedlary, toys, &c. on the 5th of July yearly.

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THIS PLACE was given in the year 1045, being the 4th of king Edward the Confessor, to the abbey of St. Augustine, near Canterbury, the manor of it being afterwards called, from the low situation of the court-lodge of it near the river, THE MANOR OF CONINGBROOKE, alias KENNINGTON. Although there is no mention of this manor among the lands and possessions of that abbey, in the general survey of Domesday, yet it had afterwards, as appears by the registers of it, and other records, several privileges and immunities granted to it by the different succeeding kings, the first of which that I meet with is of king Henry III. who in his 54th year granted to the abbot and convent free warren in all their demesne lands in Kennington; and on a quo warranto brought against the abbot in the 21st year of the next reign of king Edward I to shew his right to the privileges of a manor here, he was allowed them, when the abbot made it appear to the jury, that Coningbrooke and Kenyngton were one and the same place. In the 6th year of king Edward II. the abbot had another charter of free warren within his manor here, and next year being summoned by another quo warranto, to shew his right to other liberties, he was allowed them before the justices itinerant; and king Edward III. by his charter of inspeximus, in his 36th year, confirmed the same, among the rest of their other manors and possessions; and Henry VI. likewise confirmed their several liberties here, and in particular free warren in their demesne lands of this manor; which, together with the rectory and advowson of the vicarage of Kennington, remained part of the possessions of the monastery till its final dissolution, in the 30th year of king Henry VIII. when it was, with all its revenues, surrendered into the king's hands, who, in his 36th year, granted the capital messuage of Kennington, the

/w See these liberties particularly mentioned, in Dec. Script. col. 2134.

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manor of Kennington, alias Coningsbrooke, with the rectory and advowson to Sir Anthony St. Leger, and his heirs male, to hold in capite by knight's service; and king Edward VI. in his 4th year, made a new grant of them, to hold to him and his heirs by the like service./x Immediately after which, most probably by exchange, they became again vested in the crown; for that king the same year, granted them to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, afterwards created duke of Northumberland, on whose attainder for high treason

in the 1st year of queen Mary's reign, anno 1553, which attainder was confirmed by act of parliament the same year, this estate, among the duke's other possessions, came into the hands of the crown, where it seems to have remained till king Charles I. in his 4th year, granted this manor of Kennington, alias Conyngbroke, to Edward Ditchfield and others, in trust for Sir Thomas Finch, knight and baronet, of Eastwell, who, on the death of his mother in 1633, succeeded to the titles of viscount Maidstone and earl of Winchelsea, and in his descendants this manor continued down to Daniel, earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, who at his death in 1769 devised it by will to his nephew George Finch Hatton, esq. now of Eastwell, the present possessor of it. A court baron is regularly held for this manor.

BYBROOKE is an antient seat, in the southern part of this parish, which, as appears by very old evidences, was the patrimony of a family named Gawin, who resided here in the reigns of Henry III. and Edward I. the last of whom mentioned in the public records to have been possessed of it was, William Gawin, or Godwin as he is sometimes written, who died in the 32d year of king Edward III. After which it came into the

/x Rot Esch. ejus an. pt. 6. at the yearly rent of 16l. 5s. 5½d.

/y Rolls of particulars for sale of fee-farm rents, temp. interregni, rot. 60, No. 178.

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possession of the family of Belknap; but Sir Robert Belknap, chief justice of the common pleas, being attainted in the 11th year of king Richard II. this, among the rest of his estates, became forfeited to the crown, where it did not remain long, for that king, in his 13th year, granted it to William Ellys, esq. of Burton, in this parish, and one of the justices of the peace at that time for this county; but Bibrooke did not continue long in this name, for in the beginning of king Henry VI.'s reign, it had been by purchase conveyed to Shelley, by whose heir-general it devolved, in the time of Edward IV. to May; from whom it was, not long afterwards, alienated to Tilden, where it remained till the beginning of the reign of queen Elizabeth, when it was sold to Richard Best, who bore for his arms, Sable, a cinquefoil, between eight cross-crosets, or, and rebuilt this mansion, the ruins of which still remain; but his son John Best, afterwards of Allington castle, alienated this seat to Sir William Hall, who resided here, and was succeeded in it by his eldest son Nevil Hall, esq. who possessed it in the reign of king Charles I. being the son of John Hall, of Wilsborough, and his arms, Sable, three battle axes, or; from his heir it passed by sale to Charles Nott, esq. who resided here at the latter end of king Charles II.'s reign; after whose death his heirs alienated it to Sir John Shorter, lord mayor of London in 1688. He was second son of John Shorter, of Staines, in Middlesex. He never was even a freeman of the city, having been appointed lord-mayor by king James II. His arms were, Sable, a lion rampant, or, crowned argent, between three battle-axes of the last, the handles of the second. He died in the year of his mayoralty, and was buried in

St. Saviour's church, in Southwark. John his eldest son, succeeded him here, and left three sons and two

/z See their pedigree in Vistn. co. Kent, 1619.

/a See Strype's Stow's Survey, book v. p. 150.

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daughters, viz. Catherine, married to Sir Robert Walpole, K. G. afterwards created earl of Orford; and Charlotte, to Francis, lord Conway. John Shorter, esq. the eldest son, succeeded him here, but dying s. p. Captain Arthur Shorter, his next surviving brother, became entitled to this estate. He died in 1753, unmarried, and by will left it to Mr. John Dunn, surgeon, of Bath, who died in 1769, as did lately his wife Mrs. Dunn, and her devisees are now entitled to it.

The antient mansion of Bibrooke has been uninhabited and in ruins for several years; but the front of it, which has a stately appearance, is still remaining entire. A low mean building has been erected against the south side of it, which is made use of as the farmhouse belonging to the estate.

BURTON is another seat in this parish, about half a mile southward from the church, which in very old deeds is written Burston, from its having been once the residence of a branch of a family of that name, who were extinct here before the reign of king Edward III. when it appears to have become the property of a family named Elys, or as they were frequently written in later times, Ellys; and in the Surrenden library there is a deed, dated anno 44 Edward III. of Thomas Elys, of Kenyngton, the seal appendant being Bendy, impaling three annulets. His descendant William Ellys, esq. was of Burton, in the 13th year of Richard II. being then one of the conservators or justices of the peace for this county. Thomas Ellys, esq. kept his shrievalty at Burton in the 6th year of king Henry VI. William Elys, gent. of Kennington, died in the year 1494, possessed of the manor of Burton and Northpends, in this parish, in whose descendants, who bore for their arms, Or, on a cross, sable, five crescents, argent, as they were formerly in the windows of this church, it continued till the reign of queen Elizabeth, when one of them alienated it to Sir William Hall, of Bibrooke, in this parish, whose eldest son Nevil Hall,

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esq. passed it away by sale, in the reign of Charles I. to William Randolph, gent. of Canterbury, who afterwards resided at Burton. He was the eldest son of Bernard Randolph, of Biddenden, whose fourth son Herbert succeeded to the family estate at Biddenden, and was ancestor of the Randolphs, late of Canterbury, and to those now of the university of Oxford, as may be further seen before. His grandson William Randolph, gent. of Burton, died before his father of the same name in 1705, s. p. and was buried with his ancestors in this church; upon which Alice, his only surviving sister, married to William Kingsley, esq. of Canterbury, became his heir, and entitled her husband to this estate. He was descended from William Kingsley, of Chorley, in Lancashire, whose arms were, Vert, a cross engrailed, ermine, in the first quarter, a mullet, or./b His

son William Kingsley, D. D. was archdeacon of Canterbury, and married Damaris, daughter of John Abbot, of Guildford, by whom he had a numerous issue, of whom George the eldest, was grandfather of William Kingsley, who by marriage became possessed of this manor as before mentioned; his grandson William Kingsley, at length succeeded his father here, and taking to the military line, became a lieutenant-general, and at the latter part of his life resided at Maidstone, where he died in 1769, unmarried, and by will gave this manor for life, to his kinsman Mr. Charles Kingsley, of London, descended from a younger son of the archdeacon. He died in 1785, leaving two sons, Charles, who died at Canterbury next year, leaving issue, and a second son Mr. William Pink Kingsley, of London, who by the entail in the general's will, succeeded his father in this manor, and is the present possessor of it.

/b There is a pedigree of this family in the Vistn. co. Kent, anno 1619.

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ULLEY is a small manor, within the hounds of this parish, next to Boughton Aluph, having now neither mansion nor any demesnes that can be ascertained belonging to it. The family of Criol owned it in antient time, from whom it went afterwards in like manner as Seaton, in Boughton Aluph, to the Rokesley's, and thence again to the Poynings and the Percys, earls of Northumberland, in whom it continued till Henry, earl of Northumberland, in the 23d year of Henry VIII. vested it in feoffees, who soon afterwards sold it to Sir Christopher Hales, attorney-general, whose three daughters and coheirs joined in the sale of it to Sir Thomas Moyle, of Eastwell, and his daughter and coheir Catherine, carried it in marriage to Sir Thomas Finch, in whose descendants, earls of Winchelsea, it continued down to Daniel, earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, who dying in 1769, without male issue, gave this manor, among the rest of his estates, to his nephew George Finch Hatton, esq. now of Eastwell, the present possessor of it.

KENNINGTON-HOUSE is a seat in this parish, near the east end of the village of Kennington, and a very small distance from the west side of the high road from Canterbury to Ashford. It was formerly, with an adjoining farm called Kennington farm, the property of the Moyles, seated at Buckwell, in the adjoining parish of Boughton Aluph; in which it continued till Mary, sole daughter and heir of John Moyle, esq. and granddaughter of Sir Robert Moyle, carried it, with much other land in that parish, in marriage to Robert Breton, esq. of the Elmes, near Dover, who died possessed of it in 1708. Moyle Breton, esq. his eldest son, succeeded him here, and resided at Kennington-house, where he died in 1735, and was buried in the high chancel of Boughton Aluph church. He left three

/c Anno 13 George I. and 3 George II. two acts passed for this estate.

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sons, Moyle; Richard, who left two daughters; and

Robert, now vicar of Boughton Aluph. Moyle Breton, esq. the eldest, on his father's death, possessed and resided at this seat. He died some years ago, leaving two sons, Moyle and Whitfield; the eldest of whom, the Rev. Moyle Breton, LL. D. late vicar of this parish, and now rector of Kenardington, is the present possessor of this seat, with the estate of Kennington farm.

CHARITIES.

HENRY WATTS gave by will in 1602, a sum of money for the relief of the poor, now vested in land of the annual produce of 1l. 14s. and in the churchwardens and overseers.

MARY MARSHALL, by deed in 1624, gave to the use of the poor, land in it, now of the annual produce of 1l. vested in feoffees.

WILLIAM PIPER gave by will in 1657, to the like use, 1l. annually, payable out of a house and lands vested in feoffees.

WILLIAM BRETT gave by will in 1704, 1l. annually, payable out of a house vested in the Rev. George Carter, towards cloathing the poor.

N. B. The owners of the two last-mentioned estates have, ever since the year 1782, refused the payment of these gifts.

RICHARD BRETT gave by will in 1711, to the use of the poor 1l. annually, payable out of lands vested in the churchwardens and overseers.

The poor constantly relieved are about twenty-eight, casually twenty-five.

KENNINGTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, consists of one isle and two chancels, with a small lower chancel on the south side. It has a tower steeple, with a beacon turret at the west end, in which are five bells. In the south chancel are several memorials for the Randolph family, and the Kingsleys; for colonel Johnston, obt. 1725, and Caroline his wife; for Mary, daughter of Thomas Knevett, esq. obt. 1713, and colonel Stephen Otway, obt. 1759. And there was in this church a memorial for John Best, esq. of this pa-

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rish, in the time of king James I. having on the stone the arms of Best, quartered with Barrow. In the windows of this church were formerly, in Weever's time, a shield of arms, Parted per fess; in the upper part, gules, a goat's head erased, ermine; and in base, gules, a fess, or, between three owls, argent, impaling Shurland; and underneath, Orate pro aia Willielmi Walkesley militis. And in another window the figure of a man, kneeling with his sword and spurs, and on his coat, the arms of Brent; and opposite to him a woman, in the like posture, with these arms on her mantle: A chevron, between three roses; and underneath them, Orate pro aiabs Willi Brent ari & Elisabethæ uxoris ejus filiæ Risc. Madris. They lived in Edward IV's time. In another window were the arms of Towne, impaling Ellis. In the church-yard, just by the church-door, is a memorial for George, son of George Marshall, of Boughton Aluph, obt. 1619, and near it another, round the verge of the stone, for George, son and heir of

George Marshall, of Kennington, who lay entombed nigh him, obt. 1623. There are 30s. per annum devised to keep the former of these stones in repair; and when that wants no repair, it is to be given to the poor. On a large old stone is a memorial for Susan Barrow, widow, obt. 1655; and there is another close to it, without an inscription, supposed to be her husband's. The vicar, I am informed, repairs the lower south chancel of this church.

This church was formerly an appendage to the manor, and as such was part of the possessions of the monastery of St. Augustine, to which it was appropriated in the beginning of king Edward II.'s reign, about the year 1311, with the king's licence. But the vicarage was not endowed till more than twenty years afterwards, by archbishop Stratford, who assigned to the vicar and his successors, the house of the vicarage, which the vicars of it were wont theretofore to inhabit,

/d Pat. 5 Edward II. p. 1, m. 12. Tan. Mon. p. 205.

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and all oblations belonging to this church, and all and singular the tithes of hay, pasture, mills, lambs, milk, wool, calves, pigs, chicken, ducks, pigeons, geese, flax, hemp, apples, pears, and gardens, as well then, as in future, of the whole parish; and also 40s. sterling annual pension, to be received twice a year at Kennington, from the religious, which portions, together with the pension, had been assigned from the beginning to Sir J. de la Tote, the first vicar instituted in it; all which they estimated to be worth yearly 8l. 10s. And over and above all these, the religious, in augmentation of the vicarage, assigned, together with them, to the vicar and his successors, the tithes of hay of four acres and one rood or virgate of meadow, arising from their demesne meadow at Kenynton, which tithe of hay the vicar or his predecessors did not use to receive; and eight bushels of sweet and clean corn, viz. four bushels of wheat, and four bushels of barley, to be received yearly of the religious or their servants at Kenynton, at Michaelmas, all which, with the consent of both parties, was judicially decreed by the archbishop's commissary, with the penalty of sequestration on failure of payment by them. And he decreed and adjudged, with the consent of both parties, that the vicar and his successors should serve the church in divine rites, and in future time in the finding of one clerk to minister there; and that they should support the burthens of wax lights, of bread and wine for the celebration of masses, and the payment of the tenth, and the procurations of the archdeacon, and all other extraordinary burthens of it, and the books to be given to the church by the religious, the vicar and his successors should cause to be bound at their sole costs, and that the religious should perpetually undergo and acknowledge the amending and repairing of the chancel, and finding of books, or vestments and ornaments, the burthens of which belonged to rectors of places, of custom or right wholly, and all other burthens, ordinary and extraordinary, be=

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longing to it, reserving nevertheless to the archbishop,

full power to augment or diminish the vicarage when= ever it should be thought fit: all which the archbi= shop approving, confirmed by his authority, as ordi= nary, &c./e

The church and advowson of the vicarage after this, remained part of the possessions of the monastery till the final dissolution of it, in the 30th year of king Henry VIII. when it was, with all its revenues, sur= rendered into the king's hands;/f where the manor and rectory staid but a small time, for the king, in his 36th year, granted them, with their appurtenances, to Sir Anthony St. Leger, in manner as has been already mentioned before, and on the attainder of John, duke of Northumberland, in the 1st year of queen Mary, these premises became forfeited, among his other estates, to the crown; where this rectory and advowson seem to have remained till the year 1558, when queen Mary granted the advowson of this vicarage, among others, to the archbishop of Canterbury; and queen Eliza= beth, in her 3d year, granted the rectory, then valued at six pounds, subject to the payment of forty shillings to the vicar, in exchange to archbishop Parker. Since which they have both continued parcel of the posses= sions of the see of Canterbury to the present time.

This vicarage is valued in the king's books at twelve pounds. But it is now a discharged living, of the clear yearly certified value of thirty pounds. In 1587 here were communicants one hundred and twenty-five. In 1640, one hundred and sixty-six, when it was valued at seventy pounds. It is now worth about one hundred

/e Dec. Script, col. 2104. Ordinatio vic. (sans date) in Regist. St. Aug. Cant. called the Black Book. MSS. in Cotton libra= ry in British Museum, marked A. fol. 234. a. b. Assignatio por= tionis vic. A. D. 1316. Regist. Reynolds, fol. 18.

/f MSS. Lambeth. Copia compositionis dict. vic. extat, in MSS. notat A. 11, f. 38, in archiv. Ecc. Cath. Cant. See Dec. Scrip. col. 1891.

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pounds per annum. The lessee of the parsonage in 1643, was Nevill Hall, esq. at the yearly rent of 6l. 13s. 4d. and the yearly payment of forty shillings, was made by the archbishop to the vicar. The present lessee is Mr. John Hilton, of Sheldwich.

By a lease granted anno 17 Henry VIII. by the ab= bot and convent of St. Augustine, of the rectory, there was a payment reserved of one quarter of wheat, and one of barley yearly, to the vicar from it, which lease was renewed by the king in his 33d year, after the dis= solution of the abbey./g

CHURCH OF KENNINGTON.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

The Archbishop. John Braynforth, inducted Feb. 6, 1564, obt. 1605./h
Henry Hull, A. M. January 2, 1605.

John Player, in 1643.

The King, by lapse. Henry Walker, clerk, June 30, 1677, resigned 1681.

The Archbishop. John Walker, A. B. Feb. 8,

1681, resigned 1683.
William Martin, A. M. July 20,
1683, obt. 1687.
Samuel Markham, clerk, June
21, 1687, obt. May 1729./i
Thomas England, A. M. July 1,
1729, obt. Oct. 1729./k
John Head, Oct. 1729.
Philip Warham, A. B. March 2,
1730.
Moyle Breton, LL. B. Nov. 9,
1777, resigned 1785./l
Philip Papillon, A. M. 1785,
the present vicar./m

/g See Augtn. off. bundle of conven=
tual leases, Kent. 2.

/h See Scot's Discovery of Witch=
craft, p. 127.

/i And rector of Eastwell.

/k And vicar of Westwell.

/l In 1777 by dispensation rector of
Kenardington, with this vicarage.

/m And rector of Eythorne in 1785,
by dispensation.

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HINXHILL,

USUALLY called Hinxsell, and in very antient
times written Hengestelle, is the next parish eastward
from Kennington. The manor of Bilsington claims
over a great part of this parish.

HINXHILL is an obscure parish, but little known,
and having very little traffic through it. The village
consists of only four or five houses, one of which is the
principal farm-house of Sir John Honeywood's estate
here, and another the parsonage. It stands on high
ground, with the church on the west side of it. The
antient mansion stood close to the south-west corner of
the church-yard, having a fine prospect over the ad=
joining country. The kitchen is all that remains of it
now, being made use of as an oast and stowages for
hops. Not far from the church, northward, are Great
and Little Plumpton, the former was for some time
the residence of the Andrew's, the latter of the Whit=
wick's. Below the hill from the village to the north and
west, it is a deep and most unpleasant country, the soil
a stiff clay, with much boggy ground, especially west=
ward, where it is joined by the river Stour. About
the village it is tolerable fertile land, but southward
there is much sand, mixed with the quarry or rag stone.

A fair is held here yearly on the Saturday in Whit=
sun-week, for toys and pedlary.

In the year 1727, a species of subterraneous fire was
taken notice of in the valley between Goodcheape in
this parish and Wye. This fire began in a marshy
field, on the side of a little brook, near the water, and
continued to burn along its bank without spreading
much for some days; afterwards it appeared on the
other side, and extended itself for the space of some
acres over the field, consuming all the earth where it

burnt into red ashes, quite down to the springs, which

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in most places lay four feet and more deep. In the space of about six weeks it had consumed about three acres of ground, at which time it burnt in many places, and sent forth a great smook and a strong smell very like that of a brick-kiln; but it never flamed, except when the earth was turned and stirred up. For some space where it was burnt the ground felt hot, though the grass seemed no more parched than might be reasonably expected from the dryness and heat of the season. In several places where the earth was turned up, it was found to be hot and wet near four feet deep, and much hotter about two feet deep than nearer the surface; and when this earth was exposed to the air, though it was very moist, and not hotter than might be easily borne by the hand, yet the heat of it increased so fast, that in a few minutes it was all over on fire, like phosphorus made with allum and flour. The soil of the field is of the same nature with that the turf is made of in Holland. The surface of it is always wet, except in extreme dry seasons; but this season it was somewhat more parched and harder than usual. It was difficult to carry any of this away, on account of its firing; one piece in particular firing in the pocket of one who was bringing it away, had almost burnt its way through before it was perceived./n

In the stone-quarry by Swatfield-bridge, at the southern boundary of this parish, as well as in many of the rag-stones about the adjoining parishes of Sevington and Willesborough, is found the ostracites stone, very large; and on a rag-stone at Lacton, in the latter parish, the flat shell of one measured eight inches diameter; and the late Mr. Thorpe, of Bexley, had two in his possession, very large and fair, with the convex parts entirely filled up with solid stone, which were given to his father, Dr. Thorpe, by the earl of Winchelsea.

/n See this account in Philosophical Transactions, vol. xxxv. No. 399, p. 307.

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ONE ÆTHELFERH, a servant of the abbot of St. Augustine's monastery, about the year 864, by will gave the land of Hengestefelle, which was a parish, as Thorne says in his Chronicle, contiguous to that of Willesborough northward, to that monastery; but Hugo de Montfort, in the time of the Conqueror, got possession of it, in spite of all the efforts of the monks to oppose it: and accordingly this estate seems to have been thus entered in the survey of Domesday as follows, among his possessions:

In Langebrige hundred, Gislebert holds of Hugo one yoke, which a certain Sochman held of king Edward. It is and was worth four shillings. There was nothing there nor is.

Of Etwelle, which Herbert the son of Ivo, holds without the division of Hugo, he himself holds fourteen acres of land within his division, and it is worth two shillings.

And still further in the same record, under the like title, is the following entry, which evidently relates to

his possessions, part of, or at least adjoining to those before-mentioned:

In Langebrige hundred. In the same hundred, is one rood of land in Suestone, which one Sochman held of king Edward. There is now one borderer paying twelve pence. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth thirty pence, and afterwards eighteen, now three shillings.

