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THE
HISTORY
OF
LONDON,
AND ITS
Environs:

CONTAINING
AN ACCOUNT OF THE ORIGIN OF THE CITY;
ITS STATE UNDER THE ROMANS, SAXONS, DANES, AND NORMANS;
ITS RISE AND PROGRESS
To its Present State of Commercial Greatness:

INCLUDING
AN HISTORICAL RECORD OF EVERY IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING
PUBLIC EVENT, FROM THE LANDING OF JULIUS CAESAR TO THE PRESENT PERIOD;
ALSO, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS ANTIQUITIES, PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND ESTABLISHMENTS; OF THE
REVOLUTIONS IN ITS GOVERNMENT; AND OF THE CALAMITIES TO WHICH
ITS INHABITANTS HAVE BEEN SUBJECT BY FIRE,
FAMINE, PESTILENCE, &c.

LIKEWISE
AN ACCOUNT
OF ALL THE TOWNS, VILLAGES, AND COUNTRY,
WITHIN TWENTY-FIVE MILES OF LONDON.

BY THE LATE REV. HENRY HUNTER, D. D.
AND OTHER GENTLEMEN.

Embellished with Maps, Plans, and Views.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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KENT.

GREENWICH.

HAVING in a preceding part of this work taken a general survey of the county of Kent, with regard to its rivers, agriculture, and population, we now proceed to a particular description of such places as from local or other circumstances most deserve our notice, and seem necessarily to fall within the limits of our undertaking.

It is not remarkable that the town of Greenwich should first present itself, whether we consider its proud connexion with the metropolis; its situation on the river, than which nothing can impress foreigners with a more striking idea of our progress in every civilized art; or the noble institution of its hospital, majestic in its appearance, and the benevolent object of which is so widely and so effectually diffused.

According to the best and most authentic writers, Greenwich received its name from its situation on the banks of the river. In Saxon it was Grenawic, or the Green Town; in Latin, Grenovicum. In the reign of Henry V. it was a mean fishing town, but was in great esteem for the secure harbour it afforded to ships. It was in this place that for four succeeding years the Danish fleet remained, whilst their army occupied the eminence above.

Greenwich is in the hundred of Blackheath; its manor was in possession of the monks till the time of Henry the Eighth, who annexed it to the crown, where it remained till the time of Charles the First: it was then sequestered for the benefit of the state; but at the Restoration it reverted to the crown, with which it has

since continued. To enter minutely into its history till it became a royal residence, can be neither interesting nor important. The first period on record of its having been honoured by containing a palace for our princes was about the year 1300. From that time till the reign of Charles the Second it was the scene of royal magnificence and courtly splendour. The palace was extended and improved by Humphrey duke of Gloucester – Edward the Fourth added to its grandeur. In this place Henry the Eighth was born, and it was ever the favourite abode of this great and powerful sovereign.

Greenwich was also the birth-place of queen Mary and her sister Elizabeth, and

the latter princess particularly preferred it as the place of her summer residence. The last of our monarchs who inhabited Greenwich palace was Charles the First, though it was occasionally visited by the Protector, and, after him, by Charles the Second. It was in the reign of William and Mary that the plan of converting the palace into an hospital for disabled seamen first originated. This was progressively extended, meliorated, and improved, till it became what it now remains, a truly magnificent monument of national liberality and benevolence.

This noble institution provides for the relief and support of seamen for the royal navy, who from wounds or other circumstances are unqualified for farther service at sea, or unable to maintain themselves. But its benevolence does not terminate here – there is provision also for the maintenance of the widows of such seamen, and the education of the children of such as shall be killed or disabled in the service of their country. The following account of this noble edifice is succinct and abridged, but we trust it will be found sufficiently comprehensive.

Greenwich Hospital. – This noble institution was founded, not on the ruins of a royal palace, but has by gradual steps grown out of one, till it has eclipsed, both in extent and external magnificence, many of those at present existing, and which are now occupied by royal or imperial tenants. On its site originally stood the ancient royal palace called Placentia, built by Humphrey duke of Gloucester, in the reign of Henry the Sixth. It was taken by Edward the Fourth, who deposed that monarch, into the hands of the crown, where it remained, having experienced a variety of additions under different sovereigns, till the reign of king Charles the Second. Being then found extremely decayed by time, and the want of necessary repairs, it was dismantled soon after the Restoration, and the erection of one on a more magnificent plan undertaken. It remained, however, with many other buildings of the same aera and description, in a very unfinished state, at the accession of king James the Second, under whom every thing of this nature continued dormant. It was by royal grant from king William and queen Mary, bearing date on the 20th of October, in the sixth year of their reign, conveyed to certain commissioners, of whom the great officers of state formed a part, for the purpose of being converted to the noble purpose, which in a more enlarged extent it has ever since been applied to.

Its original foundation extended only to the reception of three or four hundred seamen; the alterations and additions to the original building necessary to this pur-

pose were completed under the superintendance of Sir Christopher Wren, in the year 1698, and now constitute the north-west pile or building of the four which at the present period collectively form this stupendous erection. Scarce was this first part of the noble undertaking carried into execution, when, to the great honour of national liberality, a building since called queen Anne's was planned and undertaken. It is opposite to that erected by king Charles, and preserves in its principal fronts, the west and north, the same exterior.

The foundation of a third pile called king William's, was laid nearly at the same time on the south-west. It contains that superb apartment, the great dining or painted hall, the decorations of which were executed by Sir James Thornhill, and was originally designed by the architect Sir Christopher Wren, for the use of the officers and men. It has, however, long ceased to be applied to that purpose, the men dining in spacious halls on the lower story, and the officers in their own apartments.

In 1699 the foundation of the eastern colonnade, attached to that quadrangle since called queen Mary's building, was laid; and without entering into a tedious reca-

pitulation of dates, the whole building was finished, nearly in its present form, about the year 1752. Considerable sums have at different times been bequeathed and given by various persons for this highly honourable purpose, and the deficiency has been made good either by parliamentary grants, or the appropriated rents and profits of estates forfeited by families of rank heretofore engaged in rebellion. Among these, the possessions of the unfortunate earl of Derwentwater form a conspicuous and principal part.

The hospital, thus divided into four distinct piles, each of which forms an oblong square with its fronts outwards, contains, by some recent additions and internal improvements, derived particularly from the erection of an infirmary, independent of the hospital itself, nearly two thousand four hundred pensioners, exclusive of their different officers, necessary as well for their government as their comfort.

To the northward, adjoining to the river Thames, is the principal or grand square, the width nearly 280 feet, bounded on the north by the grand parade or wall washed by the river; on the east and west, by the grand fronts of the quadrangles, named in honour of king Charles and queen Anne; and on the south by a flight of steps extending the whole length, in consequence of their more elevated

situation between king William and queen Mary's buildings, as well as in a small degree by the east and west corners of those stupendous piles.

In the centre is the statue of his late majesty king George the Second in white marble, executed by Rysbrack, and highly esteemed by all judges of sculpture. Upon the whole, the magnificent appearance of the different buildings when viewed on the north side from the Thames, has never in any part of the world been hitherto equalled in a similar erection. The annexed view, taken from the north side of the Thames, will give some idea of the magnitude of the building.

On the 1st of January 1779, a most dreadful fire, occasioned by causes never hitherto known, or at least made public, broke out in a part of queen Mary's building, as is generally supposed, above the chapel. By the greatest exertions it was in a few hours got under, though not till it had entirely consumed the chapel itself, and as many of the adjacent wards as were capable of containing nearly five hundred pensioners. The former erection had been finished with all the elegance then in use, under the direction of Mr. Ripley. The repairs and reconstruction of the present, were conducted by Mr. Stuart. It is in length 111 feet, in breadth 52, so that one thousand pensioners may at any time attend divine service, exclusive of the directors, and different officers. It is finished in a most superb and expensive style, very different from the original building. The paintings which adorn the walls represent the principal events in the life of Jesus Christ, together with the effigies of the Apostles and Evangelists, which are executed in chiaro oscuro, by Catton, de Bruyn, Milburne, and Rebecca; the altar-piece is painted by West, and represents the preservation of St. Paul from shipwreck. This magnificent picture is 25 feet high and 14 wide; and on each side of it are two columns; the shafts of Scagliola, executed by Richter, in imitation of Sienna; the capitals and bases of statuary marble: these are answered by four others at the west end, two on each side the organ-loft, and jointly appear to support the ceiling, which is arched. This building was completed, and opened for divine service on the 2d of September 1789.

Reviewing this extensively charitable foundation, the eye of the casual and almost inattentive passenger or stranger, is captivated and astonished at the magnificent exterior, the philanthropic heart of the benevolent friend of poverty is warmed and animated by the substantial relief afforded to the indigent, and the feelings of every well-wisher to his country are raised to the highest pitch on reflecting

that so noble an institution has been founded for the comfort and relief of its best and noblest defenders.

The funds for the maintenance of the individuals of this great charity, as well as for the general improvement and extension of the buildings, are large and sufficient. To specify them in detail would occupy too large a portion of a work intended rather to give general information, than for minute and particular investigation. They consist of national contributions and private benefactions. The regulation of the hospital is vested in the governor and a council of officers appointed by the admiralty. The present governor is the right hon. lord Hood,

whose salary is 1000l. a year: there is also a lieutenant-governor, who at present is William Locker, Esq. with a salary of 400l. a year.

In the burial-ground belonging to the hospital the celebrated Tindal was interred. His translation of Rapin's History of England, and continuation of it to the end of the reign of George I., entitle him to respectful mention.

Greenwich-park. – This favourite resort of the gay and affluent, as well as of the humble and the mean, as it cannot be visited without delight, we shall not pass over without praise. The agreeable scenery which it contains within itself, and the truly enchanting prospects which it exhibits from its eminences, cannot fail of infusing a balm over the hearts of those who retire to it from the toil, and care, and smoke of the metropolis. It belongs to the crown, and contains 188 acres. The ranger's lodge, an elegant and convenient edifice, has, we know not from what cause, been long uninhabited. There has been no ranger appointed since the death of lady Catharine Pelham. The other structure in the park is the Observatory, founded by Charles the Second. Here formerly stood a castle or tower, which in the reign of queen Elizabeth was called Mirefleur, and which in the troublesome times of 1642 was called Greenwich-castle, and fortified as a place of strength.

The motive of founding this Observatory was highly honourable to the monarch; for it was excited by the hope of discovering the longitude, by ascertaining the places of the fixed stars; it was built in 1675. The first astronomer royal was Flamsteed, from whom this edifice has been denominated Flamsteed-house. Flamsteed was succeeded by men of equal eminence with himself; as a proof of which it is only necessary to mention the names of Halley, Bradley, and Maskelyne. The Observatory is nobly provided with astronomical apparatus; the observations and

discoveries are every year published, and an annual visitation is made here by a deputation from the Royal Society. The annexed view of London was taken from the Observatory.

