

Richard Rawlinson
The English topographer
London
1720

THE
English Topographer:
OR, AN
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT,
(As far as can be Collected from PRINTED
BOOKS and MANUSCRIPTS)
OF ALL
The PIECES that have been Writ=
ten relating to the ANTIQUITIES,
NATURAL HISTORY, or TOPOGRA=
PHICAL Description of any Part of
ENGLAND.

Alphabetically digested, and illustrated
with the Draughts of several very Curious
OLD SEALS, exactly Engraven from
their respective Originals.

By an Impartial Hand.

LONDON:
Printed for T. JAUNCY at the Angel without
Temple-Bar. M.DCC.XX.

78

KENT.

Of the Affairs of this County we
want not Writers; and the first
who appear'd, was a Piece intitl'd –
'A Perambulation; containing the Descrip=
tion, Historie and Customes of that Shyre,
written in the Yeere 1570: By William
Lambarde of Lincolnes Inne, Gent. first
published in the Yeere 1576, and now in=
creased and altered after the Author's owne
last Copie.' Lond. 1596. 4to. – Another
Description of this Shire was publish'd
and call'd – 'A Topographie, or Survey of
the County of Kent, with some Chronologi=
cal, Historical, and other Matters touching
the same, and the several Parishes and
Places therein: by Richard Kilburne, of
Hawkherst, Esq.' Lond. 1659. 4to. –
But preparatory to this Work, Mr. Kil=
burne publish'd in an oblong Form in
various Columns, in 1657, – 'A brief
Survey of the County of Kent, viz. the
Names of the Parishes in the same; in
what Bailywick, Hundred, Lath, Division
of the county, and Division of Justices,
every of the said Parishes is; what Liber=
ties do claim in the same; the Day on
which any Market or Fair is kept therein;

79

the antient Names of the Parish-Churches;
in what Hundred or what Township every
of the said Churches doth stand; and in

what Diocesse every of the said Parishes was.' Next follows – 'Villare Cantianum, or Kent surveyed and illustrated: Being an exact Description of all the Parishes, Burroughs, Villages, and other respective Mannors included in the County of Kent, and the original and intermediate Possessors of them, even until these Times; drawn out of Charters, Escheat-Rolls, Fines, and other publick Evidences; but especially out of Gentlemens private Deeds and Muniments: By Thomas Philipot, Esq; formerly of Clare-Hall in Cambridge. To which is added an Historical Catalogue of the High Sheriffs of Kent, collected by John Philipot, Esq; Father to the Author.' Lond. 1659. Fol. – Norden made a Survey of this County, still in Manuscript; and Mr. Aubrey tells us, in his Preface to his 'Natural History, &c. of Surrey;' That Dr. Plot did design something of the like Nature for this County; though whether that learned Doctor had made any considerable Advances towards such a Work, a curious Enquirer may with the most Certainty know from the Reverend Mr. John Burman, M. A. Fellow of University-

80

College in Oxford, to whom the Care of the Doctor's Manuscripts were committed. We have in the 'Curious Miscellanies,' &c. printed at London, 1714. Octavo, Page 43, a Letter concerning some Roman Antiquities in this County, of which he design'd to say much more, according to the Epitaph on his Monument, had not he been anticipated by Death, 30 April 1696. As to some Part of its Antiquities, Dr. Battely has fairly accounted for them in his posthumous Work of the 'Antiquitates Rutupinæ,' publish'd by a Reverend Divine at Oxford, in 1711, Octavo: A Work free from the stiff inspid Stile generally charg'd upon the Writers of Antiquities, and at the same Time useful as well as diverting: It is wrote in an easy flowing Stile, and yet with a manly Spirit, and occasionally discovers much Skill of the Author in the Roman Antiquities and Histories. If the English Historian desires more on this Head, let him consult – 'The Treatise of the Roman Ports and Forts in Kent, (wrote) by William Somner; publish'd by James Brome, M. A. Rector of Cherton, and Chaplain to the Cinque Ports: To which is prefix'd the Life of Mr. Somner.' Oxon. 1693. 12mo. – This valua-