Robert de Montfort, grandson of Hugo above-mentioned, having afterwards incurred the displeasure of king Henry II. all his estates, and these among them, then came into the king's hands, after which it appears that THE MANOR OF HINXHILL, with that of SWATFORD, alias SWATFIELD, was afterwards held by the family of Strabolgie, earls of Athol; but Alexander Baliol, lord of Chilham, became possessed of them at the latter end of king Henry III.'s reign, in right of Isabel his wife, widow of David de Strabolgie, earl of Athol, and held them, by the courtesy of England,

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during her life, she having been, on the death of her brother Richard de Dover, s. p. become entitled to them for her life, the inheritance of them belonging to John, earl of Athol, her son by her former husband, as heir to her brother before-mentioned. At length they descended down to David, earl of Athol, who died in the 49th year of king Edward III. leaving two daughters his coheirs, Elizabeth, the eldest, married to Sir Thomas Percy, a younger son of Henry, lord Percy, and Philippa to John Halsham, of Halsham, in Sussex; the latter of whom, by her father's will, became entitled to these manors. At length her grandson Sir Hugh Halsham, in the beginning of king Henry VI.'s reign, passed them away, in the 3d year of that reign, to Sir Robert Scott, lieutenant of the tower of London, brother of Sir William Scott, of Braborne, and afterwards of Scotts-hall, whose only daughter and heir Alice, marrying William Kempe, nephew to cardinal archbishop Kempe, he, in her right, became entitled to them; but his grandson Sir William Kempe, about the latter end of king Henry VIII.'s reign, alienated them to Browning; from which family, about the reign of queen Elizabeth, they were alienated to Robt. Edolph, esq. son of Robert Edolph, of Brenset, and brother of Simon Edolph, of St. Radigunds, who bore for his arms, Ermine, on a bend, sable, three cinquefoils, argent, who afterwards resided at Hinxhill-court, as did his son Sir Robert Edolph, who kept his shrievalty here in the 6th year of king James I. but his son Robert Edolph, esq. dying s. p. in 1631, gave these manors of Hinxhill and Swatford, together with the court leet of the half hundred of Longbridge, by will to Cecilia his wife, for her life, or so long as she continued unmarried; but she afterwards remarrying Sir Francis Knolles, of Reading, forfeited her interest in them, upon which

/o There are pedigrees of them in the Vistn. co. Kent, 1574 and 1619, and in the Herald's office, marked D. 18, f. 11, 6.

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they came to Mr. Samuel Edolph, her former hus=

band's next brother, who some years afterwards conveyed them to his brother in-law Mr. John Angel, of Surry, for the more effectual performance of his will; and he, sometime after the death of king Charles I. passed them away to Edward Choute, esq. of Bethersden, who afterwards resided at Hinxhill-court, as did his son Sir George Choute likewise, who was succeeded in them by his son George Choute, esq. who was created a baronet in 1684. He pulled down this mansion, and removed to Bethersden, where he died s. p. in 1721, having devised these manors by will to Edward Austen, esq. of Tenterden, afterwards baronet, who sold them not long afterwards to Sir William Honeywood, bart. of Evington, who died possessed of them in 1748, and his direct descendant Sir John Honeywood, bart. of Evington, is the present possessor of these manors.

The courts baron for the manors of Hinxhill and Swatford, have been for some time disused; and the court leet for the half hundred of Longbridge has been for several years past held by the constable of it, solely for the appointment of a successor in his office, as will be further taken notice of hereafter.

WALTHAM is a place here, which was once accounted a manor, and antiently belonged to the family of Criol, from whom it went by marriage into that of Rokesle, and thence again in like manner to the family of Poynings, in which it continued till Sir Edward Poynings, governor of Dover castle, and lord warden, dying possessed of it anno 14 Henry VIII. 1522, not only without legitimate issue, but even without any collateral kindred, who could make claim to his estates, this manor, among others, escheated to the crown, whence it was immediately afterwards granted to Sir Richard Damsell, who not long after passed it away to Gold-

/p See more of him before under Bethersden.

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hill; as he did about the latter end of queen Elizabeth's reign, to Mr. Robert Edolph, of Hinxhill-court; since which it has passed in like manner as the manor of Hinxhill before-described, down to Sir John Honeywood, bart. who is the present possessor of it.

GOODCHEAPES, as it is now called, but more properly Godchepes, is an estate in the northern part of this parish, which for a series of many generations had owners of that surname, one of whom, Thomas Godchepe, as appears by the inquisition taken after his death, died possessed of it in the 31st year of king Edward I. and in his name and descendants it remained fixed until the latter end of king Henry VIII.'s reign, and then it came by the will of one of them, named also Thomas Godchepe, after the limitation of it, to several different persons, who were become extinct without issue, to the last person mentioned in remainder in the will, Mr. John Barrow. The circumstances of which bequest is thus related: Mr. John Barrow, being an attorney, was called upon to make the will of Thomas Godchepe, and by his direction inserted the names of eight persons, who were to succeed each other in the inheritance of this estate in tail, and being asked by Barrow, whom he should add more, he was answered

by the testator, that as there had been a reciprocal friendship between them, he should place his own name next after them all; and they all deceasing in course of time s. p. this estate in the end devolved to him and his heirs. Circumstances similar to the above have happened in relation to other estates in this county, particularly to the Leeds abbey estate, by Sir Roger Meredith's will, who died in 1742, s. p. who having sent for Mr. Walter Hooper, an attorney, to make his will, after having devised his estates to several different persons successively in tail, seemed at a loss who to name next in the entail, when Mr. Hooper mentioned himself and his nephew; and all the prior remainders having ceased, they both successively enjoyed that estate

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by the will./q Mr. Barrow, who bore for his arms, Lo=zengy, or, and azure, a griffin, salient, ermine, resided afterwards here, and died in 1578, leaving two daughters his coheirs, whose eldest daughter and coheir Elizabeth, marrying Mr. Robert Edolph, the purchaser of Hinxhill-court as before-mentioned, he became entitled to it sometime about the latter end of queen Elizabeth's reign; since which it has passed in like succession of ownership as the manors of Hinxhill and Waltham before-mentioned, down to Sir John Honeywood, bart. who is the present possessor of them.

CHARITIES.

MARTHA WADE, by will in 1722, gave an annuity of forty shillings, out of lands in this parish and Wye, to the use of the poor not receiving alms, vested in the churchwardens and overseers.

The poor constantly relieved are about twelve, casually eight.

THIS PARISH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Limne.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a small building, consisting of two isles and two chancels, having a low spire steeple at the west end, in which are three bells. In the high chancel, on the north side, there is a handsome monument, well preserved, for Robert Edolph, esq. and Cicely Browne his wife, having their effigies kneeling on it. He died in 1631. In the south isle are memorials for Coveney, arms, On a bend, three trefoils slipt. The north isle is very narrow indeed; in it is a memorial for Kennet Backe, gent. captain of the train-bands, obt. 1687. On the south side, in the church-yard, are several memorials for the Wightwicks, and a very antient stone, coffin-shaped, with a cross flory on it. It appears by the parish register, that many of the Edolphs are buried in this church, from the year 1588, when Mr. Robt. Edolph,

/q See vol. v. of this history, p. 497.

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sen. gent. was buried in it, to the present century. Mr. John Barrow in 1578, Sir Edward Chute in 1634, and others of some note in life, appear likewise to have been buried in it, for whom there are not any memorials.

The church of Hinxhill was antiently appendant to

the manor, and continued with it till Robert Edolph, esq. by will in 1631, gave the manor of Hinxhill to his wife Cecilie, for her life, or until she remarried, and the advowson and patronage of this church to her and her heirs for ever. By which means the advowson being separated from the manor, became an advowson in gross, and though it afterwards was possessed by the same owners as the manor, yet having been once separated it could never afterwards be appendant to it again./r She soon afterwards remarrying Sir Francis Knolles, forfeited her life-estate in the manor to her late husband's next heir and brother, Mr. Sam. Edolph, and some years afterwards alienated the reversion of the advowson, (for she appears to have presented to the Rectory in 1666) to him. Since which it has continued, in like succession of ownership with the manor of Hinx=hill, and his other estates in this parish, to Angel, Choute, and Austen, and from the latter to Sir Wil=liam Honywood, bart. whose descendant Sir John Ho=nywood, bart. is the present owner and patron of this church.

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 7l. 16s. 8d. It is now a discharged living, of the clear yearly certified value of thirty-four pounds. In 1578 here were communicants seventy-one. In 1640 it was valued at sixty pounds, communicants seventy. There are ten acres of glebe.

/r See Modern Reports, vol. ii. p. 1.

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CHURCH OF HINXHILL.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Family of Edolph. Matthew Bourne, Nov. 17, 1578,
obt. 1600./s

Henry Hilles, July 19, 1600, ob.
Feb. 1618./t

Christopher Bachelor, vacated
1626.

Elias Wood, A. M. June 2,
1626, obt. March 1641./u

James Wilkinson, induct. 1642,
obt. May 1666./w

Dame Cicely Knolles, of Reading. John Jemmett, A. M. Aug. 29,
1666, obt. 1688.

Sir George Choute, bart. John Booth, A. M. Feb. 4, 1688,
obt. 1713.

Isaac Satur, A. B. Oct. 10,
1713, obt. 1722./x

Thomas Witherden, esq. hac vice. Jude Holdsworth, A. M. Sept.
15, 1722, obt. November 27,
1759./y

Sir John Honywood, bart. Edmund Filmer, A. M. Dec. 18,
1759, resigned 1770./z

John Honywood, A. M. Nov. 13,
1770, the present rector./a

/s /t /u /w They all lie buried in this church.

/x Also rector of Brooke. He re=
built the parsonage-house of Hinxhill.

/y He held this rectory with that of

Tong by dispensation, and resigning the latter in 1750 held the rectory of Rucking afterwards with this of Hinxhill.

/z Also rector of Crundal.

/a Youngest son of Sir John Honywood, bart. the patron, by his second wife.

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WILLESBOROUGH

LIES the next parish southward, being written in antient records Wyvelesberg, and now Willesborough, or, as it is usually called, Wilsborough.

IT IS PLEASANTLY situated in a dry healthy country. The high road from Ashford to the town of Hythe crosses this parish; on this road is Lacton green,

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on which there is a pretty hamlet of houses, some of them of good size, and are well built, and of a very neat appearance; they were formerly inhabited by owners of some account, as by the family of Hall, or Haule, as they were sometimes called, who bore for their arms, Sable, three battle axes, two and one, or. John Hall resided here, and died in 1528; they continued here till the beginning of king Charles the 1st.'s reign, when their property here was sold. A younger branch of the family of Aucher resided here in king James the 1st.'s reign, from whom descended Dr. Aucher, prebendary of Canterbury, who died in 1701. A branch of the Taylors, of Shadoxhurst, resided here in the same reign, and were ancestors of the Taylors, of Maidstone, baronets; and Sir John James, in king Charles the 2d's reign, resided here likewise, descended of a family who came out of Cleve, in Germany, in king Henry the VIIIth.'s reign, and bore for their arms the same as those of Ightham, in this county. At a small distance southward from Lacton green, on higher rising ground, stands the church, and Wilsborough-street, adjoining to it; a little beyond which the stream runs which rises at Braborne and Hinxhill, and having crossed the high road at Swatfield bridge, goes on through this parish, and falls into the river Stour just above Ashford. Just within the southern bounds of the parish is a large handsome house, well timbered, standing on high ground, built by Thomas Boys, esq. of Sevington, in 1616, with the materials of their more antient seat of the Moat, in that adjoining parish, at a very small distance from it, who named his new mansion BOYS HALL. His descendants continued to reside in it till Edward Boys, gent. the late possessor of it, removed to a smaller house near the church, which his father had begun to build, but died before he had finished it, since which Boys-hall has been inhabited

/b There is a pedigree of them in Vistn. co. Kent, 1619.