The park presents to the eye a noble and delightful area, two sides of which, from the river to Blackheath, are filled with mansions of individuals of rank and opulence. The effect of its views, which exceed description, may be partially seen in Mr. Boydell's magnificent work of the rivers of Great Britain. The river is here strikingly bold and deep, and opposite is the Isle of Dogs, which we mention merely to explain the occasion of its appellation, which is not generally known. – When Greenwich was a royal residence, the spot was appropriated for the king's hounds, and thence its name.

Blackheath, in the vicinity of Greenwich, and at the summit of its park, is a spot alike pleasant and salutary, and as such is crowded with houses of the nobility, gentry, and more opulent tradesmen; the principal of these are the mansions of the duke of Buccleugh, and Chesterfield-house. Lord Chesterfield, the polite author of the letters which go by his name, resided here occasionally for several years. The house is now occupied by Mr. Hulse, who possesses a collection of very valuable pictures.

Blackheath is also famous in the history of our country. It was on this spot that the Danes encamped, whilst their fleet lay beneath them. Here also the Roman road from London to Dover was constructed, which is evinced by various antiquities which have at different times been found, as well as by many tumuli which are still to be distinguished.

Upon Blackheath the Cornish rebels were defeated by Henry VII. It has also at various periods of our history exhibited splendid scenes of triumphal entries, encampments, and pageantries.

The parish church of Greenwich was one of those built in the reign of queen Anne. It is a very handsome and elegant structure, and contains many curious, and some splendid monuments. It is in the diocese of Rochester, and in the patronage of the crown. The present vicar is Andrew Burnaby, D. D. who succeeded Doctor Hinchliffe, the late bishop of Peterborough.

The number of houses in Greenwich is said to be 1850, which, allowing five persons to each, makes the population amount to 9250.

IN strict propriety, Deptford should have been noticed before Greenwich; but if the greater importance of this latter place be not allowed a sufficient excuse for this trifling deviation, we may add, that the whole of Deptford does not lie within the county of Kent – a part of it is in the county of Surry.

The part of Deptford which lies within this county is, as well as Greenwich, in the hundred of Blackheath.

Its ancient name was Depeford, which sufficiently explains itself. It is contiguous to the high road to Dover, and at the distance of four miles from London. In 1730 it was by act of parliament divided into the two parishes of St. Nicholas and St. Paul, of which we shall speak in their order; first observing, that among the inhabitants this place is distinguished by the names of Upper and Lower Deptford.

The parish of St. Nicholas is the smaller of the two, but its population seems progressively increasing. The society of the Trinity-house was first established here, the object and utility of which are sufficiently notorious. The hall in which the brethren formerly held their meetings was pulled down in 1787: a new and sumptuous edifice has lately been erected for their use upon Tower-hill. The object of the society, in a country like England, is so generally beneficial, that the name of the founder certainly deserves to be commemorated. This was Sir Thomas Spert, who was comptroller of the navy to Henry VIII., in whose reign Deptford was a small and contemptible fishing town. It very soon, however, rose in importance, and consequent population, by the establishment of the royal dock-yard, which also took place in the commencement of the same reign.

This dock consists of one large and spacious store-house, to which a long range of smaller buildings have been added within the last twenty years. The whole together does not occupy a space of much less extent than thirty acres. There are two wet docks, two mast-ponds, three slips, and about twenty forges. There is no commissioner at this yard; but the business of it is conducted entirely by the Navy board; and many of our largest ships have been built here.

This parish of St. Nicholas also contains two hospitals, which are under the patronage and protection of the brethren of the Trinity-house. The old hospital is close to the church; it was repaired and extended in 1788, and at present

consists of twenty-five chambers. The other hospital stands in Church-street. The individuals receiving benefit from these two charities are aged masters of ships, decayed pilots, or the widows of both. The corporation of the Trinity-house have an annual meeting at one or other of these hospitals every Trinity Monday.

In this parish also is an excellent charity-school, at which no less than fifty boys and as many children of the other sex are educated, and afterwards placed out in trade. The school is for the benefit of the two parishes of St. Nicholas and St. Paul.

Deptford is also famous for a valuable manufacture of earthen-ware, which employs a very considerable number of hands of all ages and both sexes. It is called Deptford ware.

The parish of St. Nicholas is a vicarage; the patronage of which is in the Drakes of Agmondesham. The number of houses at present in the parish amount to 1200.; the number of inhabitants about 6000.

Deptford, St. Paul's. – This is the new parish, according to the division which took place in 1730. There is nothing more remarkable in this parish than its very surprising increase of population. It at present consists of no less than 2300 houses, and consequently, according to the usual mode of calculation, contains 11,500 inhabitants.

The Victualling-house, which anciently bore the appellation of the Red-house, and which always contains prodigious quantities of provisions, as well as of stores of various kinds, stands in this parish. The other buildings of any importance are the Telegraph erected by government in 1795; a private dock-yard, which belongs to Sir Frederick Evelyn; a very elegant church, which contains many beautiful monuments; and meeting-houses belonging to dissenters of different descriptions.

The church is a rectory, not charged in the king's books. According to Ecton, the first presentation was in the gift of the crown. The last person who presented was John Thornton, Esq. in 1775.

Almost the whole of the first-mentioned parish of St. Nicholas is covered with

houses; whereas the parish of St. Paul's is said to contain several hundred acres of arable land, a great proportion of which is occupied by gardeners, who constantly supply the London markets with vegetables of every kind.

It is not precisely ascertained what portion of Deptford is claimed by the county of Surry; we have, therefore, contented ourselves with the general mention of the fact, that part of it lies in Kent, and part in Surry.

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CHARLTON.

THIS village is also in the hundred of Blackheath; it is seven miles from London, and two from Greenwich. The manor-house is of great antiquity, and is mentioned in this place because it is the residence of the princess of Wales in her absence from Carleton-house; and sorry we are to say, that it is very inadequate to her pretensions, whether we consider her rank, her accomplishments, or her virtues.

In this place a great fair was anciently held, called Horn-fair, which is still kept up, though with some deviation from its former solemnities.

The noble mansion erected by Sir Gregory Page, consisting of a grand centre and two wings, with elegant colonnades, and embellished with a collection of paintings of considerable value, was also in this parish. It was called Wrickles-marsh-house. Part has been taken down and sold in lots, part still remains in melancholy ruin.

There are about 100 houses in the parish, and 500 inhabitants: and the population continues to increase.

It is a rectory, the patronage of which is in private hands. The church is a plain and simple structure, in the chancel of which are some neat monuments.

There is a charitable erection in the parish of Charlton which deserves particular mention: this is Morden-college. The founder was Sir John Morden; and its object was a place of retirement for tradesmen of the more respectable kind, who had been unfortunate in business. The estates appropriated to the maintenance of these rather exceed, than fall short of 1600l. a year. It was originally intended for Turkey merchants; but as there is provision for thirty individuals, this rule is not strictly observed: all, however, must be members of the established church, and not less than fifty years of age. Their allowance in money is about 25l. a year; their other advantages, exclusive of their apartments, cannot be estimated at less than ten more. The chapel is a plain, neat building, decorated with the portraits of Sir John and Lady Morden. The patrons of this charity are the Turkey company; but in case this company should cease to exist, the trustees are to be selected from the right honourable the East India company.

The manor of Kidbrooke is also in the parish of Charlton. It was formerly the residence of different noble families. It is now the property of lord Eliot, and the manor-house has been converted into a farm.

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WOOLWICH.

WOOLWICH lies to the eastward of Charlton, and is also in the hundred of Blackheath. Etymologists are much divided with respect to its name. It is sometimes in very old charters written Hulviz, which has successively undergone the variations of Wollewic, Wulwicke, and Woolwich.

The town is agreeably situated on the banks of the river, and is at the distance of nine miles from the metropolis. It is not a little singular that part of this parish lies on opposite banks of the Thames, yet the whole is said to be in the county of Kent.

The dock-yard which has been established at Woolwich, and is still progressively improving, and to which the place owes its principal importance, is said by some writers to be the most ancient in the kingdom. It appears from bishop Gibson's Additions to Camden's Britannia, that the famous ship called Great Harry was built at this place in the reign of queen Mary. This dock-yard is nearly of the same extent with that of Deptford, and regulated in the same manner, that is, not by a resident commissioner, but immediately by the Navy board. There is also a very large and extensive rope-walk; and, what must by no means be passed over without particular mention, a gun-wharf, which formerly stood in the market-place,

but is now at the Warren. At this Warren all kinds of artillery are both cast and proved, and in peaceable times the guns of our men of war are here also deposited.

A very honourable and useful establishment for the education of young men who are intended for the engineer service, has long existed here. The students have the title of cadets, and are usually of the more respectable families. Barracks have been erected here by government for the accommodation of the regiment of artillery, of which Woolwich is the head-quarters.

Many of our largest ships of war, from the time of Elizabeth to the present period, have been built at Woolwich; one in particular, called after that sovereign, is mentioned by Strype in his Annals. Another built in 1637, is described with every circumstance of minute particularity by Haywood the comedian. The following extract is curious enough to deserve insertion: – "She was one thousand six hundred and thirty-seven tons burden, besides tonnage; one hundred and twenty-eight feet long, and forty-eight feet broad; from the fore end of the beak head to the after end of the stern, one hundred and fifty-two feet; from

the bottom of the keel to the top of the lantern, seventy-six feet. She had five lanterns, of which the biggest would hold ten persons, standing upright; three flush-decks, a forecastle, half-deck, quarter-deck, and round-house. The lower tier had sixty ports, the middle one, thirty, the third twenty-six, the forecastle twelve, half-deck fourteen, and as many more within, besides ten pieces of chase ordnance forward, and ten right aft, as well as many loop-holes in the cabin for muskets. She had also eleven anchors, one of which weighed four thousand four hundred pounds. This royal ship was curiously carved and gilt with gold; and the Dutch, from the slaughter and havoc her cannon made among them, called her the Golden Devil."

Of 650 acres which the parish of Woolwich is said to contain, there are no less than 380 on the coast of Essex. It is probable that some distinguished personage obtained a grant of the whole in remoter times, and caused it to be united to his own county; something similar to this having taken place with regard to the episcopal palace of the bishops of Winchester situated in Chelsea.

The population of Woolwich has long been increasing. The number of houses amounts to 1200: the number of inhabitants considerably exceeds 6000.

The parish church is a plain neat building, which in the inside is of Grecian architecture. It was one of the fifty built according to act of parliament in the reign of queen Anne.