81

ble Piece was intended by the Author

to have been inserted in a large History of his native County; but that Design proving abortive, it was sent into the World with a most accurate Account of the Author's Life by Bishop Kennet, prefix'd by Way of Letter to the Editor, in which we are not confin'd to the Life alone, but are reliev'd with frequent instructive Digressions on our English Historians, particularly Topographers. But to go on to particular Histories, let us begin with Mr. Somner, who publish'd his – 'Antiquities of Canterbury, or a Survey of that antient Citie, with the Suburbs and Cathedral; containing principally Matters of Antiquity in them all; collected chiefly from old Manuscripts, Leiger-Bookes, and other like Records, for the most Part, never as yet printed: With an Appendix here annexed, wherein (for better Satisfaction to the Learned) the Manuscripts and Records of chiefest Consequence are faithfully exhibited. All (for the Honour of that antient Metropolis, and his good Affection to Antiquities) sought out and publish'd by the Industry and Good-will of William Somner.' Lond. 1640. 4to. – Many Years after, this Book was re-publish'd with very considerable Additions, and in=

82

titled – 'The Antiquities of Canterbury, in two Parts: The first Part, The Antiquities of Canterbury, or a Survey of that antient City, with the Suburbs and Cathedral, &c. sought out by the Industry and Good-will of William Somner: The second Edition, revised and enlarged by Nicholas Battely, M. A. Also Mr. Somner's Discourse, called Chartham News, or a Relation of some strange Bones found at Chartham in Kent. To which are added some Observations concerning the Roman Antiquities of Canterbury; and a Preface giving an Account of the Works and Remains of the learned Antiquary, Mr. William Somner, by N. B. The second Part, Cantuaria Sacra, or the Antiquities, I. Of the Cathedrall and Metropolitan Church. II. Of the Archbishoprick. III. Of the late Priory of Christ-Church; and of the present Collegiate Church founded by K. Henry VIII. With a Catalogue of all the Deans and Canons thereof. IV. Of the Archdeaconry of Canterbury. V. Of the Monastery of St. Augustine: Of the Parish-Churches, Hospitals, and other religious Places, that are, or have been, in or near that City, enquir'd into by Nicolas Battely, Vicar of Beaksborn. Illustrated and adorned with severall usefull and fair Sculptures.'

Lond. 1703. Fol. – In this Edition is omitted the fine Draught of a Font, given and consecrated by the Reverend Dr. John Warner, Bishop of Rochester; which we have represented in Page 181 of the former; and a farther Supplement to this Book has been lately publish'd, as shall be mention'd a little lower. We have some Account of Part of the City and Church of Rochester, under the Title of – 'The History and Antiquities of the Cathedral-Church of Rochester, containing I. The local Statutes of that Church. II. The Inscriptions upon the Monuments, Tombs, and Grave-stones. III. An Account of the Bishops, Priors, Deans, and Archdeacons. IV. An Appendix of Monumental Inscriptions in the Cathedral-Church of Canterbury, supplementary to Mr. Somner's and Mr. Bately's Accounts of that Church. V. Some original Papers, relating to the Church and Diocese of Rochester.' Lond. 1717. 8vo. To the same Ecclesiastical History may be added – 'Monasticon Favershamense in agro Cantiano, or a Surveigh of the Monastery of Faversham in the County of Kent; wherein its Barony and Right to sit in Parliament is discovered. Together with its antient and modern State described; as also its Founder and Benefactors

remembred: By Thomas Southouse of Greys-Inne, Esq. To which is added an Appendix of the Descent of King Stephen: By Thomas Philipot, Esquire.' Lond. 1671. 12mo. – As to Deptford, we have the printed Copy of an Act concerning Sea-Marks, and Mariners, enabling the Master, Wardens, and Assistants of the Trinity-House in Deptford-Strond, to set up Beacons, Marks, and Signs for the Sea. An. 8. Elizab. 1566. Cap. 13. As to Schools or Hospitals, in the Hands of Thomas Rawlinson, Esq; is a Copy of the Statutes of Sevenoke School. See the Copy of Sir William Boreman's Ordinances and Statutes for the Government of the School by him erected at Greenwich. Lond. 1701. 4to. – 'An Abstract containing the Substance of the Rules and Ordinances of the New Colledge of Cobham in the County of Kent, of the Foundation of the Right Honourable the late Lord William Baron Cobham: Reprinted in the Year 1687, by the Order and at the Expences of Sir Joseph Williamson of Cobham-Hall in the said County, Knight, one of the Presidents of the said Colledge.' – 'Morning and Evening Prayers, as they are used in the