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only by cottagers. He died in 1796, leaving by Sarah his wife, daughter of Mr. John Collington, two sons, Edward and William, his coheirs in gavelkind, and on a partition of their estates, this seat became the

sole property of the eldest son Mr. Edward Boys, who now resides in it. This branch of Boys is descended from those of Bonnington, in Goodnestone, and bear for their arms, Or, a griffin segreant, sable, a bordure, gules. From the Ashford road at Lacton green, on the north side, a road branches off to Longbridge or Willesborough lees, where there is a hamlet of houses, one of which is a modern built one, which formerly belonged to the Whightwicks, several of whom lie buried in Hinxhill church-yard, by a daughter of whom it came by marriage to Mr. Richard Goodwin, who now lives in it; across these lees, and the river Stour, which runs near the lower end of the lees, the road leads to Kennington, and towards Faversham and Canterbury.

This parish is about two miles across each way. The land is nearly half arable and half pasture, the rents of it amounting to about 1200*l.* per annum. The upland part of it has much quarry or rag stone in it, mixed with sand, and towards Ashford a good deal of gravel.

The court leet for the half hundred of Longbridge, which used to be held by the Edolphs, and afterwards by the Honywoods, at Hinxhill, has been disclaimed by them for some years past, and the constable of the half hundred now holds it annually, for the purpose of choosing a successor in his office, at this parish and Kennington alternately.

The ostracites is frequently found among the rag-stones in the quarries about Lacton, and in the parishes of Sevington and Hinxhill, as has been already mentioned before under the latter parish.

THE PLANT *gale frulex odoratus septentrionalium*, sweet willow goule, or Dutch myrtle, grows plenti-

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fully in a boggy ground joining to a small farm called Coombs-hole, on Wilesborough-lees; and on the road side near Ousley farm, is the *tanacetum vulgare luteum*, common tansey.

THIS PARISH is not particularly mentioned in the record of Domesday. The manor of Wye claims over such part of it as in the borough of Henwood, alias Hewet, but the manor of Kennington, alias Coningsbrooke claims over the greatest part of it, subordinate to which is THE MANOR OF SOTHERTONS, alias WILLESBOROUGH, which, by the description of the lands of Wyvelesberg, in very early times belonged to the abbot and convent of St. Augustine, being about the year 866 purchased of one Eadulph, son of Edwold, for two thousand pence. At the same time one Æthelferth bequeathed, in his testament, to that monastery, land in this parish called Atelesworthe, which was geldable; and there is still in this parish a green, called Atelworth-green, which points out where this land lay.

In after times this manor was held of the abbot, by the family of Elys, or Ellis, as they were sometimes spelt, whose principal residence was at Burton, in Kennington; one of whom, Thomas Elys, held it anno 44 Edward III. as appears by a deed in the Surrenden library. His descendant John Elys, of Willisberg, died possessed of this manor of Sotherton, together with

a house and lands at Lacton, a principal house at Swatford, and other lands in this parish, in the 7th year of Edward IV. as did Richard his son in the 12th year of it./c Soon after which the manor of Sothertons went by sale into the family of Brent; and Philipott says, that the noted Falcatius de Brent was of this family; but they could gain no credit from this relationship; for Camden calls him a desperate fellow; and Dugdale says, he was a bastard by birth, of mean extraction,

/c His will is in the Prerogative-office, Canterbury.

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who had come out of the Low Countries with other freebooters, to king John's assistance against his barons./d But Weever says much more to their credit; that they were branched out of the antient stock of Brent, in Somersetshire; of whom Sir Robert de Brent was a baron in parliament in the reign of king Edward I. which makes it wholly improbable they could have any relationship to this Falcatius before-mentioned. They had before this purchase been for many generations settled at Wickins, in Charing; for Robert, second son of Hugh Brent, of Charing, resided at Willesborough, and, as appears by his will, died possessed of this manor in the 7th year of king Henry VII. anno 1491. At length his grandson Robert Brent, of Willesborough, dying s. p. in the 12th year of queen Elizabeth, devised it by will to Thomas Brent, esq. of Charing, who removed hither, and dying in 1612, was likewise buried in this church. By his will he gave this manor of Sothertons, alias Willesborough, to his nephew Richard Dering, esq. of Pluckley, by Margaret his sister, wife of John Dering, esq. late of Surrenden, deceased, in whose descendants it continued down to Sir Edward Dering, knight and baronet, so created anno 2 Charles I. who in 1635 alienated it to Robert Scott, esq. of Mersham, afterwards of Canterbury, the youngest son of Sir Thomas Scott, of Scott's hall, in whose descendants it continued down to Thomas Scott, gent. of Liminge,/e who died possessed of it in 1711, leaving two daughters, Elizabeth and Bridget, his coheirs, who by his will became entitled to this manor; whence it was soon afterwards alienated to Terry, in which name it continued till Mr. Henry Terry, of Canterbury, gave it by will to his nephew Mr. Thomas Perkins, of Dover, since deceased, whose heirs are now intitled to it. There is no court held for this manor.

/d See vol. iii. of this history, p. 62.

/e His will is in the Prerogative-office, Canterbury.

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STREETEND was once a house of good account in this parish, as having been the residence of the family of Master for several generations; it stood at the east corner of the lane turning down from the Ashford road to Willesborough church. The house itself has been pulled down some years; but the garden-walls and some of the out-buildings remain, and there is now a smaller house on the scite of it. The first of them, who came into this county in the reign of Henry VIII. was Richard Master, whose son Robert was settled at

this seat of Streetend, in Willesborough. He left two sons, the eldest of whom, Edward, succeeded him here; and Richard was physician to queen Elizabeth, and ancestor to the masters of Cirencester, in Gloucestershire. Michael Master, gent. the grandson of Edward above-mentioned, resided here, and died possessed of this seat, with an upper house and land here, called Sprotts, in 1632, leaving by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of John Hall, esq. of this parish, four sons and two daughters, of whom Edward, the eldest son, succeeded him here, and William, the second son, at the age of twenty-eight years, anno 1634, was, as the tradition of the country goes, on his wedding-day whilst at dinner, murdered by his younger brother Robert, who was in love with the bride, and whom his father stiles in his will his disobedient son, and was buried under a tomb in this church-yard, a few feet distant from the church porch, on the south side of it. The greatest part of the inscription, though now wholly obliterated, was remaining within these few years. The murderer immediately fled, and was never afterwards heard of; but is supposed to have secretly returned, and to have tried to efface the inscription, as there appeared several words erased of it, and was prevented doing it further by some people's going through the church-yard whilst he was employed about it. The hint of the plot of Otway's tragedy of the Orphan is said to have been taken from this unhappy event. They bore for their

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arms, Gules, a lion rampant-guardant, double tailed, or; which is the coat allotted to this branch in the Visitation of Kent, 1619; the branch at Cirencester bearing the like coat, with the addition of the lion, supporting between his paws a rose of the field, stalked and leaved, vert, as a distinction; which last coat is, by mistake, put on the gravestone of Robert Master, father of Michael before-mentioned, who died in 1616, in this church. Edward, the eldest son of Michael, succeeded his father in this seat of Streetend, and the rest of his property in this parish, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Choute, esq. of Hinxhill, who after his death joined with Elizabeth, her daughter and heir, in the sale of it to Nicholas Carter, M. D. whose heirs afterwards in 1725, alienated two thirds of this estate to William Tournay, gent. of Ashford, and the other third of it to his son Mr. Robert Tournay, of Hythe, and he sold the whole of it to Mr. Thomas Barker, whose son of the same name, on his death, succeeded to it, and having made the house exceedingly neat now resides in it.

CHARITIES.

JOANE MASTER, widow, by will anno 17 Elizabeth, 1574, gave to the use of the poor, a house and land near Lacton-green, now of the annual produce of 4l. and vested in the overseers of the poor.

The poor constantly relieved are about thirty-eight, casually twelve.

THIS PARISH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Limne.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a very neat building, consisting of two isles and two chancels, having a slim spire steeple shingled at the west end, in which are five bells. In the high chancel there

/f There is a pedigree of them in Vistn. co. Kent, 1619, and in the Herald's office, book C. 16.

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are some good remains of painted glass, particularly the figure of a king sitting. On the south side is a confessionary, and on the same side a monument for John Boys, esq. and Frances his wife; in it are memorials for Robert Master and Margaret his wife, and several of the family of Boys; one for Thomas Norcross, A. B. son of John Norcross, vicar, obt. 1752; one for the said John Norcross, vicar here and rector of Hothfield, obt. 1773. The north chancel belongs to Willesborough-court, in which are several stones without inscriptions; there is here too good painted glass in the window at the east end, and in the lower part of it, two figures kneeling, and this legend, Ora p aibs Thome Ellis & ux. ejus; and two others with this legend, Ora p aibs Thome Elys & Thomasine ux. ejus; and in Weever's time there was a legend for William, son of George Barre, of the Moat, in Sevington parish, anno 1463. In the north isle is a stone with these arms, A fess, between six billets, the inscription obliterated; another with an inscription in brass, the figure gone, for John Gore, sen. obt. 1506; one with an inscription in brass for John Hall and Joane his wife, ob. 1605; at the bottom of it is added a memorial for William Brooke, gent. of this parish, obt. 1707. Another stone for Edward, son of William Brooke, and Susan his wife, obt. 1717; an inscription in brass for Thomas Watte, obt. 1528. In the church-yard is a tomb over John Norcross, gent. son of John Norcross, vicar, obt. 1778, unmarried. The family of Master lie buried in the east corner of the church-yard behind the church porch, where their tombs yet remain.

The church of Willesborough was part of the antient possessions of the monastery of St. Augustine, to which it was appropriated by pope Clement V. in the reign of Edward II. but the abbot, for certain reasons, then declined putting the bull for this purpose in force. At length John, abbot of St. Augustine in the year 1347,

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anno 22 Edward III. obtained another bull for the appropriation of it, and three years afterwards the king granted his licence for this purpose, with the condition of an adequate portion being allotted out of the profits of it to the perpetual vicars in it; all which was confirmed by archbishop Islip in the year 1359. And the next year the vicarage of this church was endowed by the archbishop, who decreed, that the perpetual vicar should receive for his portion, all the fruits, rents, and income to the church, by whatever means soever arising then or in future, the tithes of sheaves or corn not growing within orchards and gardens, and of hay arising from the meadows extending themselves from Eschetesfordisbregge through the northern part of this

parish only excepted, which tithes should wholly belong to the religious and their monastery; that the vicar should have a house within the rectory of the church, to be built at the expence of the religious, and to be repaired from that time by the vicar, together with a garden and croft, and one rood of land for a curtelage adjoining to the rectory; the court, and the barns of the rectory adjoining and contiguous to it, being reserved for the use of the religious; and that the vicar should have two acres of arable land of the endowment to himself, of the glebe of the church, lying close to it, which, together with the above-mentioned croft and rood of land the religious should cause to be amortised to the vicarage at their own costs and expences, or should prepare some other sufficient security for it; but that the vicar should undergo the burthens of officiating in the divine services for ever in this church, either by himself or some other fit priest, and likewise of administering or finding of lights in the chancel, of bread and wine for the celebrating of masses, the reparation of books, vestments, and other ecclesiastical ornaments, and should likewise sustain the epis-

/g See Dec. Script. col. 2085 et sec.