It is a rectory, in the diocese of Rochester, and patronage of the bishop. The present rector is the Rev. George Andrew Thomas, nephew of doctor Thomas, the late bishop.

There are several meeting-houses in Woolwich, belonging to the different sects of presbyterians, anabaptists, and methodists. There is also a charity-school for girls, and an alms-house for poor widows, under the patronage of the Goldsmiths' company.

The largest ships may ride in safety near the town, the river in this place being remarkably deep, and at high water near a mile broad. Before we leave this place, it is necessary to observe, that hulks for convicts are here stationed. These miserable people are employed in heaving ballast, and other laborious occupations; and often, when the period of their punishment is at an end, return to their former habits and companions with increased obduracy of principle, and diminished terror of the consequences of their crimes.

ELTHAM.

THIS place merits more than common attention, both on account of its antiquity, and because it was anciently a residence of the sovereigns of England.

In remoter records it is denominated Eltham Mandeville, because in part it was the property of the family of that name. After the decapitation of Charles the First, the manor of Eltham was seized by the parliament, but at the Restoration it came into the hands of Sir John Shaw, and in his family it still continues.

The ruins of this once magnificent palace are Rill respectable, and serve to convey a strong impression of the ravages of time. In this place resided Henry the

Third, Edward the Second, Edward the Third, Richard the Second, with a great many of their successors to the time of Elizabeth. The adjoining park was very spacious, and was said to contain 600 acres, well stocked with deer, and from which timber to the value of 5000l. was cut before the year 1660. In the time of Henry the Seventh, we learn from a record in the office of arms, that the king was constantly resident in this palace, and dined in the great hall. In this hall none were allowed to dine but the officers of arms, on account of the plague which at that time prevailed in the metropolis. When the second course was served up, it was preceded by a herald, who proclaimed the king's titles. At this palace also, a king of Armenia, named Leo, who had been expelled from his dominions by the Turks, was entertained with splendid hospitality by Richard the Second.

To the manor of Eltham have been annexed the manor of Henle or Henleys, the manors of West Horne, East Horne, and Corbye-hall.

The church is a plain building, with a spire, and contains many curious monuments; among the most remarkable of which is one to the memory of Ann, wife of Richard Owen, D. D. vicar, who died in 1653, which has this conclusion: – "In solatium fati quantulumcunque poni tandem curavit hoc marmor tot summae spei liberis superstes pater, expulsus hinc olim rebellibus, idem Ricardus Owen, S. T. P. annos numerans 73, ipse brevi secuturus. Eadem et te sors manet, lector: vigila; nescis qua hora."

In the church-yard is the tomb of that pious and excellent prelate Dr. Horne, bishop of Norwich. Here also was buried that gallant officer Sir William James, in whole honour his amiable widow, lady James, has erected, upon Shooter's-hill, a triangular tower of the elevation of near fifty feet; an interesting and striking object to the surrounding country. Another person also was here interred of no small

note in his day, and the memory of whom is not likely soon to be obliterated – this is Dogget the comedian. For many years before his death he gave a coat and silver badge to be rowed for by six young watermen on the expiration of their apprenticeship; and at his death he bequeathed a sum of money to perpetuate the custom.

The advowson of the vicarage is in the hands of Sir Gregory Page Turner, and it has lately been augmented by queen Anne's bounty. The present vicar is the Rev. John Kennard Shaw.

The population of the parish seems to be on the increase; there are at present somewhat more than 240 houses, and about 1200 inhabitants.

Southend is a hamlet in the manor of Eltham, in which is a mansion of great antiquity. Motingham, or Mottingham, belongs partly to Eltham, and partly to Chislehurst; which last place we are induced to mention on account of a remarkable sinking in of the earth, which happened here in 1585, and which is thus mentioned in Fuller's Worthies of England:

"On the 4th of August 1585, betimes in the morning, in the hamlet of Mottingham, in the parish of Eltham, the ground began to sink in a field belonging to Sir Percival Hart, so much that three great elm trees were swallowed into the pit; and before ten of the clock no part of them could be seen. The compass of the hole was about eighty yards, and it was suddenly filled with water."

We must by no means conclude our account of Eltham without making some mention of Shooter's-hill, which is at the north-east end of this parish, on the high road from London to Canterbury. In earlier times this was a famous haunt for robbers, nor can we truly say that in this respect modern times have much amended it.

This place probably derived its name from the circumstance of its being a place of exercise for archers. We have here an opportunity of correcting an error into which Mr. Lysons has inadvertently fallen, who makes this the scene of Falstaff's merry but licentious exploit, whereas it was Gad's-hill, near Rochester. The road, always steep and difficult, was not so improved as to be secure till about the year 1739.

Upon the summit of this hill is a remarkable mineral spring, which it is said that the severest frost of our hardest winters has never been able to congeal. A detached account of this spring was published in 1673 by a writer of the name of Godbid.

It seems only necessary to add, that Eltham was in remoter times written Ealdham, the signification of which is obvious at first sight; eald meaning old, and

ham a dwelling. It is in the hundred of Blackheath, and at the distance of about eight miles from London. Agricultural writers assign to this parish a space of about 2900 acres: of this considerably more than half is arable. The soil is unequal, being in some parts gravel, in others clay; a large portion also is woodland. There were anciently annual fairs, and a market every Tuesday; but these have all been discontinued. It has the reputation of being a healthy situation, and is much frequented, on account of its pleasantness, by visitors from town.

LEE.

THE next place which presents itself to our notice is Lee. This is an agreeable and retired village in the hundred of Blackheath, and at the distance of six miles from London. Its Latin name is Laga, which means a retired or sheltered spot, an appellation in the present instance not unhappily applied.

There are not many particulars annexed to the village of sufficient importance to detain the reader.

The church is a very ancient building, and seems to call aloud to be repaired, or rather rebuilt. It is a rectory, and in the gift of the crown, and at present is held, in commendam, by Dr. Courtenay, bishop of Exeter. Among other tombs in the parish church and adjoining cemetery, are those of the celebrated astronomer Dr. Halley, of that eminent citizen Sir Samuel Fludyer, and of Parsons, the humourous comedian. We are somewhere informed that Purchas, famous in the annals of our literary history for writing his Collection of Voyages, was an inhabitant of this parish.

At present there are not more than 50 houses, and about 300 inhabitants in Lee; but its convenient distance, and agreeable situation, promise a speedy increase of population; and we observe the foundation of some new buildings already in progress. The extent of the parish is comprehended in 1060 acres, or thereabouts; which are almost equally divided between arable and pasture.

At the west extremity of Lee are a number of alms-houses, founded by Charles Boone, Esq. and Mary his wife, and left to the patronage of the Merchant Taylors' company. It is ordered by the donor that the rector of the parish should be chaplain, with a salary of 10l. a year; but as the present rector is a bishop, he probably condescends neither to the duty nor the salary.

LEWISHAM.

THE name of this place is a Saxon combination, and is formed of leswe or lesew, which signifies a mansion among meadows, and of ham, the meaning of which is sufficiently obvious. This is the last village in the hundred of Blackheath, and is about six miles from London.

Lewisham was given by the niece of king Alfred to the abbey of St. Peter, at Ghent. This grant was confirmed by William the Conqueror; but in the reign of Henry the Eighth it shared the fate of similar endowments. The manor passed through various hands; it came, with the rectory and appendages, to admiral George Legge, who lived at the conclusion of Charles the Second's reign, and who was afterwards created baron Dartmouth of Dartmouth: with this family it still remains.

Catford Manor forms also a part of this parish. This, in remoter times, belonged to a family of the name of Abot; from whom it has variously descended, till finally it rests in the possession of the right hon. lord Eliot.

There are other various premises, such as Brockley-farm, and Billingham; but they are of less note.

The principal thing to attract the notice of travellers is the extraordinary length of this village; it extends nearly to the length of a mile. The parish is of large extent; and the common which belongs to it on Blackheath on one side, and on Sydenham on another, is little less than 1000 acres.

The church is a new and handsome structure. It was erected in 1774, and is adorned with various elegant monuments; among the more conspicuous of which are those of the Petrie family, and of the pious and learned Dr. Stanhope, who was vicar of this parish for a period little short of forty years. The patronage is with the Dartmouth family, and the name of the present vicar is the Rev. Henry Jones, M. A.

The parish register contains some amusing anecdotes, and we are informed among other whimsical incidents, that in 1791 a woman was here interred, whose coffin was six feet ten inches long, three feet five inches wide, and two feet six inches deep. Here also was buried bishop Duppa, and Mr. Richard Buckley, to whose villa, as it appears from the Progresses of queen Elizabeth, that fanciful princess went a maying on May-day 1602.

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There is an excellent free-school established in this place, under the patronage of the Leathersellers' company. The master of this seminary must be examined and approved by the respective matters of Westminster, St. Paul's, and Merchant Taylors' schools: the school is with a seeming impropriety denominated the Blackheath Free-school.

Sydenham is a hamlet belonging to this parish, which anciently was called Cypenham. This place has of late years increased very considerably, both in population and wealth, which is to be imputed to the fortunate discovery of some mineral springs. A dissertation on the virtues of these waters was published by a writer of the name of John Peter in 1681. They appear greatly to resemble the Epsom waters in quality, being of a gently purgative nature. They generally go by the name of Dulwich wells, from their vicinity to that place; where, however, another mineral spring of similar qualities has since been discovered. This spring is the property of the earl of Dartmouth, who has an elegant mansion on Blackheath, where his lordship occasionally resides.

There is a mill in Lewisham for the purpose of making cloth in a new and particular manner, which we believe has answered the expectations formed of it. There is also a mustard mill. Formerly, by the interposition of lord Dartmouth, a market was held twice in the week on Blackheath, a part of which is in this parish. These are now abolished, and in their room there are two fairs for cattle, one in May, the other in October.

The river Ravensbourne runs through this parish, and nearly from south to north.

Lewisham, which is an agreeable and cheerful spot, and in which are many elegant mansions and opulent inhabitants, concludes our account of the hundred of Blackheath.

Hundred of Bromley and Beckenham.

THIS hundred is in Doomsday-book denominated the Hundred of Bromley; there spelt Bromlei. The name of Beckenham was added to it in the twentieth year of the reign of Edward III. Beckenham, it must be observed, is not wholly in the county of Kent; a part of it lies in Surry.

The hundred is divided into the two parishes of Bromley and Beckenham, of which we shall speak in order as they stand – and first of

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BROMLEY.

THE Saxon name of Bromley was Brom-leag; the meaning of which is a spot where broom grows; and, indeed, it well deserves its name; for there is not even the smallest uncultivated place in the neighbourhood of the town, on which broom is not found in abundance.