of Kent, founded by Sir William Brooke, Lord Cobham.' Lond. 1687. 4to. — Concerning the Marshy Part of this Shire, was a Controversy upon the Publication of a Piece, intitl'd — 'A summary Relation of the past and present Condition of the upper Levels, lying in the Counties of Kent and Sussex: By Sir Nathaniel Powel, Baronet,' &c. — To which a Reply was given, as — 'Animadversions on severall material Passages, in a Book written by Sir N. P. &c. Together with a more exact Narration of the State of those Levels; by Thomas Herlackenden, Esq.' Lond. 1663. 4to. — 'The Charter of Romney-Marsh, or the Laws and Customs of Romney-Marsh framed and contrived, by the Venerable Justice Henry de Bathe: Very useful for all Professors of the Law, and also for all Lords of Towns, and other Land-Holders within Romney-Marsh, Bedford-Level, and all other Marshes, Fenns, and Sea-Borders.' Lond. 1686. 8vo. — As some of the Cinque-Ports are situate in this County, I shall chuse to place here the — 'Magna & Antiqua Charta quinque Portuum Domini Regis & Memoriorum eorundem.' Cantabrig. 1675. 8vo. — The famous Custom of Gavel-kind, no where known but here, in England,

is fully discuss'd by Somner and Silas Taylor: The last is call'd — 'The History of Gavel-kind, with the Etymology thereof; containing also an Assertion, that our English Laws are, for the most Part, those that were used by the antient Brytains, notwithstanding the several Conquests of the Romans, Saxons, Danes, and Normans. With some Observations and Remarks upon many especial Occurrences of British and English History: By Silas Taylor, Gent. To which is added, a short History of William the Conqueror, written in Latin by an anonymous Author in the Time of Henry the First.' Lond. 1663. 4to. — An imperfect Account of the Ecclesiastical State of this County may be had amongst Weaver's 'Funeral Monuments,' printed at London in 1631, Folio. Page 197, under the Heads of Ancient Funeral Monuments within the Diocese of Canterbury, and Page 301 within the Diocese of Rochester. But so inaccurate and negligent was this Collector, that he is never to be depended on. We have a few small Specimens of *Neutral History, in relation to some

particular Parts of this County, as 1st
– ‘A treatise of Lewisham, but vulgarly called Dulwich-Wells, in Kent,

87

shewing the Time and Manner of their Discovery, the Mineralls, with which they are impregnated, the severall Diseases Experience hath found them good for, with Directions for the Use of them, &c. by John Peter, Physician.’ Lond. 1681. 12mo.

– We have two Pieces wrote on the Subject of Tunbridge Waters, – I. – ‘A Philosophical and Medicinal Essay of the Waters of Tunbridge, written to a Person of Honour, by Patrick Madan, M.D.’ Lond. 1687. 4to. – ‘The Queenes Welles; that is, A Treatise of the Nature and Vertues of Tunbridge Water: Together with an Enumeration of the cheifest Diseases which it is good for, and against which it may be used, and the Manner and order of taking it. By Lodowick Rowzee, Dr. of Physicke, practising at Ashford in Kent.’ Lond. 1632. 12mo. – We have a Description of Greenwich-Hill, wrote by Mr. Manning, in a Poem, printed in Folio 1697. There are also four Plates engraved of the Royal Observatory here, one of the House itself, and a View towards London; the other three are Inside Views, with Draughts of the Telescopes and other Astronomical Instruments. – ‘Orders to be observed