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copal rights, the procuration likewise due to the archdeacon, and other archidiaconal rights, but that the religious should bear the rest of the burthens not expressed before, which used to be incumbent on the rectors of the church in past times.

The church and advowson of the vicarage of Willesborough remained part of the possessions, of the monastery till the final dissolution of it, in the 30th year of king Henry VIII. when it was, with all its revenues, surrendered into the king's hands, where this rectory and advowson staid but a short time; for the king, by his dotation-charter, in the 33d year of his reign, settled it on his new-erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, part of whose possessions they continue at this time.

The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 8l. 16s. 8d. and the yearly tenths at 17s. 8d. In 1587 here were communicants two hundred. In 1640 it was valued at sixty pounds, communicants two hundred and forty. There are four acres of glebe land belonging to the vicarage.

On a survey of this parsonage in 1650, it appears that it then consisted of the parsonage-barn, with a field of arable, containing fourteen acres, lying near it, and the tithes of corn and hay arising within the parish; all which were valued at fifty pounds per annum, and were demised by the late dean and chapter to Edward Master, gent. of Hinxhill. /h Dr. Carter, by his will, gave his interest in the lease of this parsonage, he being the lessee of it, to the vicar of this parish, with due care and restrictions for the renewing of the term of it, intending this bequest for the vicar and his successors, as an augmentation to this vicarage; but Mr. Norcross, the vicar, determined it otherwise, and having renewed it in his own name from time to time, at

/h Parliamentary Surveys, Augtn. off. vol. 19.

his death in 1773 left it by his will, as his own property, to his widow; since whose decease, their three daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, and Sarah, all of them unmarried, are now entitled to the interest of it.

CHURCH OF WILLESBOROUGH.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Dean and Chapter of Canterbury. Thomas Duncombe, A. M. May 27, 1592, obt. 1608.

Richard Hayes, Feb. 11, 1608, obt. 1613.

George May, A. M. Sept. 7, 1613, obt. 1671.

John Warly, A. M. March 21, 1671, obt. 1679.

Edward Burges, clerk, Aug. 6, 1679, obt. 1681.

Henry Walker, clerk, Jan. 10, 1681, obt. 1695.

William Martinant Nevar, Oct. 10, 1695, obt. April 29, 1729.

John Norcross, A. M. Sept. 23, 1729. obt. 1773./i

Robert Stedman, A. M. induct. Oct. 23, 1773./k

John Francis, A. M. induct. Jan. 9, 1790, present vicar./l

/i He was also rector of Hothfield. He died May 16, æt. 83, and was buried in this chancel.

/k He resigned this vicarage on being promoted to the rectory of Elmeston; likewise vicar of Preston by Wingham. He was son of Dr. Samuel Stedman, archdeacon of Norfolk, and prebendary of Canterbury.

/l Also rector of Orgarswick, and second master of the King's school Canterbury.

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SEVINGTON

LIES the next parish to Willesborough south-eastward. It is a very small parish, having only eleven houses in it. The church stands on rising ground, overlooking the Weald, which lies in the vale below the hill southward, where the clay is again very deep,

and the like country through the woods as that below Great Chart and Bethersden, already described. One of the principal heads of the river Stour, which rises at Postling, flows across the southern part of this parish, and having been joined by some other branches of it goes on to Ashford bridge, having through the course of it acquired the name of the Old Stour, to distinguish it from that branch of this river which rises at Lenham, and flowing through Little and

Great Chart runs on towards Ashford bridge.

THE MANOR OF CONINGSBROOK claims paramount over the greatest part of this parish, by the name of THE YOKE OF DEVELAND; subordinate to which is THE MANOR OF SEVINGTON, which was most probably part of those possessions belonging to the abbot and convent of St. Augustine, taken from them at the Norman conquest by Hugo de Montfort, as mentioned before, but whether included in the description of those lands belonging to him in the general survey of Domesday, inserted before under Hinxhill parish, I dare not ascertain; only that it certainly was part of his possessions, and that on the voluntary exile of his grandson Robert de Montfort in king Henry I.'s reign, this, among the rest of his estates, came into the hands of the crown, of which it was afterwards held, with others of them in this neighbourhood; by the family of Criol, and Maud, widow of Simon de Criol, as was found by inquisition, died anno 52 Henry III. possessed of it, with lands in Essetesforde, Vetersture, and Pakemanston. How it passed afterwards, I do not find; but the next owners that appear are the family of Scott, of Scotts-hall, who held it as of the honor of Dover, by ward to the castle there; in them it continued for many generations, and till at length George Scott, esq. of Scotts-hall, about the latter end of king George I.'s reign, passed this manor away by sale to Sir Philip Boteler, bart. of Teston, and his son of the same name died

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possessed of it in 1772, having by will given one moiety of his estates to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, then of Chart Sutton, but late of Teston; and the other moiety to Elizabeth, viscountess dowager Folkestone, and her son-in-law, William Bouverie, earl of Radnor; and on the partition made by the two latter, of their moiety, this manor of Sevington was, with others, allotted to the latter, who died in 1776, and by will devised this manor, with the rest of the above-mentioned estates in this county, to his eldest son by his second wife, the Hon. William-Henry Bouverie, who is the present owner of it, but there is neither house nor demesne lands belonging to it.

THE MOAT is a manor, situated in this parish below the hill, almost adjoining to Willesborough, somewhat more than half a mile westward from the church of Sevington; this mansion was, in very early times, the residence of a family which took their name from hence. Sir John de Sevington, said to be descended from an ancestor of the same name, a Saxon born, who lived in the time of king Edward the Confessor, and in great authority under earl Godwin, was possessed of this manor and resided here in the reign of Henry III. bearing for his arms, Argent, on a fess wavy, sable, three escallops, or, between three trefoils, slipt of the second. He left a sole daughter and heir Maud, who entitled her husband Sir John Barrey, to the possession of it, who afterwards resided here, as did his several descendants down to Richard Barrey, esq. of Sevington, lieutenant of Dover castle in the memorable year 1588, being descended from Sir Audrian Barry, of the district of Barry, in Normandy, and

came into England with king Richard I. who placed him in the north country. His descendants were of respectable account at the times in which they lived, as conservators of the peace, knights of the shire, and

/I See Folkestone, for a further account of this family.

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sheriffs, keeping their several shrievalties at this seat of the Moat; two of them were lieutenants of Dover castle, and their alliances by marriages were with some of the most eminent families in this county, of Haut, Malmains, St. John, Aucher, and Fogge. They bore for their arms, Argent, a fess, gules, between six fleurs de lis, sable. These arms were in the windows of Milton church, near Sittingborne, and are still on the roof of the cloysters at Canterbury. Weever mentions several of them, whose monuments and inscriptions were remaining in this church in his time. Several of them had their figures on their grave-stones, habited in armour; but they have been all long since gone. Sir John Barrey before-mentioned, left two daughters his coheirs, one of whom, Elizabeth, married Vincent Boys, of Bekesborne, who in her right became afterwards entitled to this manor. He was fourth son of William Boys, of Fredville, by Mary, sister and heir of Sir Edward Ringesley, of Knolton, and bore for his arms, Or, a griffin segreant, sable, within a bordure, gules: being the arms of Boys; and for difference, On the bordure, acorns and crosses, for mee fitchee, or, alternately. His son Edward Boys, of Betshanger, alienated this manor to Mr. John Alcock, who had been steward to the Barrey family, and was afterwards tenant of this estate under Mr. Edward Boys; so that, steward-like, his wealth increased in proportion as that of his respective masters wasted; insomuch, that when they were necessitated to sell, he was enabled to purchase; too frequent an example even in these times; his sole daughter and heir Margaret carried it in marriage back again to the family of Boys, by her union with Thomas Boys, gent. of Willesborough, descended from Thomas Boys, of Bonnington, in Goodnestone, who lived in the reign of Henry VIII. and was a younger son of William Boys, by Isabella, daughter and heir of Phallop, of Nonington. He pulled down this antient seat, which

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stood in the bottom, just within the western boundary of this parish, where the moat, filled with water, now remains entire, inclosing strictly the scite only of it, and removed the materials of it to rebuild his house at Willesborough. He died possessed of this manor, with the scite of the antient mansion of it in 1659, and was succeeded in it by his son John Boys, gent. of Willesborough, in whose descendants it has continued down to Mr. Edward Boys, gent. now of Willesborough, the present proprietor of it.

NEW HARBOUR, usually called New Arbour, was once a manor and seat of some account here, which in king Henry VII.'s reign was the property of the family of Elys, of Kennington; but it did not continue long with them, for in the next reign of Henry VIII.

I find it in the possession of Henry Goulding, who resided here, as did his son Robert Goulding in the reign of queen Elizabeth, bearing for his arms, A cross voided, between four lions passant, gules; which was confirmed by Robert Cooke, clarenceux, in 1572, but he alienated it to Sir Edward Radcliffe, physician to James I. who afterwards resided at it. He was descended out of Lancashire, where his ancestors were antiently seated, bearing for their arms, Argent, two bendlets ingrailed, sable. Ralph Radcliffe, a younger brother of the above family, purchased Hitchin priory in the reign of Henry VIII. where his descendants afterwards continued; one of whom was Sir Edward Radcliffe, the purchaser of this estate of New Harbour, in whose descendants it continued down to John Radcliffe, esq. of Hitchin priory, in Hertfordshire, who dying in 1783, s. p. this estate, among others, came to Sir Charles Farnabye, bart. of Sevenoke, in right of his wife Penelope, sister and heir-at-law of the

/m See Guillim, p. 174, and Vistn. co. Kent, 1619, pedigree Goulding.

/n See Vistn. co. Kent. 1619, pedigree Radcliffe, and Chauncy's Hertfordshire, p. 391 et seq.

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before-mentioned John Radcliffe, and widow of Mr. Charlton, merchant, of London. Sir Charles Farnabye, afterwards named Radcliffe, removed into Hertfordshire, where he died s. p. in October 1798, and his heirs are now entitled to it.

IN THE BOOK OF AID, anno 20 Edward III. for the making of the black prince a knight, mention is made of the manor of Hawkyswell, in this parish, which Isabel de Hawkyswell then held by knight's service, and which Walter de Rokeslye before held in Hawkyswell of the honor of Folkestone. In the 33d year of king Henry VIII. it was found by inquisition, taken after the death of Edward Barrey, that he died possessed of it, holding it by ward to the castle of Dover, so that having the same owners, it most probably merged in the manor of the Moat, and continues so at this time.

CHARITIES.

MRS. ELIZABETH MAY, of Sittingborne, by will in 1721, gave 9l. every third year, chargeable on the estate of the Rev. Mr. Lushington, called Bilham-farm, in Kingsnoth, Mersham, and Sevington, to be paid, clear of deductions, to this parish in turn, for a term of years therein mentioned; twenty years of which were unexpired in 1786; to be applied for the binding out yearly a child an apprentice, of the poorest people in these three parishes, to be approved of from time to time by such persons as should be owners of the estate. This charity did not take place till the year 1784. One girl only has as yet been put out apprentice from this charity by this parish.