The first thing which claims notice in our account of Bromley, is the bishop's mansion. The bishop of Rochester was formerly lord paramount of the hundred of Bromley, in conjunction with the sovereign, and had a residence in the town at a period very distant. The old palace was at different times repaired and adorned by bishops Atterbury and Wilcocks; but the late bishop, Dr. Thomas, pulled it entirely down, and erected a plain house of brick. In the grounds which belong to the episcopal house, is a curious medicinal spring, which has long gone by the name of St. Blaze's well. It was formerly of considerable note; for a chapel stood near it, in which whoever performed their devotions on the three holydays of Pentecost, were entitled to certain remittances of penance. After the Reformation, the chapel fell to ruins, and St. Blaze was almost forgotten; but in 1756 a second discovery was made of the water, and an account of its chalybeate virtues published by a surgeon, whose name was Thomas Reynolds.

The bishops of Rochester appear to have been lords of the manor of Bromley from a period so remote in our history as 1076, and indeed before. It was bestowed upon the diocesan by Ethelbert, king of Kent; it was again taken away by Ethelred the son of Ethelbert; and after the conquest recovered to the see by the interposition of archbishop Lanfranc.

The different premises in the parish of Bromley, which seem to require notice, are what is called the manor of Simpsons, the property of lord Gwydir; Freelands, the lease of which belongs to Thomas Raikes, Esq.; and Bickley, where the late opulent Peter Thellusson, Esq. lived and died.

The church of Bromley is a large and commodious structure, having two aisles, and containing some very ancient and curious monuments. Different bishops of Rochester have been here interred: Elizabeth, the wife of Dr. Johnson, also lies here, over whose tomb is the following epitaph written by the Doctor:

"Hic conduntur reliquiae Elizabethae antiqua Jarvisiorum gente, Peatlingae apud Leicestrienses ortae, formosae, cultae, ingeniosee, piae, uxoris primis nuptiis

Henrici Porter, secundis Samuelis Johnson, qui multum amatam denique defletam hoc lapide contexit. Obiit Londini, mense Mart. A. D. 1753."

Dr. Hawkesworth, the elegant author of the Adventurer, and of many other works, lived at Bromley, and was interred in the church. With this gentleman Dr. Johnson frequently resided, and at his house many of the most excellent papers of the Rambler were composed. Maundrel, the celebrated traveller, whose interesting account of his Journey from Aleppo to Jerusalem is in such deserved estimation, was formerly curate of Bromley.

Bromley is an elegant town, increasing daily in population and wealth. There are at present more than 360 houses, and not less than 1800 inhabitants. Many opulent merchants and gentlemen reside in this town and its vicinity; consequently its market, which is held weekly, on a Thursday, is much frequented, and well provided. But before we take leave of Bromley, it will be indispensable to make honourable mention of its most excellent charity, entitled,

Bromley College.

This institution was founded here by Warner, bishop of Rochester, in 1637. Its object is the maintenance of twenty widows, whose husbands must have been members of the established church, and distinguished for their scrupulous adherence to orthodoxy. There is also a chaplain, who has an appointment of 60l. a year; the widows have each of them 30l.

The sum bequeathed by the founder would not have been adequate to the accomplishment of his intentions; but fortunately, since his death, the fund has been considerably increased by the generous contributions of different individuals. The original sum left for this benevolent purpose was 450l. per annum. In addition to this, the executors of the donor's will, Sir Philip Warwick and lord chief justice Bridgman, gave each 100l.; Dr. Plume also left 100l.; archbishop Tennison, 100 guineas; Mr. Wilcocks, son of the bishop, enclosed it with a wall at no trifling expense. Mrs. Wolfe also, mother of the gallant general Wolfe, left 500l. for the express purpose of putting the college in repair. Two gentlemen, who were brothers, and whose names were Hetherington, were great benefactors, to the amount of 2000l.; and Dr. Pearce bequeathed no less than 5000l. Old South Sea annuities.

The chaplain must belong to Magdalen college, Oxford; at which place bishop

Warner himself was educated. His salary has lately been increased by the interest of 200l. in the 3 per cents, left by the late chaplain, Mr. Bagshaw.

There are fourteen trustees, of whom seven are official, and seven elective. The official trustees are, his grace the archbishop of Canterbury, the bishops of London and Rochester, the archdeacon and chancellor of the diocese, the dean of St. Paul's, and the dean of the arches.

But Bromley has also to boast of another useful and important institution, which is a charitable seminary, where thirteen boys, and an equal number of girls, are clothed and educated. The funds for the maintenance of the school are derived, partly from annual subscriptions and a charity sermon, and partly from the interest

of 2000l. stock in the 3 per cents., given for this purpose by different benefactors.

We may finish our account of Bromley by observing, that it is on the Tunbridge road, and at the precise distance of ten miles from the metropolis.

BECKENHAM.

WE commence with the presumed etymology of the name of the place about to be described. A stream runs through the parish of Beckenham, from whence it takes its appellation; bec signifying a brook, and ham a dwelling.

The manor of Beckenham passed through a variety of hands, till it came into the possession of the St. John family. John Cator, Esq. obtained it by purchase of Frederick lord Bolingbroke. This gentleman is the present possessor; he has built a noble mansion, which he calls Beckenham-place, and in which he resides. There are different premises in this parish, known by the names of Fox-grove farm, Langley-park, Kent-house, and Kelseys.

Fox-grove farm was the property of the family whose name it retains. This also is now the property of the above-mentioned John Cator, Esq.

The proprietor of Langley-park is the right hon. lord Gwydir; he inherits the place by descent from Jones Raymond, Esq., to whom it came in succession from Ralph Langley, who died in 1451.

Kent-house belongs to John Julius Angerstein, Esq. Formerly, and for a long period, it was the residence of the ancient family of the Letheulliers.

Kelseys is also the property of lord Gwydir.

Beckenham church is much admired for its exceeding great neatness. The spire

is modern. In 1790 it received considerable damage in a tempest; but the other part of the edifice is of considerable antiquity. The spire has an agreeable effect to a spectator, from its being covered with pieces of wood one over another, in the manner of tiles, which are termed shingles. Lord Bolingbroke, when he sold the manor, reserved to himself and heirs the right of presenting to the rectory: this, however, we learn he has since alienated. The church is in the deanery of Dartford and diocese of Rochester, and consecrated to St. George. It contains some ancient and curious monuments. The family of the Styles of Langley is of great antiquity, and various achievements and carved coats of arms belonging to them are found in different parts of the church. The south aisle in particular was entirely built by Oliver Style, and here was the family place of interment. But we should ill deserve the commendation of the reader, if we omitted to transcribe a beautiful inscription written by Gray the poet, and to be found on the monument of Mrs. Jane Clarke:

> “Lo! where this silent marble weeps,
> A friend, a wife, a mother sleeps;
> A heart within whose sacred cell
> The peaceful Virtues lov’d to dwell:
> Affection warm, and faith sincere,
> And soft humanity was there:
> In agony, in death, resign’d,
> She felt the wound she left behind.
> Her infant image here below,
> Sits smiling on a father’s woe;
> Whom what awaits, while yet he strays
> Along the lonely vale of days?
> A pang, to secret sorrow dear,
> A sigh, an unavailing tear,
> Till time shall every grief remove,
> With life, with mem’ry, and with love.”

Some curious anecdotes might be extracted from the register of this, and, indeed, of every other parish; but we are fearful of too far extending our limits. We cannot, however, forbear mentioning, that the gallant Sir Piercy Brett spent the latter part of his life in this parish, and was buried in this church. An individual of a far different kind of celebrity was also here interred in 1740. This was the famous Margaret Finch, who was styled Queen of the Gipsies. Her majesty was, in all respects, a most singular personage. From the habit of sitting

upon the ground, with her chin upon her knees, her sinews were rendered so stiff, that she was unable to rest in any other attitude. Instead of a coffin, her friends were obliged to place her dead body in a deep box of a square form. Her portrait has been engraved, and may be seen in most collections. She was succeeded in her titles and honours by her daughter and grand-daughter, which last still survives.

The charities in this parish are not responsible to the opulence or rank of its inhabitants: and we have only to tell of three mean alms-houses, and these have no endowment; and of a charity-school, which depends on the too precarious produce of voluntary contribution. There is a whimsical benefaction from a gentlewoman of the name of Wragg, of fifteen pounds a year, the first object of which, is the keeping her own tomb in decent repair.

The population of Beckenham for the last three years seems to be stationary. There are from 140 to 150 houses, and the number of inhabitants is about 700.

The soil of this place is clay, mixed occasionally with gravel, and sometimes with loam. It is principally meadow, and has but a very small proportion of waste land. The distance from London-bridge is about nine miles and a half.

Hundred of Ruxley.

THIS hundred lies to the north-east of the hundred of Bromley, and contains fifteen parishes: These are, 1. Chesilhurst or Chislehurst (in part); 2. Hayes; 3. West Wickham; 4. Keston; 5. Farnborough; 6. Downe; 7. Cowdham; 8. Nockholt; 9. Chelsfield; 10. Orpington; 11. St. Mary's Cray; 12. Paul's Cray; 13. Foot's Cray; 14. North Cray, with Ruxley; 15. Bexley. – This division, however, is not given as perfectly correct; for this hundred also contains part of the parishes of Chidingstone and Hever; but not the churches of these two places.

CHISLEHURST.

WE shall take the towns above enumerated, according to the order in which they severally follow, and consequently begin with Chislehurst.

This is a most beautiful village; the woods are so agreeably interspersed with

cultivated fields, and the seats and mansions of opulent individuals, that a more picturesque and interesting scene cannot easily be found.

The name of the place is spelt very variously. It is written in all the following changes: Ciselhyrst, Chyslehurst, Chiselhurst, Cheselhurst, &c. till it becomes, by common consent of modern times, fixed to Chislehurst. The different manors in the parish are those of Chislehurst, Scadbury, Tang-court, with the seats of Frognal or Frogpool, and Camden-place. All the manors have passed through the hands of different possessors, till they have ultimately concentred in lord viscount Sidney, who has an elegant mansion at Frognal, which he frequently honours with his residence.

Camden-place is of some celebrity. Here it was that the great antiquary William Camden wrote his Annals. It now gives a title to the noble family of Camden; but is at present inhabited by William Lushington, Esq. alderman of, and member for, the city of London.

The parish church is an object of some curiosity; it is built of flint stones, and has altogether a singular appearance. Some of the monuments which it contains are of great antiquity; one in particular, in the north-east corner of the north aisle, merits more than common attention. It is beautifully adorned with acorns, roses, and gilt foliage; and it is constructed beneath two arches, which two Corinthian pillars support. Within one of these arches is the inscription, which we have transcribed:

"D. O. M.