88

by the Pensioners and Servants entertained in the Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich,’ printed on a broad Sheet. In a Collection of ‘Miscellany Poems on several Occasions,’ (written by a Lady) Lond. 1713. 8vo. said to be the excellent Compositions of the present Countess of Winchelsea, is in Page 58, 59, a Poem on Fanscomb-Barn near Wye: In Imitation of Milton. In a Latin Collection of Poems, intituled – ‘Musæ Britannicæ, e Poematis varii argumenti, vel hactenus ineditis, vel sparsim editis & rarissimis, constantes.’ Lond. 1711. 8vo. – Page 17, is – ‘Tunbrigialia, Authore P. Causton.’ This was printed in English in 1688. 4to. Many Years we had Reason to hope for a perfect Description of this County, for which Proposals were publish’d by John Harris, D. D. and the Method then design’d was as follows:

‘This History *was to contain these five Parts.

*sic

‘I. An Exact Topography, or Description of the County: Wherein whatever hath been already printed by Lambert, Somner, Kilburn, Philpot, Weaver,

Camden, Leland, Dugdale, Southouse, Fuller, Battely, &c. is methodically inserted; corrected and improv'd by

89

my own Observations; and, by the best Information I could get from Enquiries, and from ancient Manuscripts.

'And here *was propos'd to give a particular Account of the Cities of Canterbury and Rochester; of Ecclesiastical Benefices; of Families, Mannors, and Seats; and of the Descents and Conveyances of Estates. With an Account of that large Woody Tract, called the Weald, or Wild; as also of Romney Marsh; the Time of its Inning; its Laws, Charters, and Customs. With a Division of the County into its proper Laths, Bayliwicks, and Hundreds; and of the Rise and Course of its Rivers. To the End of this Part will be annexed a Transcript of Doomesday Book as far as relates to KENT, with many Corrections and Additions from several Manuscripts and Charters. With an Account of all the Roman Ways, Stations, Camps, Castles, Watch-Towers, Ports and Forts, and of other Monuments of Antiquity.

*sic

'To the whole is prefix'd, a new and accurate Map of the County, having the Arms of the Nobility and Gentry placed round about it.

90

'II. The Civil History of KENT: From the first State of it in the Times of the ancient Britains, thro' the several Changes and Revolutions it hath suffered by the Romans, Saxons, and Danes, 'till it came to be a Part of the Monarchy of England. And to this part *was to be added, the History of the Kings of KENT, and of the Earls and Sheriffs of this County: And also of the Lord-Wardens, Constables of Dover and of other Castles. With a large Account of the Original and Nature of Gavelkind: And the History of the Cinque-Ports, their Original, Design, Services, Laws, Customs, Courts, Charters, and Privileges.

*sic

'III. The History of the Archbishops of Canterbury, and of the Bishops of Rochester; and of the Abbots, Priors, Deans, and Archdeacons of those Sees; with an Account of such other Men as have been famous for Arts and Learning, and Employments Civil and Military. And of all the Religious Houses, Chapels, and Chan-

tries, their Founders, Times of Erection, &c. And of the Foundations and Revenues of all the Hospitals and Schools in the County, and of all

91

other publick Benefactions and Donations to good and charitable Uses.

'IV. The History of the Royal Navy; and of its Rise, Progress, and Improvement: With Observations on, and a Comparison between, the ancient and modern Shipping: The State of the four Docks, Deptford, Woolwich, Sheerness, and Chatham, situated in this County, on the Rivers Thames and Medway, for the Building and Repairing of our Ships of War; with an Account of all the Ships of the Navy-Royal; when built, where, and by whom, their Length, Breadth, Depth, Tuns, Guns, Men, &c.

'V. The Natural History of KENT; wherein is an Account given of the Sea, and of the Coasts adjoining to it; the Tides, Rocks, Shoals, Shelves, and Sands. Of the Fishes and Fishery in the Sea, on the Kentish Coasts. Of the Rivers, Brooks, Eylebourns, Springs, Fountains, Medicinal Waters, (and particularly a large Account of Tunbridge-Wells) Lakes and Ponds, with the several Kinds of Fish they produce.