HALF AN ACRE of land, called the Church spot, in this parish, was given by persons unknown; the rent of which is expended in the repairs of the church.

The poor constantly relieved are about ten, casually not more than two or three.

SEVINGTON is situated within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry

of Limne.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is very small, consisting of two isles, one much larger than the other, and one chancel. At the west end is a

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spire steeple, shingled, in which are four bells. There are several gravestones in this church, all which have been robbed of their brasses. In the chancel is a memorial for Edward Boys, rector, eldest son of Thomas Boys, gent. of Mersham, obt. 1723. Weever mentions several memorials for the family of Barrey, in his time, and one for John Fynch, esq. obt. 1442; none of which are now remaining.

This church is a rectory, which seems antiently to have been in the patronage of the owners of the Moat manor in this parish, and to have continued so till Mr. Edward Boys, the owner of that manor, about the year 1776, conveyed the patronage of it by sale to Edward Norwood, gent. of Ashford, the present patron of it.

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 8l. 14s. 0½d. It is now a discharged living, of the clear yearly certified value of thirty-five pounds.

In 1570 it was valued at forty pounds, communicants sixty. In 1640 it had the like number of communicants, and it was valued at fifty-five pounds. It is now of the value of about one hundred and thirty pounds per annum.

CHURCH OF SEVINGTON.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Richard Barrey, esq. James Aucher, Dec. 8, 1584,
obt. 1600.

Edward and John Boys, gent. of
Canterbury. William Master, A. M. May 9,
1600./o

Edward Boys, gent. Thomas Bargar, alias Bargrave,
S. T. B. Jan. 23, 1614, ob.
1621.

Ralph Brockhull, clerk. Thomas Brockhull, A. B. April
23, 1621, resigned the same
year.

J. Alcock, gent. of Willesborough. Walter Angell, A. M. Aug. 8,
1621, obt. 1623.

/o Afterwards rector of Mersham, and S. T. P. He died in 1628.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

J. Alcock, gent. of Willesborough William Stacy, A. M. July 5,
1623, resigned 1624.

John Whitinge, A. B. May 1,
1624, resigned 1629.

Thomas Boys, esq. of Willesborough Thomas Streater, A. M. June 23,
1629.

Simon How, resigned 1668.

John Boys, gent, Edward Sleighton, A. M. Dec.
30, 1668, obt. 1686.

William Sale, A. B. March 1,
1686, resigned 1690.

Edward Boys, A. M. July 3,
1690, obt. Nov. 21, 1723./p
John Jenkinson, resigned 1727.
Edward Boys, gent. James Luck, A. B. Nov. 17,
1727, resigned 1731.
Stephen Greenhill, A. B. April
19, 1731, obt. July 1777./q
Edward Norwood, gent. of Ashford Edward Norwood, jun. A. M.
1777, the present rector./r

/p Son of Thomas Boys, gent. of
Mersham. He lies buried in this
chancel.

/q And perpetual curate of Egerton.

/r Younger son of the patron.

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KINGSNOTH,

THE next parish south-eastward is Kingsnoth,
sometimes called Kingsnode, and by Leland written
Kinges-snode.

THIS PARISH is so obscurely situated as to be but
little known, the soil in it is throughout a deep miry
clay; it is much interspersed with woodlands, espe-
cially in the south-east part of it, the whole face of the
country here is unpleasant and dreary, the hedge
rows wide, with spreading oaks among them; and the
roads, which are very broad, with a wide space of green
sward on each side, execrably bad; insomuch, that
they are dangerous to pass except in the driest time of
summer; the whole of it is much the same as the pa-
rishes adjoining to it in the Weald, of which the

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church, which stands on the hill nearly in the middle
of the parish, is the northern boundary, consequently
all that part of it southward is within that district.
There is no village, the houses standing single, and in-
terspersed throughout it. At no great distance eastward
from the church is the manor house of Kingsnoth,
still called the Park-house, the antient mansion, which
stood upon a rise, at some distance from the present
house, seems from the scite of it, which is moated
round, to have been large, remains of Mosaic pave-
ment, and large quantities of stone have been at times
dug up from it. South-eastward from the church is
Mumfords, which seems formerly to have been very
large, but the greatest part of it has been pulled down
and the present small farm-house built out of it;
westward from the church stands the court-lodge,
now so called, of East Kingsnoth manor, it is moated
round, and seems likewise to have been much larger
than it is at present, and close to the western boun-
dary of the parish is the manor-house of West Halks,
which has been a large antient building, most pro-
bably of some consequence in former times, as there
appears to have been a causeway once from it, wide
enough for a carriage, which led through the court-
lodge farm towards Shadoxhurst, Woodchurch, and
so on to Halden, remains of which are often turned
up in ploughing the grounds. In the low grounds,
near the meadows, is the scite of the manor of Moor-
house, moated round. The above mansions seem to

have been moated round not only for defence, but to drain off the water from the miry soil on which they were built, which was no doubt the principal reason why so many of the antient ones, in this and the like situations were likewise moated round. There is a streamlet, which rises in the woods near Bromley green, and flows along the eastern part to this parish northward, and joining the Postling branch of the Stour near Sevington, runs with it by Hockwood

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barn and under Alsop green, towards Ashford. Leland in his Itinerary says, vol. vii. p. 145, "The river of Cantorbury now called Sture springeth at Kinges Snode the which standeth southward and a litle by west from Cantorbury and is distant of Cant. a xiiii or xv myles."

THE ROYAL MANOR OF WYE claims paramount over this parish. The lord of that manor, George Finch Hatton, esq. of Eastwell, holds a court leet here for the borough of East Kingsnoth, which claims over this parish, at which a boroughholder is yearly appointed; subordinate to which is THE MANOR OF KINGSNOTH, which in early times was the residence of a family to which it gave name, who bore for their coat armour, as appeared by seals appendant to their antient deeds, Ermine, upon a bend, five chevronels; and John de Kingsnoth, who lived here about the latter end of king Edward I. sealed with that coat of arms; yet I find that Bartholomew de Badlesmere, who was attainted about the 17th year of king Edward II. had some interest in this manor, which upon his conviction escheated to the crown, and remained there until Richard II. granted it to Sir Robert Belknap, the judge, who had, not long before, purchased that proportion of this manor which belonged to the family of Kingsnoth, by which he became possessed of the whole of it; but he being attainted and banished in the 11th year of that reign, that part which had belonged to Badlesmere, and was granted by the king to Sir Robert Belknap, returned again to the crown, a further account of which may be seen hereafter. But the other part of this estate, which belonged to the family of Kingsnoth likewise, henceforward called the manor of Kingsnoth, which seems to have been the greatest part of it, on the petition of

See Cotton's Records, p. 540. See a further account of the Belknaps, vol. ii. p. 102.

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Hamon Belknap his son to parliament, to be enabled in blood and lands to his father, notwithstanding the judgement against him, was restored to him, and he was found by inquisition to be possessed of it in the 7th year of king Henry VI. Soon after which I find Sir Thomas Browne, of Beechworth castle, treasurer of the king's household, to have become possessed of it; for in the 27th year of that reign, he obtained licence for a fair in this parish, on the feast of St. Michael, and that same year he had another to embattle his mansion here and to inclose a park, and for free-warren in all his demesne lands within this manor;

and in a younger branch of his descendants this manor continued down to Richard Browne, esq. of Shingleton, in Great Chart, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Andrews, of Lathbury, in Buckinghamshire, and dying soon after the death of king Charles I. Elizabeth, their only daughter and heir, carried it in marriage to Thomas, lord Leigh, of Stoneleigh, who afterwards alienated it again to Andrews, in which name it continued till Alexander Andrews, executor and devisee of William Andrews, in 1690, conveyed this manor, with the farm called the Park, the manor of Morehouse, and other lands in this parish, being enabled so to do by act of parliament, to the company of haberdashers of London, as trustees, for the support of the hospital at Hoxton, commonly called Aske's hospital, in whom they are now vested. There is not any court held for this manor.

THE OTHER PART of the above-mentioned estate, which had formerly belonged to the family of Badlesmere, and had escheated to the crown on the attainder of Bartholomew de Badlesmere in the 17th year of king Edward II. remained there until Richard II. granted it to Sir Robert Belknap, on whose attainder and banishment in the 11th year of that reign it returned again to the crown, whence it seems, but at what time I have not found, to have been granted to

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the abbot and convent of Battel, in Sussex, by the name of THE MANOR OF EAST KINGSNOTH, together with the manors of West Kingenoth, in Pluckley; Morehouse, in this parish; and Wathenden, in Biddenden, lately belonging to that monastery, in as ample a manner as the late abbot, or any of his predecessors had possessed them, and they continued part of the possessions of it till its dissolution in the 30th year of Henry VIII. when they came into the hands of the crown, where they staid but a short time; for the king that year granted these manors to Sir Edw. Ringsley for his life, without any rent or account whatsoever; and four years afterwards the king sold the reversion of them to Sir John Baker, one of his council, and chancellor of the first fruits and tenths, to hold in capite by knight's service. He died in 1558, possessed of this manor, with the advowson of the church of Kingsnoth, and the manors of West Kingsnoth and Morehouse, held in capite, in whose descendants the manor of East Kingsnoth, with the advowson of the church, descended down to Sir John Baker, bart. who, in the reign of king Charles I. passed it away by sale to Mr. Nathaniel Powell, of Ewehurst, in Sussex, and afterwards of Wiarton, in this county, who was in 1661 created a baronet; and in his descendants it continued down to Sir Christopher Powell, bart. who died possessed of it in 1742, s. p. leaving his widow surviving, whose trustees sold this manor and advowson, after her death, to Mrs. Fuller, widow of Mr. David Fuller, of Maidstone, attorney-at-law, who in 1775 devised them by will to her relation William Stacy Coast, esq. now of Sevenoke, the present owner of them. There is not any court held for this manor.

MUMFORDS, as it is now called, though its proper

and more antient name is Montfort's, is a manor in this

/t Deeds of Inrolment, Augmentation-office.

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parish, which was once the residence of the family of Clerc, written in antient deeds le Clerc, and afterwards both Clerke and Clarke, in which it continued till about the latter end of the reign of king Edward I. when Henry le Clerc leaving no issue male, Susan his daughter and heir carried it, with much other inheritance, in marriage to Sir Simon de Woodchurch, whose descendants, out of gratitude for such increase of fortune, altered their paternal name from Woodchurch to Clerke, and in several of their deeds subsequent to this marriage, were written Clerke, alias Woodchurch. They resided at Woodchurch till Humphry Clerke, esq. removed hither in Henry VIII.'s reign. His son Humphry Clerke, about the end of queen Elizabeth's reign, sold this manor to John Taylor, son of John Taylor, of Willesborough, who afterwards resided here. His son John Taylor, gent. of Winchelsea, alienated it, about the beginning of king Charles I.'s reign, to Edward Wightwick, gent. descended of a family originally of Staffordshire, who bore for their arms, Argent, on a chevron, argent, between three pheons, or, as many crosses patee, gules, granted in 1613. He afterwards resided here, as did his descendants, till at length Humphry Wightwick, gent. about the beginning of king George II.'s reign removed to New Romney, of which town and port he was jurat, in whose descendants this manor became afterwards vested in several undivided shares. At length Mr. William Whitwick, the only surviving son of Humphry, having purchased his mother's life estate in it, as well as the shares of his brother Martin's children, lately sold the whole property of it to Mr. Swaffer, the present possessor and occupier of it.