Erected to the memorie of Sir Edmund Walsingham.

A Knight, sometyme of worthie fame,
  Lyeth buried under this stony bower,
Sir Edmund Walsingham was his name,
  Leiutenant he was of London Tower;

Serving therein twenty-two yeares space,
Continually in his prince's good grace.

The 9th of February, 1549, fully runne,
The soule from the body parted was,
Leaving three daughters and one sonne,
Marie, Alis, Elliner, and Thomas;
Which Thomas, now Knight, this erected the rather,
In memory of Sir Edmund his father."

Beneath the other arch is an inscription in Latin, a considerable part of which is defaced and illegible; but we learn from what remains, that it commemorates a

Sir Thomas Walsingham, the sixth of his family, who died in 1630. The great Sir Francis Walsingham was of this family.

The other monuments most worth attention in the church, are those of Sir Philip Warwick; Sir Richard Adams, baron of the exchequer; and of Albina dutchess of Ancaster. The inscription on the tomb of Sir Philip Warwick was written by Dr. Pearce, dean of Salisbury. It records, in simple language, the character and merits of Sir Philip. Chislehurst had also the honour of producing that most eminent statesman, Sir Nicholas Bacon, the father of Sir Francis Bacon.

Chislehurst is a rectory, in the gift of the bishop of Rochester. The present incumbent is the Rev. Mr. Wollaston.

The population of the village seems in a state of progressive increase. There are at present 200 houses, and several more are erecting. The number of inhabitants may be computed at more than a thousand.

There are many opulent individuals in the parish; but there are nevertheless not many charities to record. Twelve girls are clothed and educated, and a separate institution provides for the education of six boys.

We again repeat, that a more delightful spot than this of Chislehurst is seldom to be found. The soil is principally gravel, and remarkably dry and healthy. On this account, as well as from its convenient distance from the metropolis, being rather less than twelve miles, we may venture to predict, that it will be more and more the resort of our nobility, gentry, and opulent merchants.

HAYES.

THE next place we have to describe is Hayes, a small but pleasant village; which in our more ancient books is written Hese. Hayes-place, which is not far from the church, was formerly the residence of the great lord Chatham. This eminent man having left this place for Burton Pynsent, was uneasy till he procured the opportunity of returning to it again. He was so delighted with the spot, that his latter days were entirely employed in improving and adorning it. After his death it passed from different proprietors to lord Lewisham, eldest son of the earl of Dartmouth, who here indulges his taste for the science of botany, in which he eminently excels.

The church is plain and small, without any monuments worth notice, except

one perhaps on the floor, of a Sir John Andrew, formerly rector of Hayes – over it is this inscription:

"I beseeche you all that passeth here by,
For the soule of Sir John Andrew that here doth lye,
Say a Pater Noster and an Ave."

Hayes is a rectory, in the gift of the rector of Orpington. The name of the present incumbent is John Till, L. L. B.

The village contains about 70 houses, and 400 inhabitants. There is a charity-school, at which all the children in the parish are taught to read, and the girls plain work. There is also a whimsical contribution by Sir Samuel Lennard, of forty millings annually, to be given to forty poor persons who shall attend a sermon on the anniversary of the Popish Plot, which is preached at the church of West Wickham.

There is a great deal of waste land in Hayes; but it contains near a thousand acres which are well cultivated. Its distance from London is twelve miles.

WEST WICKHAM.

THIS village is so denominated to distinguish it from two other villages of the same name in this county. Its etymology is probably Saxon; wic signifying a way, and ham, a dwelling.

The manor is the property of John Farnaby, Esq. in right of his wife; to whom it has descended from various proprietors since it was held by Godric of Edward the Confessor. The court of the dutchy of Lancaster has claims in part of this manor, and on the lands which are called Spring-park, Old-park, Frithwood, and Chamber's-grove.

The church is a plain neat structure, which was rebuilt in the reign of Henry the Seventh by Sir Henry Heydon. A figure of a skeleton, intended to represent this Sir Henry, is to be seen stained on glass in the east window of the north aisle. A label issues from its mouth, upon which this inscription is visible: "Ne reminiscaris, Domine, delicta mea, aut par * * *."

The church is in the patronage of the lord of the manor; and the present incumbent is the Rev. Joseph Faulder.

A singular custom prevails in this place and its neighbourhood, which seems

worth recording. In Rogation week, a troop of young men run about the orchards, with a great noise and tumult, bawling out these lines: –

"Stand fast, root; bear well, top;
God send us a jouling sop;
Every twig, apple big,
Every bough, apples enow." –

For this they expect money or liquor, or both; and if disappointed, leave the place with a curse, expressed in some such doggrel rhimes. The meaning of the word jouling may puzzle more profound antiquaries than we profess to be. Hasted's idea, that it comes from Eolus, god of the winds, is ridiculous enough; there is much more probably some affinity between the jouling of the Kent youths, and the Ule or Jule games, so frequent in the northern parts of this kingdom. Dr. Hammond has an opinion that it comes immediately from the Latin word jubilum, which means a time of festivity; which explanation may serve till some one shall point out a better.

There are about 80 houses in West Wickham, and from 4 to 500 inhabitants. The soil is very various, but the land is principally arable. The distance from London-bridge is thirteen miles.

The learned and amiable Gilbert West, author of different works, long resided at West Wickham, where he was visited by Lyttelton and Pitt; and where, as Dr. Johnson informs us, he received that conviction which produced the Dissertation on the Conversion of St. Paul. Mr. West placed the following lines from Ausonius in a pleasure-house:

"Haec mihi nec procul urbe sita est, nec prorsus ad urbem,
Ne patiar turbis, utque bonis potiar,
Et quoties mutare locum fastigia cogunt
Transeo, et alternis rure vel urbe fruor." Ausonius ad Villam.

"Not wrapt in smoky London's sulph'rous clouds,
And not far distant, stands my rural cot;
Neither obnoxious to intruding crowds,
Nor for the good and friendly too remote.

"And when too much repose brings on the spleen,
Or the gay city's idle pleasures cloy;
Swift as my changing wish, I change the scene,
And now the country, now the town enjoy."

KESTON.

THIS place was anciently written Chestan, a corruption, not improbably, of Chesterton, or the place of a camp, of which remains are still visible upon Hol-

wood-hill.

Keston is a village of small importance, and chiefly memorable for the antiquities above mentioned, and for being the favourite retreat of the right hon. William Pitt, from the distractions of politics, and cares of public business. In this place he indulges himself in his favourite pursuits; and in the improvement of his grounds, and cultivation of his little farm, acquires new elasticity and energy; hence he returns –

"Certare ingenio, contendere nobilitate, rerumque potiri."

The house itself is very small, and, from its appearance, but little suited to the dignity, talents, and virtues of its owner. Mr. Pitt has, however, added one large room, which has a spacious bow window, looking towards the south. The prospect from the house is enchanting; it stands on a gentle eminence, and commands a view of Bromley, Norwood, Sydenham, Dulwich, Peckham, and St. Paul's: from another aspect, the spectator can look from Shooter's-hill to Gravesend: and again from another point over no inconsiderable part of Essex. It is altogether a lovely spot, and justifies the taste of its illustrious owner. The reader will smile at the vicissitudes of fortune and mutability of life, on being told that the mansion,

"Where nobly pensive Pitt reclin'd and thought,"

was heretofore the residence of the gay, dissipated, and licentious Mrs. Bellamy, whose Memoirs for a time attracted so much curiosity.

The manor of Keston was one of those donations which William the Conqueror bestowed on Odo earl of Kent, his half-brother. From him, through various hands, it passed to the family of Lennard, with whose daughter it now remains.

The ancient camp above alluded to is of great extent, and almost two miles in circumference. So great a variety of Roman antiquities, consisting of coins, Roman tiles and bricks, have been dug up on the spot, that its origin and use cannot be disputed. Horsley treats on the subject very much at large, and supposes it to have been the Castra AEstiva, or summer quarters. Other writers think that this was the camp of Julius Caesar, when the Britons fought him for the last time

before he passed the Thames; but the opinions on this head are too various and contradictory for us to decide on a question which, after all, is of no great importance to the object we have professedly in view.

Keston is a rectory, in the gift of his grace the archbishop of Canterbury. The church is small and neat; but the parish does not contain any thing to justify the detaining our readers any longer than to inform them, that some have fancied Keston to be an abbreviation of Keyser's-town or Caesar's-town; for the Britons always pronounced Caesar – Kaesar.

FARNBOROUGH.

FARNBOROUGH is contiguous to Keston eastward. Originally, perhaps, it was Fearnborough, or Fernborough, from the quantity of fern which still springs up on every waste spot of ground. It appears that in the reign of Henry III. Farnborough belonged to Simon de Montfort, the great earl of Leicester; and in 1766, Sir Edward Walpole procured a grant of the manor under the seal of the dutchy court of Lancaster, the liberty of which claims over this parish. Farnborough-hall is the property of Sir John Dyke, and so is the estate which belongs to it. There is also another domain in this parish, of very considerable antiquity, which is called Tubbendens.

Farnborough is a small and inconsiderable place, and its church or chapel is only an adjunct to the rectory of Chelsfield. The turnpike road from the metropolis to Sevenoaks passes immediately through it.

DOWNE.

DOWNE is the next village, and is so called from its lofty situation. It was originally written Dune, which means any thing high or elevated. There is so little to be mentioned concerning this place, that the whole which merits our notice may be comprised in these few particulars.

The patronage of the church or chapel is with the rector of Hayes; and the rector of Orpington presents both to Hayes and Downe.

Pelteys-place in this parish, though now only a farm-house, was anciently a large and magnificent mansion. There are two other premises, one called Downe-court, another called Palmer's-lands.

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COWDHAM.

NEITHER does this place present any thing particularly worth the reader's attention. We can give no light or information respecting the etymology of the name of this place; it is differently written, Coldham, Cudham, Codeham, and Cowdham.

There are different manors in the parish besides that of Cowdham, viz. Apperfield and Bertrey: a minute discussion on these subjects, and the different hands through which they have passed to the present possessors, better suits the nature of a professed county history, and may accordingly be found in Hasted and other writers.

The advowson is in the crown, and the lord chancellor presents to the vicarage, which in the king's books is valued at 13l. 2s. 6d.

NOCKHOLT.

THE parish next in order is Nockholt. This also is an obscure and inconsiderable place. Holt means a wood, and noke is an old English word for corner, in which sense, with a very little variation (nuke), it is still used in the north of England. This means, therefore, the corner of a wood, which in the present instance is peculiarly apposite.