'Of the Earth, Soil, and Nature of the Ground, in all its several Parts: The Beasts, Birds, and Insects; the

92

Trees, Plants, and Grasses; Fruits, Seeds, Flowers, and Grains in this County. Together with the Metals and Minerals; with a large Account of the Iron and Copperas Works. The Salts, Stones, Chalks, Clays, Marl, Mold, Fullers and Potters Earth, Sand and Gravel, that are any where found within its Bowels. And of the several Kinds and Improvements of Husbandry, Planting, and Gard'ning.

'With Observations also on the Temper of the Air, &c. in the several Parts of the County, with regard to Winds, Weather, Rain, Snow, Hail, Frosts, &c.

'An Account of the Trades, Manufactures, and Mechanicks, peculiar to KENT, or improv'd therein.'

The Success these Proposals met with, I am apt to think, was but indifferent; for, after above eight Years Pains, were publish'd the old Topographers of this County, with very small Alterations,

and few Continuations of Families; and the new Part of the Work seems only calculated to serve an Interest, and little Regard paid by the Editor to any Thing which might cross his Ambition, but wheresoever Party-Spleen could be shewn, the Author has not spar'd the

93

most unjust Calumnies, and has even gone out of his Way, and wander'd from his Subject, frequently to gratify his Passion, and make his Court to a Party, who could not but despise one, who would sacrifice every Thing to that Idol of his Avarice. Though he liv'd not to see the Fate of his Transcripts from others (as he dy'd 7 Septemb. 1719) yet his Book is at last publish'd, under the pompous title of – 'The History of Kent in five Parts, containing I. An exact Topography, or Description of the County. II. The Civil History of Kent. III. The Ecclesiastical History of Kent. IV. The History of the Royal Navy of England.' Vol. I. Lond. 1719. Fol. – What Progress the Doctor had made towards a Second Volume is not yet known, no more than whether any other will adventure upon his Plan. We have some Account of the State of Botany in this County, in the – 'Descriptio Iternis Plantarum investigationis ergo suscepti in Agrum Cantianum.' Lond. 1632. 8vo. – At Clyff in this County was a Spiritual Court, held Annually, for the Probate of Wills in that Parish, to which, I am apt to believe, belong'd an old Brass Seal, not long since found on Blackheath in this County, which is ex-

94

actly delineated from the Original, and seems to have this Inscription round it:



20

I have seen a Burlesque Copy of Verses

in Manuscript, on a small low situated Place in this County, call'd BRENT, a Poem, inscrib'd to Thomas Palmer, Esq; wrote by Mr. Diaper, late of Baliol College in Oxford.

In Page 495 of Numb. 193 of Philosophical Transactions, is a Discourse read

95

at the Royal Society by Edmund Halley, L. L. D. the present Secretary, attempting to prove the Time and Place of the Landing of Julius Cæsar in Britain, the latter of which is suppos'd to have been in the Downs. In Page 964 of Numb. 275, is a letter from Dr. Wallis to Dr. Sloan, concerning the Isthmus, or Neck of Land, which is suppos'd to have formerly join'd Dover and Calais. In Page 2462 of Numb. 312, is a Letter from Dr. Scipio des Moulins to Dr. Sloan, concerning a Mineral Water found at Canterbury in 1696. In Page 469 of Numb. 349, is a Letter from the Reverend Mr. John Sackette, M. A. to Brooke Taylor, L. L. D. and R. S. Secr. giving an Account of a very unusual sinking of the Earth near Folkstone. In Page 32 of the Notes upon the second Book of Antoninus's Meditations, translated by Meric Casaubon, B. D. and Prebendary of Christ-Church in Canterbury, and published at Lond. *1625, 4to. is an Account of some Roman Urns found about Newington near Sittingbourn, with the Figures of them; and in Page 42 and 43 of the 4th Edition of the same Book, at London, 1673, 8vo, is printed verbatim the same Account, but the Figures are omitted.

*<read '1634'>

<C.F. Apr. 2010.>