WEST HALKS, usually called West Hawks, is a manor, situated near the western bounds of this pa-

/u See more of this family in Coll. Bar. vol. i. p. 282. There is a pedigree of them in Vistn. co. Kent. anno 1619.

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rish, being held of the manor of Kenardington; it formerly was the residence of a family of the name of Halk, who bore on their seals a fess, between three hawks, and sometimes only one, and were of no contemptible account, as appears by old pedigrees and writings, in which they are represented as gentlemen for above three hundred years. Sampson de Halk, gent. died possessed of this manor about the year 1360, and held besides much other land at Petham and the adjoining parishes; but about the latter end of king Henry VI.'s reign, this manor had passed from this family into that of Taylor, in which name it continued till the latter end of king Henry VII. when it was alienated to Clerc, whose descendant Humphry Clerke, esq. about the end of queen Elizabeth's reign, passed it away to Robert Honywood, esq. of Charing, who settled it on his fourth son by his second marriage Colonel Honywood. How long it continued in his descendants, I cannot learn; but it

has been for some length of time in the name of Eaton, of Essex, Mr. Henry Eaton being the present owner of it.

CHARITIES.

HUMPHRY CLARKE, gent. of this parish, left by will in 1637, a parcel of land, called Pightland, containing about three acres, in the eastern part of this parish, for the benefit of the poor of it.

MRS. ELIZABETH MAY, in 1721, gave by will 9l. every third year, chargeable on Bilham farm, to be paid, clear of all deductions, to this parish in turn, during a term of years therein mentioned, to be applied yearly towards the binding out a child an apprentice, of the poorest people in three parishes in turn, as has been already mentioned more at large under Sevington. One girl only has as yet been put out apprentice from this charity, by this parish.

The number of poor constantly relieved are about twenty-five, casually twelve.

KINGSNOTH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Limne.

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The church, which is dedicated to St. Michael, is small, consisting only of one isle and one chancel, having a square tower steeple at the west end, in which are five bells. In the isle is an antient gravestone, coffin-shaped, with old French capitals round it, now illegible. In the chancel is a stone, with an inscription on it in brass, for Thomas Umfrey, rector, no date; and a monument for Thomas Reader, A. M. son of Thomas Reader, gent. of Bower, in Maidstone, obt. 1740. Against the north wall is the tomb of Humphry Clarke, esq. made of Bethersden marble, having the figures of him and his wife remaining in brass on it, and underneath four sons and five daughters. Over the tomb, in an arch in the wall, is an inscription to his memory, set up by his daughter's son Sir Martin Culpeper, over it are the arms of Clarke, Two pales wavy, ermine, impaling Mayney. In the glass of the south window of the isle are several heads remaining, and in the north-west window the figure of St. Michael with the dragon. The north chancel fell down about thirty years ago. It belonged to the manor of Mumfords, and in it were interred the Wightwicks, owners of that manor; the gravestones of them, nine in number, yet remain in the church-yard, shut out from the church; and on one next to theirs, formerly within this chancel, is the figure of a knight in armour, with a lion under his feet, and an inscription in brass, for Sir William Parker, son of William Parker, esq. citizen and mercer of London, obt. 1421; arms, On a fess, three balls.

The advowson of the rectory of this church was formerly parcel of the possessions of the priory of Christ-church, and at the dissolution of it in the 31st year of Henry VIII. came into the king's hands, where it remained till that king in his 34th year, granted it in exchange, among other premises, to archbp. Cranmer, w

/w Deeds of purch. and exch. Augtn. off. box. C. 50.

who did not keep it long; for four years afterwards, he reconveyed it, with the consent of his chapter, back again to the king,^{/x} who soon afterwards granted it to Sir John Baker, one of his council, and chancellor of his first-fruits and tenths, who died possessed of the manor of East Kingsnoth, together with the advowson of this church, in the year 1558, in whose descendants it continued down to Sir John Baker, bart. who in the reign of king Charles I. alienated it, with that manor, to Mr. Nathaniel Powell. Since which this advowson has continued in the like succession of ownership with that manor, as may be seen more fully in the account of it before, to the present patron of it, William Stacy Coast, esq. now of Sevenoke.

There was formerly a pension of forty shillings payable from this church to the abbot of Battel.

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 11l. 9s. 9½d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 2s. 11¾d. In 1578 it was valued at sixty pounds, communicants one hundred. In 1640 it was valued at fifty pounds only, and there were the like number of communicants. It is now worth about one hundred and forty pounds per annum. The rector takes no tithes of wood below the hill southward. There are about seventeen acres of glebe land.

CHURCH OF KINGSNOTH.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Thomas Dunscombe, A. M. Nov.

6, 1592, obt. 1608.

John Sympson, A. M. Jan. 12,

1608, resigned 1609.

Sir Henry Baker. William Baldwin, A. M. March

15, 1609, obt. 1626.

The King, hac vice. Humphrey Peake, A. M. Dec.

28, 1626, resigned 1627.

^{/x} See Rymer's Fœd. vol. xv. p. 77, 92.

PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

The like. Thomas Allen, A. M. March 12,

1627, obt. 1636.^{/y}

Sir John Baker, bart. Francis Worrall, January 19,

1636.

Nathaniel Wilson, clerk, obt.

1676.

Sir Nathaniel Powell, bart. Timothy Wilson, A. M. July 10,

1676, obt. 1705.

Samuel Wightwick, A. M. July

16, 1705, obt. 1706.^{/z}

Lady Elizabeth Powell. Thomas Reader, A. M. March

21, 1707, obt. January 15,

1741.^{/a}

Duncan Menzies, March 18,

1741, resigned 1749.^{/b}

Philip Hawkins, A. M. 1749,

obt. March 1798.^{/c}

..... Glover, the present rector.

/y Rym. Fœd. vol. xviii. p. 100l,
and by a dispensation passed that year,
vicar of Eleham.

/z And rector of Burwash.

/a He lies buried in the chancel of
this church.

/b Afterwards rector of Teston.

/c Mr. Hawkins resided in his par=
sonage house to the time of his death,
whose character in his parish was that
of a most worthy clergyman, having
the blessings of the poor especially, for
his goodness and benevolence to them.

- - -

MERSHAM,

THE next parish to Kingsnoth north-eastward is
Mersham, being the last to be described in this hun=
dred. It is written in Domesday and other antient
records Merseham. A small district of the eastern
part of it is in the hundred of Bircholt Franchise, and
the rest of it in this hundred of Chart and Long=
bridge.

MERSHAM lies about four miles from Ashford, on
the quarry hills, where it is a dry and pleasant situa=
tion. The high road from Ashford to Hythe crosses
it eastward, along the high ground, over Mersham=
lees or heath, on the north side of which is the man=
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sion and park of Hatch, pleasantly situated on the
brow of the hill, having a beautiful view from the back
front, bounded by the down hills. It is a very elegant
building of brick, embellished with quoins, balus=
trade, and other ornaments of free-stone. The apart=
ments in it are superb, as well as commodious. The
park, which adjoins on the north side of it, extends
into the vale beneath, where it is well watered. On
the high ground the soil is mostly a sand, or loam
mixed with the quarry-stone, but northward, at the
lower part of Hatch-park, it changes to a deep miry
clay, where the stream which runs on towards Swat=
field bridge and Ashford, bounds it from Hinxhill
northward; at a small distance on the opposite or
south sides of the lees, going down the hill, is the vil=
lage or street of Mersham, in which is the rector's
house, and opposite a large good mansion, which lately
belonged to Mr. Turner Marshall, who resided in it.
He left two daughters his coheirs, Elizabeth married
to Mr. Edward Hughes, and Anne to Mr. William
Mantell, late of Tenterden, deceased. Mr. Hughes
now resides in it. And at a small distance further
down, on the east side of it, is the church, from which
there is a fine view southward; and at the west end
of the church-yard is the court-lodge of the manor.
On the same side, somewhat lower, is a neat sashed
house, late the Rev. Mr. Tournay's, but now belong=
ing to Mr. Fox, who lives in it; about one field dis=
tant westward stands a great old house, called the Boys=
house, inhabited for several generations by a branch of
the Boys family, the last of whom, Mr. John Boys,
was descended from Thomas Boys, of Bonnington, in

Goodnestone, in king Henry the VIIIth.'s reign, a younger son of William Boys, of Fredville, by Isabel Phallop. From Thomas above-mentioned, descended likewise those of Sevington and Willesborough; he died possessed of it in 1767, leaving three daughters his coheirs, of whom the two surviving ones, Eliza=

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beth and Mary, are still living, unmarried, at Ashford, and are the present owners of this house, which is inhabited by Mr. Cole, father of the Rev. Dr. Cole, rector of this parish, and Mr. Charles Staples, who married Mr. Cole's daughter. Further down it is called Kingford-street, formerly Kyngesfysh-street, beyond which there is a bridge over that branch of the Stour, called the Old Stour, which runs from hence by Sevington towards Ashford, as has been already mentioned, on which there is a corn-mill. Here there is much pasture ground, seemingly very rich; and at a small distance a good sashed house, formerly belonging to the Mantells, and from them usually called the Mantell house. It was purchased some years ago of the children of Edward Mantell, esq. by Mr. Joseph Hodges, who again sold it to Mr. Stephenson, of London, banker, who resided in it for some time, till he removed thither. The road, through the village southward, is the high and most frequented one from Ashford to the lower part of the Weald, by the four vents at Broadoak, and thence to Bilsington-cross; during the whole of which the soil is a deep stiff clay, a miserable wet and dreary country, and the roads execrably bad.

There is a fair in this parish on the Friday in Whitsun-week, for pedlary and toys.

THE MANOR OF WYE claims over some small part of this parish, as do the manors of Polton, Saltwood, and Brockholt, over other lands in it.

MERSHAM was given by one Siward and Matilda his wife, to the monks of Christ-church, though Somner in his Roman Ports, p. 110, says, that king Ethelred, (who died in 1016) granted it to that priory, with the privilege of several denberries in the Weald, and the same year he granted to them free-warren, and other liberties, and king Edward the Confessor, called in the register of that monastery St. Edward, confirmed this gift in the year 1061, and it was ap=

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portioned de cibo eorum, that is, to the use of their refectory. Notwithstanding this gift to the monks, it is entered in the record of Domesday among the archbishop's lands, as follows:

In Langebrige hundred, the archbishop himself holds Merseham in demesne. It was taxed at seven sulings. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and now, for three. The arable land is twelve carucates. In demesne there are three carucates, and thirty-nine villeins, with nine borderers having sixteen carucates. There is a church, and two mills of five shillings, and two saltpits of five shillings, and thirteen acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of thirty hogs. In its whole value, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards,

it was worth ten pounds, now twenty pounds.

By what means it came into the possession of the archbishop, for so it certainly was, or when it returned to the monks, does not appear, only that they soon afterwards were again in the possession of it; and accordingly in the 17th year of king Edward I. anno 1289, the prior and convent appear to have released certain base or villein services to their tenants of this manor, for which the lord received a pecuniary rent or fine, and in the 10th year of king Edward II. they had a grant of free warren from their demesne lands within this manor, among others. In which situation it continued till the final dissolution of the priory in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. when it came, with the rest of the possessions of it, into the king's hands; where this manor did not remain long, for the king, in his 33d year, settled it by his donation-charter on his new-erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, part of whose possessions it remains at this time.