There are two small manors in this parish, one called Shelleys, the other Bramptons. As to its ecclesiastical jurisdiction, it is a perpetual curacy, to which the rectors of Orpington present.

CHELSFIELD.

THIS place has been variously denominated Cillesfelle, Ciresfel, Cilesfield, Chellerfeld, and Chelsfield. Its origin with respect to name is beyond all doubt Saxon; cile signifying cold, and feld a field.

Besides the manor of Chelsfield, the parish contains the different manors of Goddington, Hewitts, and Norsted. The village possesses nothing remarkable. The patronage of the living, which is a rectory, is vested in the warden and fellows of All Souls' college, in Oxford.

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ORPINGTON.

ORPINTUN, Orpyntone, Orpedingtune (for it is thus variously written in old charters), were severally altered and corrupted from Dorpentum. The village lies to the north of Chelsfield, and contains, besides the manor of Orpington, the manors of Crofton, Mayfield, and East-hall.

The manor of Orpington belongs to the family of the Dykes; Crofton is the property of St. Thomas's hospital, Southwark; East-hall belongs also to Sir John Dyke.

This is a village constantly increasing in population. Within it, rises the river Cray, which runs through the different places to which it gives its name. The archbishop of Canterbury presents to the rectory; the rector presents to the vicarage.

This is one of the places where queen Elizabeth was magnificently received and feasted. She arrived here on the 22d of July 1573; at the entrance a female personage, in the character of a nymph, addressed her majesty in a pertinent speech, in which she denominated herself the genius of the place. (See Nichols's Royal Progresses.) The queen was next entertained with the exhibition of a sea-fight. The owner of the place at this time was Sir Percival Hart, in honour of whom, according to Phillipott, Elizabeth named the place Bark-Hart, which appellation it still retains.

The manor of Crofton was once a separate parish, but it was totally destroyed by fire. It is also reported by tradition, that Thomas à Becket was born in this parish; but this is clearly an error: that prelate was born in the parish of St. Thomas Acres, in London.

St. MARY CRAY.

OF the five parishes which remain to be described in this hundred, four are distinguished by the adjunct appellative Cray, from the river Cray above mentioned.

St. Mary Cray is a market town, or rather was; for in 1703 the market-house was destroyed by a tempest, and the market has not since that time been kept. This is somewhat surprising; for as the village is both populous and rich, and as the convenience of a market is so locally beneficial, it would be politic to restore it.

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Though this parish is increasing in population, the church is only a chapel of ease to Orpington. The vicar of Orpington is also vicar of St. Mary Cray.

Besides the manor of St. Mary Cray, which nevertheless seems to be only a part of the manor of Orpington, there are the separate manors of St. Mary Lyng Ockmere, Kevington, Hockenden, and Waldens. There are no natural or other curiosities in the place; no local customs, peculiarities, or antiquities, which will justify any further detail.

PAUL's CRAY.

THIS place has been variously denominated Rodulph's Cray, Cray Paulins, and Paulins Cray. The church was consecrated to St. Paulinus, which accounts for the two latter appellations; the cause of the former is unknown to us.

There is still less to be observed in this parish than in the former; it is not so populous, has no manufacture, market, or particular curiosities. The manor was one of those given by the Conqueror to his brother Odo. It now belongs to lord Sidney, who is also the patron of the rectory.

FOOT's CRAY.

IN the reign of Edward the Confessor one Godwin Fot, or Vot, was proprietor of this manor, and from him the place derives its name of Foot's Cray.

Foot's Cray Place is an elegant mansion built from a design of Palladio. It was formerly possessed by Bourchier Cleve, Esq.; from him it descended to Sir George Yonge. It now belongs to a gentleman of the name of Harenc.

The church is a plain and small edifice, without any thing curious within, or in its exterior appearance. The rectory is in the gift of the crown; part of the village is in the parish of Chislehurst. The number of inhabitants does not exceed 120, and it is in all respects an obscure and inconsiderable place.

NORTH CRAY.

THIS place is denominated North Cray, because it is the most to the north of the villages to which the name of Cray is annexed.

This manor also was given by William the Conqueror to his brother. It has

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passed through the hands of various proprietors to the Rev. William Hetherington; and from him to the heirs of the late Thomas Coventry, Esq.

There is not a more agreeable, healthy, or populous spot than the village of North Cray to be found near the metropolis. It is charmingly diversified with villas and well-cultivated domains. Two in particular merit notice, one called Mount Mascall, the other Vale Mascall. The former stands on a gentle rising ground, which commands the view of an enchanting scene: Vale Mascall is of inferior magnitude, but no less interesting and agreeable. At this spot the river Cray exhibits a picture of a cascade, which is greatly admired, and well deserves to be so for its extraordinary beauty.

The church has a mean appearance; but the rector has a neat and new-built house, which he owes in a great measure to the liberality of the above-named Mr. Hetherington. The patronage of the living is with the lord of the manor.

BEXLEY

IS the last place to be described in the hundred of Ruxley. This village has been variously written Beccley, Bekeley, Bekesley, Bixle, and at last Bexley.

This manor came from different possessors to Sir William Camden, who made

over his property in it to the university of Oxford, at the end of a limited period, for the express purpose of founding an historical lecture.

There are many ancient seats in this parish, particularly those of Hall-place, Blendon-hall, Lamierby, or, as it is vulgarly called, Lamaby, Danson-hill, Brampton-hall, and High-street-house. This village is spread out to a considerable extent, and has several hamlets belonging to it. We have called it a village, in compliance with custom; but its population is so great, and increasing, that it might well enough be named a town. The hamlets of Hurst, Halfway-street, Bridgen, Blendon, Upton, and part of Welling, belong to Bexley.

The appearance of the church by no means corresponds with the populousness of the place, or wealth of the inhabitants. It is consecrated to St. Mary, and is in the patronage of lord Sidney.

There are twelve alms-houses in Bexley, built from the produce of private contributions. These, however, are not endowed with any stipend.

A very singular insect made its appearance in a pond belonging to this parish in

1736. Those who are curious in natural history will be entertained with the description which is given of it in the Philosophical Transactions, vol. xi. p. 153.

Our account of this hundred is here brought to a conclusion. It will be found to comprehend a considerable portion of the county; and we believe it will appear, that we have omitted nothing of importance within the limits of those objects which we professed to exhibit to our readers.

Hundred of Little and Lesnes.

THIS hundred is named after the two half hundreds into which it is divided, in like manner with the hundred of Bromley and Beckenham, which we have already noticed, and the hundred of Dartford and Wilmington, which follows next in order.

The hundred of Little and Lesnes was in the reign of Edward the First called the hundred of Litelai, and so also it is denominated in Domesday-book. In the reign of Henry IV. it was called by the name which it still retains.

It is divided into four parishes, distinguished by the names of East Wickham, Plumsted, Erith, and Crayford.

East Wickham must not be confounded with the Wickham near Hayes, of which we have made mention in p. 178. This is but a small and inconsiderable village, containing not more than 40 houses, and somewhat more than 200 inhabitants. The manor once belonged to the family of Lovell; and to that lord Lovell in particular, who was the favourite of the sanguinary Richard the Third, and on whom the famous distich was made –

> The rat, the cat, and Lovell the dog,
> Rule all England under the hog.

The hog meant Richard, whose crest was a boar. From this family the manor has descended from various proprietors to the Rev. Mr. Bennet.

The parish church is curious, and of considerable antiquity; it is constructed of flint and stone, but its spire is of wood. It is only a chapel of ease to Plumsted; and the great tithes of both parishes belong to a charitable foundation at Chatham, upon which they were settled by Sir John Hawkins.

Part of the village of Welling, through which the high road to Dover passes,

lies in the parish of East Wickham; and there is a charity-school for twenty poor children, the benefits of which are extended to both these places.

PLUMSTED.

PLUMSTED is a village of greater importance and magnitude, for it contains near 130 houses, and more than 650 inhabitants.

This place is celebrated for cherries and green peas; more than 100 acres are occupied for the cultivation of the former, and more than 50 solely for the latter. Here was formerly a weekly market on a Tuesday, and an annual fair which continued for the space of three days; but these have long ceased.

In this parish are the manors of Plumsted, Burwash or Borwash-court, Bostall, Borstall, or Borton, and Plumsted Acon or Upland. The first is vested in the society of Queen's college, Oxford, to which it was bequeathed by John Michel, Esq. for the maintenance of eight fellows and four scholars. Four undergraduates have since been added to the number. Burwash belongs to a gentleman of the name of Martin, who has a mansion in the parish not far from Woolwich. The Clothworkers' company are owners of the manor of Borstall, not by gift, but by purchase. This manor contains a few scattered houses, and may therefore be considered as a hamlet of Plumsted. The same respectable company are also proprietors of the manor of Plumsted Acon.

The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in New England, and the adjacent Parts, have also an estate in this parish, known by the name of Suffolk-place-farm. The estate which is called Plumsted-park-farm belongs to a merchant of the name of Bouzer.

The church of Plumsted may be considered as a great curiosity; and the lofty turret, in particular, near the north aisle, which has a parapet. Among other curious monuments is one to John Lidgbird, Esq. of Shooter's-hill, and another to John Denham, Esq.

There is no charity-school in this parish, and only a few benefactions to the poor from different individuals. There are not much less than 1000 acres of marsh land, belonging to Plumsted; the history of which, with the circumstances of their embankments, would fill a volume. They are now left to the management of the commission of sewers.

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ERITH.

ERITH is the place from which the hundred took its joint name of Lesnes. Antiquarians greatly differ with respect to the etymology of this word – some think it comes from the Saxon word leswes, which means pastures; others derive it from lese, an old British word for pastures; and nese, which signifies a cape – others again trace it to erre, which means ancient; and hythe, a Saxon word for harbour; and this last is, in our opinion, the most consistent, and the most probable. In Domesday-book it is written Loisnes, and in some remoter records Hliesnes.

This also was one of the manors appropriated by the Conqueror for the benefit of his brother Odo; it is at present occupied by the family of Wheatley. The places of greatest note in and near this village, are Bedingwall, Hering-hill, Draper's-place, and Belvidere-house; which last mansion is the residence of lord Eardley. Sampson Gideon, father of lord Eardley, obtained this place by purchase of the Baltimore family. This gentleman rebuilt the mansion, and adorned it with a most curious and valuable collection of pictures.

The village itself is of no great consideration. The Indiamen generally stop at this place to get rid of so much of their cargoes as may facilitate their progress up the river. This incident unavoidably makes Erith in some degree populous; at least it is the occasion of its being numerously visited at particular times. There are two annual fairs at Erith, one on Holy Thursday, the other on Michaelmas-day. There is no charity-school, nor any benefactions to the poor, except the interest of 50l. bequeathed by a lady.

The church is not within the town, but almost half a mile to the north of it. It is a vicarage, in the diocese of Rochester, and in the gift of the Dashwood family.

There was anciently an abbey in this place named Lesnes-abbey, and founded by Richard de Lucy, who in the reign of Henry the Second was lord chief justice of England. Several stone coffins, and various antiquities, have been here dug up. Nothing can exceed the miserable, melancholy, and dreary appearance of the Essex coast as viewed from Erith; which, however, is agreeably opposed by the rising hills of Plumsted and its vicinity.

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CRAYFORD.

CRAYFORD, the last parish in this hundred, receives its name from the river Cray. This river anciently was called Crecca; and the place accordingly, in the time of the Saxons, was named Creccan-ford, the meaning of which is, the passage

over the Crecca.

The manor of Crayford, in the reign of king John, was the property of Adam de Port. In 1694 it belonged to the gallant admiral Sir Cloudesley Shovel, whose lamentable fate is thus related by a writer of respectable authority: – "After the unsuccessful attempt upon Toulon, in which Sir Cloudesley performed all in his power, he bore away for the Streights, and soon after resolved to return home. He left Sir Thomas Dilkes at Gibraltar with nine ships of the line, for the security of the coasts of Italy; and then proceeded with the remainder of the fleet, consisting of ten ships of the line, four fire-ships, a sloop, and a yacht, for England. October 22, he came into the soundings, and had ninety fathom water. About noon he lay by, but at six in the evening he made sail again, and stood away under his courses, believing, as it is supposed, that he saw the light on Scilly. Soon after which, several ships of his fleet made the signal of distress, as he himself did; and several perished, besides the admiral's: there were on board the Association, with him, his sons-in-law, and many young gentlemen of quality. His body was thrown ashore the next day upon the island of Scilly, where some fishermen took him up; and, having stolen a valuable emerald ring from his finger, stripped and buried him. This coming to the ears of Mr. Paxton, who was purser of the Arundel, he found out the fellows, declared the ring to be Sir Cloudesley Shovel's, and obliged them to discover where they had buried the body, which he took up and carried on board his own ship to Portsmouth. It was thence conveyed to London, and buried in Westminster-abbey with great solemnity, where a monument was afterwards erected to his memory by the queen's direction.

"Sir Cloudesley Shovel was, at the time of his death, rear-admiral of England, admiral of the white, commander in chief of her majesty's fleets, and one of the council to prince George of Denmark, as lord high-admiral of England. He married the widow of his patron, Sir John Narborough, by whom he left

two daughters, co-heiresses." – The manor now belongs to Miles Barne, Esq. of Sotterly, in Suffolk.

There are several places in this parish worthy of notice; and in particular, Howbery, Newbery, and Elham. Howbery, in the reign of Henry the Second, belonged to the noble family of Northwood: in the reign of Henry the Sixth, it was the property of Roger Apylton: a daughter of Sir Cloudesley Shovel conveyed it with her person to John Blackwood, Esq. with whose heirs it now remains. Newbery, in the beginning of the reign of Henry the Sixth, belonged to the family of Poynings: it now belongs, with Howbery, to the heirs of the daughter of Sir Cloudesley Shovel. Elham belonged to a family of the same name. Henry Elham, who possessed it in the reign of Henry the Sixth, was one of the auditors of that monarch. From the Elhams, it descended by purchase to the family of Harman. One of this family sold it to Robert Draper, Esq. The present owner is Miles Barne, Esq. above mentioned.

The town of Crayford consists of one long but irregular street. Here was a residence of Sir Cloudesley Shovel; and such is the fate of greatness, it became afterwards a linen manufacturer's warehouse, and is now, or at least a considerable part of it, a workhouse. The river here divides itself into two streams, which severally supply a sufficient quantity of water for a large iron mill, and two considerable manufactories for printing of calicoes. The river flows into the Thames at no great distance from the town of Dartford.

The neighbourhood of this place is memorable in English history for a great and bloody battle between Hengist, the first Saxon king of Kent, and the Britons; Hengist slew four thousand of them, and drove them entirely out of this part of the country. Many of our most learned antiquarians make Crayford the first Roman station from London towards Dover. Certain it is, that the Roman road may be evidently distinguished on Bexley-heath, stretching in a south-east direction towards Crayford. There are also some very curious ancient and deep caves in the woods, heaths, and fields in the vicinity of Crayford, the use and origin of which have been variously explained. Some of these are from fifteen to twenty fathoms in depth, which increase in circumference as they descend, and at the extremity are found to have many large apartments resting upon chalk pillars. They might not improbably have been first dug for the purpose of getting chalk; they

might afterwards, in times of danger and civil disturbances, have served as hiding-places for the wives, families, and property of those nearest the scene of danger.

The church is a spacious, and not inelegant structure. Its peal of bells is much admired for its melody. The rectory is in the jurisdiction of the diocese of Rochester, and the advowson is in the possession of the heirs of Sir Henry Farmer, Bart. There is a very commodious and handsome parsonage-house. In Ecton's Thesaurus this place is named Earde alias Crayford, and is valued in the king's books at 35l. 13s. 6d.

Hundred of Dartford and Wilmington.

THIS may be said, in some degree, to be a hundred of modern creation. It is not distinguished as a hundred in Domesday-book; but the two parishes of Dartford and Wilmington are represented as constituting a part of the hundred of Axtane.

Dartford is a place of some consideration, as well from its local consequence, as from the many things to be commemorated in its neighbourhood. It is in the direct road from London to Dover, and of course, when the communication was open betwixt this country and France, was a town of great traffic.

The name of the place in Latin is Derenti Vadum, the passage over the Derent; and accordingly its Saxon name was Derentford. Its orthography in Domesday-book is seemingly a corruption from Derentford. It is there written Tarenteford.

In remoter times Dartford and its manor was considered as the private property of the sovereign, and in the reign of king John the produce of the rents was paid into the royal exchequer by the sheriff of Kent. It was afterwards presented by the crown to a Norman nobleman of the name of St. Paul. In the reign of Henry the Sixth, it appears to have belonged to the duke of Somerset, but was afterwards given to Neville earl of Warwick by Edward the Fourth. In the reign of Henry the Seventh it belonged to the noble and generous Margaret countess of Richmond and Derby, who was a munificent benefactress to the university of Cambridge, in which place she founded Christ's and St. John's colleges. By the death of this lady it again reverted to the crown, and after passing through the hands of Sir Thomas Walsingham, Sir Robert Darcy, Thomas Yonge, Esq. and others, it became the property of Sir Charles Morgan, with whom it remains.

The other manors in this parish are those called Temples, Dartford Priory, Portbridge, Charles, and Baldwins, which last is rather a reputed manor. Temples was anciently the property of the Knights Templars, from whom it took the name which it now bears. This manor also belongs to the above-mentioned Sir Charles Morgan.

The history of Dartford Priory would be of sufficient interest to justify a separate publication; our account of it must be necessarily concise. Edward the Third was its founder, and he gave a large quantity of land for the support of the prioress and convent. These estates were increased and confirmed by succeeding princes to the time of Henry the Eighth, who took possession of the building, and enlarged and adorned it as a place of residence for himself and his successors. Some of the noblest ladies in the kingdom, at different periods, lived in this religious house either as prioresses or nuns. After the death of Henry the Eighth, it became the property of Ann of Cleves, the repudiated wife of that fickle, turbulent, and haughty prince. This illustrious lady possessed these domains till her death, which happened in the fourth year of the reign of Mary. James the First granted this manor in succeeding times to Cecil earl of Salisbury, by way of exchange for his afterwards favourite mansion, known by the appellation of Theobalds. From lord Salisbury it became the property of Sir Robert Darcy, and the present possessor is Sir Charles Morgan.

What was once the priory still preserves a venerable appearance. There is a large gate-house, and what was once the south wing. The old stone walls, which enclosed the garden, also remain. It is now distinguished by the name of The Place-house.

The first proprietor on record of the manor called Portbridge, was a gentleman in the reign of Edward the Third of the name of Bicknore, or Bykenore. In an

old rental, in the time of Henry the Eighth, it is denominated the manor of Portbrege, otherwise Bykenores. In Elizabeth's reign it was termed Bignours, a circumstance mentioned here merely to mark the variation of our language. This manor belongs to the same proprietor at present as the premises above mentioned.

The manor of Charles was so called from an ancient family of the same name. It seems to have been granted by Richard the Second to Adam Bamme, Esq. who in that reign was twice lord mayor of London. In 1765 it belonged to Gerard Anne

Edwards, who married lady Jane Noel, a daughter of lord Gainsborough. His heirs are the present owners.

Baldwins, which, as was said above, is a reputed manor only, was so named from a Sir John Baude. Its revenues were given by Henry the Eighth to cardinal Wolsey. This prelate appropriated the estate to the college he founded in Oxford; but on his disgrace it came again into the hands of the king, who afterwards gave it to Eton college. To this honourable foundation it now belongs, and is occupied under it by a gentleman of the name of Hulse.

Horseman's-place is also in this parish, and respectable from its antiquity and the property annexed to it. Since the reign of Edward the Second it has been possessed by Thomas de Luda, Thomas de Shardelow, Thomas Brune or Brown, John Byer or Beer, &c. &c. till about the year 1770 it was purchased by Mr. Sergeant Leigh, in whose family it continues.

Stoneham or Stanham is a hamlet belonging to this parish, and at the distance of three quarters of a mile from Dartford. At the suppression of the monasteries in the reign of Henry the Eighth, that monarch became possessed of Stanham.

Dartford may boast of a most excellent market, which is held every Saturday, and plentifully supplied with provisions of all kinds. There is also a very commodious and spacious market-house, which was erected in consequence of the inconvenient situation and ruinous condition of the old market-house, by the voluntary contributions of the inhabitants of Dartford, and the neighbouring gentry. Dartford is also famous in our history for having had the first paper-mill which was established in England; the name of the proprietor was Sir John Spilman. He lived in the time of Elizabeth; and in the Harleian manuscripts in the British Museum is one which shows – "That John Spilman, her majesty's jeweller, had licence for the sole gathering of rags, &c. necessary for the manufactory of paper for the space of ten years." This paper-mill still remains, and is employed for the making of paper as at its first erection.

There are various other mills in and near Dartford, as well for making of paper, as for gunpowder, for cutting iron bars, &c. All these are worked by the stream of the river Darent, from which the town takes its name, and which at the east extremity crosses the high road, and is passed by a bridge of no mean appearance or inelegant structure.

The famous insurrection of Wat Tyler commenced at Dartford; this dema-

gogue was in a short period joined by one hundred thousand followers. The event and suppression of the rebellion are well known. The circumstance of Tyler's being slain by Walworth, who was lord mayor at the time, is the reason why the sword constitutes a part of the arms of the city of London.