A court baron is regularly held for this manor by the dean and chapter; but the demesne lands are demised from time to time on a beneficial lease. Samuel

/d See Somn. Gavelkind, p. 58, append. p. 187.

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Goddard is the present lessee, and resides in the court-
lodge, in the walls of which are several gothic arched
windows and door-ways of ashlar stone, and other
marks of its antient appearance.

HATCH is a manor and seat in this parish, which is frequently written in antient deeds Le Hatch, and was formerly in the possession of a family named Edwards, in which it continued till it was at length sold by the executors of the last of that name, in king Henry VII.'s reign, to Richard Knatchbull, who afterwards resided at it, being descended of a family originally of Limne, in this county, where, as appears by very antient deeds, they were possessed of a plentiful patrimony, and bore for their arms, Azure, three cross-crosetts fitchee, between two bendlets, or; his descendant, Sir Norton Knatchbull, kept his shrievalty at Hatch in the 5th year of James I. and died here in 1636 s. p. having by will founded the free grammar school at Ashford. His successor in this manor and seat, was his nephew and heir Norton, eldest surviving son of his next brother Thomas, who resided at Hatch, and served in parliament for this county, being a gentleman of great abilities and learning. On August 4, 1641, being the 17th year of Charles I. he was created a baronet. He died in 1684, and was buried in the family vault under the south chancel of this church. His descendant Sir Edw. Knatchbull, bart. was of Hatch, and served in parliament for this county likewise. He died in 1730, having married Alice, daughter of John Wyndham, esq. of Nonington, in Wiltshire, and sister to Thomas, lord Wyndham, lord chancellor of Ireland, by whom he left five sons and three daughters; Wyndham, who succeeded him in title; Thomas died unmarried; Edward, who succeeded his nephew in title and estate, as will be mentioned hereafter; Wadham, who was chancellor and prebendary of Durham, and died in 1760, leav-

ing three sons and one daughter Frances, who mar=

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ried Thomas Knight, esq. late of Godmersham, and Norton, who was of Babington, in Somersetshire, esq.

Sir Wyndham Knatchbull, bart. the eldest son, kept his shrievalty at Hatch in 1733, and took the surname and arms of Wyndham, pursuant to the will of his uncle the lord chancellor Wyndham, who died s. p. and by will devised his estates to him with that injunction, and for which an act passed that year. He died in 1749, having married Catherine, daughter of James Harris, esq. of Salisbury, by whom he left two daughters, Joane-Elizabeth, now of St. Stephen's, near the city of Canterbury, unmarried; Catherine, who likewise died unmarried; and one son Sir Wyndham Knatchbull, bart. who about 1760 pulled down the antient seat of Hatch, and began the building of a new mansion at a small distance south-eastward from it, which he did not live to finish, for he died in 1763, being then knight of the shire, unmarried, and was succeeded in title and estates by his uncle and heir Sir Edward Knatchbull, bart. then of Salisbury, but afterwards of Hatch, who completed the building of this elegant seat. He died in 1788, having married Grace, second daughter of William Legg, esq. of Salisbury, by whom he left three daughters, Anne-Elizabeth, who married her cousin Wyndham Knatchbull, esq. eldest son of Dr. Wadham Knatchbull, late prebendary of Durham above-mentioned; Catherine-Maria, and Joane. Edward, his only surviving son, succeeded him in title and estates, being then of Provenders, who served the office of sheriff in 1785, having married first Mary, daughter and co-heir of William Western Hugessen, esq. of Provenders, by whom he has two sons, Edward, born in 1782, and Norton; and secondly, Frances, second daughter of Charles Graham, esq. by whom he has a son Wyndham. Sir Edward Knatchbull, bart. now resides at Hatch, having been member in two successive parliaments for this county.

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QUARINGTON, or Quatherington, as it was sometimes written, is a small manor, lying in the valley in the northern part of this parish, near the stream, which was once the property of owners of that name, one of whom, Simon de Quarington, resided at it in the 4th year of king Edward I. anno 1275, as appears by the chartularie of Christ-church. Soon after which, this name became extinct here, and it came into the possession of Nicholas Blechenden, who resided here at the latter end of that reign, whose grandson William Blechenden being the earliest possessor of this manor that is mentioned in the deeds of it, was owner of it in the reign of king Richard II. He married Agnes, daughter and coheir of Godfrey, of Simnells, in Aldington, of which becoming possessed in her right, he left this place and removed thither, though his descendants seem to have continued proprietors of it till the latter end of the reign of queen Elizabeth, when it was alienated by one of them to Claget, of Canterbury, and George Claget, alderman, and thrice mayor

of that city, son of Robert Claget, of Malling, who bore for his arms, Ermine, on a fess, sable, three pheons, or, passed it away by sale, in the reign of James I. to Henry Estday, of Saltwood, whose arms were, Azure, a griffin segreant, argent, a chief of the second. He sold it to Sir Norton Knatchbull, of Hatch; since which it has continued in the same family, resident at Hatch, and baronets, down to the present owner of it, Sir Edward Knatchbull, bart. of Mersham-hatch.

/e As attested in the pedigree signed by Sir Wm. Segar, garter, See Book of Testifications in Heralds-office, marked M. 2.

/f There is a pedigree of them in Vistn. co. Kent, anno 1619. See also Saltwood.

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CHARITIES.

DAME JANE KNATCHBULL, of Godmersham, widow of Sir John Knatchbull, bart. by will in 1700, devised to her nephew Edward Knatchbull, esq. and his heirs for ever, all her share of one-third part in the reversion of all such lands and tenements in Kent as belonged to her, expectant on the death of her mother dame Elizabeth Monins, upon trust, that they should lay out the money arising from the sale of them, in the purchase of lands in this county, in trust, that they should yearly for ever, dispose of the rents of them as follows, 10l. to a schoolmaster, to teach poor children of the parish to read English, write, and cast accompts; and the residue to be distributed yearly among such of the poor people of this parish as they should think fit. These lands are now vested in Sir Edward Knatchbull, bart. and are of the annual produce of 78l.

This school is taught by the clerk of the parish, in a small room adjoining to the church, who is paid the above salary of 10l. for the instructing of a limited number of children, and the liberty of taking others for his further emolument.

RICHARD BRETT, by will in 1711, devised land to the use of the poor of this parish, now vested in Mr. Thomas Brett, and of the annual produce of 1l.

MRS. ELIZABETH MAY, of Sittingborne, by will in 1721, gave 9l. every third year, chargeable on the estate called Bilham-farm, to this parish, Sevington, and Kingsnoth, to be paid clear of all deductions, to be applied for the binding out yearly a child an apprentice, of the poorest people in those parishes, to be approved of by such persons as should be owners of that estate, in manner as has been already more fully mentioned under these parishes.

The poor constantly relieved are about fifty eight, casually sixty-five.

MERSHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Limne.

The church, which is dedicated to St. John Baptist, consists of two isles and two chancels, having a handsome square tower at the west end, in which are five bells. In the north window of the high chancel is the figure of a bishop, with his mitre and crosier, praying, and the figure of a saint, with the dragon under his feet. On the rector's pew is carved in wood, a coat of arms, being A fess, in chief, three balls. In

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this chancel is a memorial for Elizabeth, widow of William Legg, of New Sarum, and mother of dame Grace, wife of Sir Edward Knatchbull, bart. obt. 1771; and several monuments and memorials for the Knatchbull family. The south chancel belongs to them, in which are several monuments and memorials of them, particularly a most superb one for Sir Norton Knatchbull, who died in 1636, having his figure in full proportion lying on it, and above that of his lady kneeling in a praying posture, under a canopy supported by two figures; above are the arms of Knatchbull impaling Ashley; underneath this chancel is a large vault, in which this family lie buried. A monument for Margaret Collyns, daughter of Thomas Tourney, gent. and wife of William Collyns, gent. obt. 1595; arms, Vert, a griffin, or, gorged with a ducal coronet, argent, impaling Tourney. In the north isle are several memorials for the Boys's, of this parish; for Richard Knatchbull, esq. and for Mary Franklyn, obt. 1763. In the west window, which is very large, nearly the whole breadth of the isle, and consists of many compartments, are eight figures of men, pretty entire, and much remains of other painted glass in the other parts of it. The arms of Septvans and Fogge were formerly in one of the windows of the high chancel.

The church of Mersham was formerly appendant to the manor, and belonged with it to the convent of Christ-church; but when the survey of Domesday was taken in the year 1080, it appears to have been in the possession of the archbishop, with whom the manor did not continue long before it was again vested in the convent; but the advowson of the rectory remained with the archbishop, and has continued parcel of the possessions of the see of Canterbury to this time, his grace the archbishop being the present patron of it.

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This rectory is valued in the king's books at 26l. 16s. 10½d. and the yearly tenths, which are now payable to the crown-receiver, at 2l. 13s. 8¼d.

In 1578 here were communicants two hundred and forty-seven. In 1640, one hundred and eighty, and it was valued at eighty pounds.

CHURCH OF MERSHAM.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS

The Archbishop. John Whiting, obt. 1605./g

William Covell, S. T. P. April
12, 1605, obt. 1613.

Francis Foxton, S. T. P. Feb. 9,
1613, obt. 1626./h

William Master, S. T. P. April
3, 1626, obt. 1628./i

Thomas Hackett, A. M. Oct. 22,
1628.

John Ramsey, Oct. 5, 1636.

George May, jun. resig. 1665.

John Castillon, S. T. P. April
29, 1665, resigned 1677./k

John Cooke, A. M. Oct. 27,
1677, obt. Aug. 13, 1726./l
Henry Archer, S. T. P. Oct. 14,
1726, obt. 1744./m
John Chapman, S. T. P. June
27, 1744, ob. Oct. 14, 1784./n

/g His will is in the Prerog. office,
Canterbury.

/h He was buried in the chancel.
His will is in the above office.

/i Likewise rector of Sevington, and
prebendary of Canterbury.

/k Likewise vicar of Minster, in
Thanet, and prebendary of Canter=
bury, and being made dean of Roches=
ter he resigned this rectory. He died
in 1688, and was buried in Canterbury
cathedral.

/l Likewise rector of St. George's, in
Canterbury, and a six preacher. He
had been before rector of Cookstone,
near Rochester. See Wood's Ath.
vol. ii. f. 175. He lies buried in the
high chancel of this church.

/m He held the vicarage of Faver=
sham with this rectory. He had been
before likewise vicar of Herne, which
vicarage he resigned on being presented
to this rectory.

/n He was likewise rector of Alding=
ton by dispensation, and treasurer of
the church of Chichester. He died
æt. 81, and was buried in the chancel
of this church. For the doctor's cha=
racter, see the printed case relating to
archbishop Potter's options, devised by
him in his will to his executors, of
which Dr. Chapman was one. Brown's
Cases of Appeals to Parliament, anno
1760, vol. v. p. 400.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

The Archbishop. Thomas Drake, S. T. P. 1784,
resigned 1786./o

Houstone Radcliffe, S. T. P.
1786, resigned 1790./p

William Cole, S. T. P. 1790,
the present rector./q

/o He resigned this rectory for that of
Catford, in Huntingdonshire.

/p On being collated to the rectory
of Ickham, which he now holds with
the vicarage of Gillingham. He was
also prebendary of Ely, which he
quitted on being collated to the sixth
prebendal stall of Canterbury cathe=
dral. He and his predecessor had been
both domestic chaplains to Archbishop
Moore.

/q And prebendary of Westminster.

END OF VOL. VII.