The church is a very spacious, and, in some respects, a handsome edifice. It is a vicarage, in the diocese of Rochester, and in the gift of the bishop. The spot of ground belonging to it, and appropriated for burials, is very singularly circumstanced. It is somewhat remote from the church, and so elevated as to be much higher than the tower.

There are an hospital for the poor, and some alms-houses tolerably well endowed. On the whole, Dartford is a respectable and thriving town, which seems to be progressively increasing in wealth and populousness.

WILMINGTON.

A MORE charming spot than this upon which Wilmington is situated cannot easily be found. It is elevated, dry, healthy, and commands the most delightful and extensive prospects as well over the Thames as the adjacent country. The soil is gravel; the vicinity produces many scarce plants; there are several curious anti-

quities at no great distance; and upon the whole, those who wish a place of elegant retirement, convenience, and ingenuous amusement, may well be satisfied with the town or neighbourhood of Wilmington.

In ancient records the place is written Wilmintune and Wilmintuna; the manor occasionally is called both by the name of Wilmington and Grandisons, which latter appellation it takes from the family of Graunston or Grandison, which flourished in the reign of Henry the Third. We find that in Henry the Sixth's reign it was in the possession of the great earl of Warwick, who was killed at the famous and bloody battle of Barnet. It afterwards came into the possession of Sir Jeffery Pole„ and in the time of the first James it belonged to Sir Christopher Heron. In 1766 it was conveyed to Nathaniel Webb, Esq. of Taunton, Somersetshire, and to him or his heirs it now belongs.

There are two other manors in this parish, namely, those of Rowe-hill and Stanhill, which also is called Wardendale. The first of these belongs to the above Nathaniel Webb, Esq., the latter to the dean and chapter of Rochester.

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The church was formerly a chapel of ease to Sutton at Hone; it is now a distinct vicarage, in the diocese of Rochester, and in the gift of the dean and chapter. It is valued in the king's books at 6l. 17s. 6d.

We again repeat that Wilmington is in all respects a most eligible situation, and not easily to be surpassed in local advantages by any place in this or the adjoining counties.

Hundred of Axtane.

THIS hundred is of considerably greater extent, and contains no less than fifteen parishes, which we shall enumerate and describe in their order: – 1. Sutton at Hone; 2. Darent; 3. Stone; 4. Swanscombe; 5. Southfleet; 6. Longfield; 7. Fawkham; 8. Hartley; 9. Ridley; 10. Ash; 11. Kingsdown, in part only; 12. Horton Kirkby; 13. Farningham; 14. Aynsford; 15. Lullingstone: – a part also of Cowden is in this hundred: the church of Cowden is not.

SUTTON at HONE.

THIS parish was formerly far more considerable than it is at present, and indeed gave its name to the hundred. It is now of great extent, and comprehends various manors and ample premises. Its name in Latin is Suthtuna, or South Town; and the adjunct of At Hone has a reference to its low situation; hone meaning a valley.

Sutton at Hone, besides its own particular manor, which is divided into two moieties, called St. John's manor and Sutton manor, contains the manors of Hawley-house and Highlands, the hamlets of Hawley and Swanley, and the extensive premises named Sutton-place, Gildon-hill, and Hackstaple, or, as it is now called, Hextable.

The manor of Sutton at Hone anciently belonged to the Knights Hospitallers; in the time of queen Elizabeth it became the property of two co-heiresses. The one called St. John's manor, now belongs to William Hill, Esq. of Carwythinick, in Cornwall; the other, which retains the appellation of Sutton manor, with Sutton-place, a spacious and noble mansion, is the property of John Mumford, Esq.

Hawley was in remoter times called and written Hagelei, and was once the property of Odo, brother of William the Conqueror. Hawley-house is of great antiquity, and in the reign of the third Edward belonged to the venerable family of

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Hastings; from them it has descended through various hands to the family and heirs of Mr. Sergeant Leigh, whom we have before had occasion to mention.

Highlands stands in the most elevated part of this parish, which, indeed, is intimated by its name, and is near Wilmington. It was purchased of John Tasker, Esq. in 1766, by John Calcraft, Esq. of Ingries, or Ingress; and to his heirs it now belongs.

Gildon-hill may be traced to have belonged to the priory of Dartford, in the reign of Henry the Eighth. In later times the lady dowager Folkestone has occupied and owned it. This estate is obliged to pay some small annual sum to the crown as an annual fee-farm rent.

Hextable is in the hamlet of Swanley. It was anciently written Exstapull, then Hackstaple, and now Hextable. It is a seat of great antiquity, and in Henry the Eighth's reign was possessed and occupied by Sir John Wiltshire. The present occupier is that eminent physician Dr. Pitcairn, who occasionally retires to this place from the fatigues of his useful but laborious profession.

The town of Sutton itself is charmingly situated. The river Darent agreeably flows through it, and from the church the country rises in easy gradations to Gildon-hill, or, as it is written, not improperly, in many of our maps, Gentle-hill.

The church is a spacious, and not inelegant edifice, dedicated to St. John the Baptist; it is in the diocese of Rochester, and in the gift of the dean and chapter. In the year 1615 it was accidentally burnt to the ground. Some thoughtless person fired at a bird sitting within the church, and it was supposed that the wadding of the gun lodged in the roof, and thus occasioned the conflagration.

DARENT.

DERENTE, Deorwent, Tarent, Darent, for so has this place been variously denominated, is now known by the name only of Darne. It is a most agreeable village, whether we consider its situation, its neighbourhood, or the delightful scenery with which it is every where surrounded.

The manor of Darent anciently belonged to Christ-church, Canterbury; the present proprietors are the dean and chapter of Canterbury. There are several considerable and pleasant hamlets belonging to this parish, in particular those of St. Margaret Hills, South Darent, and Greenstreet-green.

St. Margaret Hills, properly speaking, is St. Margaret Helles. It was called Helles from one Thomas de Helles, to whom the lands belonged in the reign of the first Edward. It is a manor under the manor of Darent, and at present is the property of a family whose names are Lane.

South Darent has some fragments of antiquity about it, which seem to indicate greater importance than it now possesses. There are some ancient flint walls, which not improbably are the ruins of a church.

Greenstreet-green also has a mansion of some antiquity. The lands and house at the present period belong to a gentleman of the name of Waldo. An estate also, called Gore-house, with other premises of less importance, constitute part of this parish.

Near Greenstreet-green are many tumuli or barrows, which have often exercised the sagacity and diligence of our antiquarians: some have not hesitated to pronounce this the scene of a bloody battle betwixt Vortimer king of the Britons, and the Saxons.

The church is a mean and small structure, dedicated to St. Margaret. It is a Vicarage, in the gift of the dean and chapter of Rochester. In Ecton's Thesaurus it is denominated Daruth alias Darenth.

STONE.

THERE are other places of this name in the county of Kent, for which reason this village is always called Stone near Dartford. Its ancient name was Stane, but Stane in Saxon Signifies stone, and the country about this town is remarkably stony, which explains the origin of its appellation.

The places most worthy of observation in the parish, are the manor and hamlet of Littlebrooke, Stone-castle, Stone-place, and Cotton, of which Cotton and Littlebrooke are manors. The manor of Stone constitutes part of the possessions of the bishop of Rochester. Littlebrooke, which in former times was written Litelbroc, has descended by marriage to a son of archbishop Potter. Stone-castle merits more particular observation. This is situated on an elevated spot at no great distance from the high road to Dover; the lands belonging to it are considerable, and the produce of them was bequeathed by Dr. Plume, the founder of the Plumian professorship at Cambridge, for the following purposes: – Twenty-six sermons were to be preached alternately at Gravesend and Dartford, on every Wednesday

during the summer half year. After the expenses of these should be defrayed, the remainder of the produce of the estate was to be appropriated to the increase of such vicarages and livings in the diocese of Rochester as did not exceed 60l. per

annum. We understand that the intention of the donor has been punctually fulfilled.

The manor of Cotton, in the reign of the first Edward, belonged to a family whose name was Cotton. It afterwards was the property of Sir John Wiltshire, whose possessions in this hundred have been mentioned before. In the reign of Elizabeth it came into the joint hands of lord Burleigh and Sir Thomas Walsingham. We find it afterwards in the possession, first of Sir Francis Lawley, afterwards of Sir William Keyt, and finally belonging to a lady resident at Canterbury, whose name is unknown to us.

The church of Stone has been exceedingly admired, and well deserves to be so. The architecture is Gothic, and a more perfect or more beautiful specimen of this style cannot easily be found. The roof of the chancel is very lofty, yet it has the appearance of being much less so than heretofore: some ancient stalls still remain on each side; these are remarkable for their curious workmanship, and for their supporters, which are delicate pillars of brown marble. The chapel is now a venerable pile of ruins; here formerly was the monument of the before-named Sir John Wiltshire and his wife. The Gothic windows, which are very large and perfectly regular, are in high preservation. All together, the curious antiquary would find a visit to the parish church of Stone well repay the trouble and labour it would cost him.

Stone is a rectory, in the diocese of Rochester, and patronage of the bishop. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. In the last century this beautiful edifice was so injured by lightning, that the bells were absolutely melted, and the roof and chancel almost destroyed.

We cannot leave this village without mentioning an anecdote recorded by that ancient historian Matthew Paris, which every reader will believe or not, as he thinks proper. There was a child whose name was William Crule or Crul: at the age of two years he effectually cured every kind of malady incident to the human body, by placing his hand upon the diseased person, and making the sign of the cross on his forehead. This wonderful fact is said to have happened in the year 1252, and in the reign of the second Henry.

SWANSCOMBE.

SWANSCOMBE is the camp of Swane. The Saxon word combe or compe, is derived from the Latin campus, which is a field or camp. Swane, as appears from our history, was monarch of Denmark; and as Camden relates, having penetrated as far as Greenhithe, there landed his troops, and proceeding onwards, pitched his camp at Swanscombe. Few etymologies are so clear and satisfactory.

In Domesday-book Swanscombe is spelt Suinescamp, and appears to have belonged to the brother of William the Conqueror. It reverted at different times, and on various occasions, to the crown; and in the reign of Edward the Third, was the property of Roger lord Mortimer. Elizabeth bestowed it on Anthony Weldon, Esq. who afterwards received the honour of knighthood. In 1763 we find it in the possession of Robert Child, Esq. the great banker, and to his heirs it now belongs.

The manor of Combes is in this parish, from which an ancient family heretofore took their name. John de Combe occupied this place in the reign of Edward the Third. In now belongs to the heirs of Sir Francis Head.

Greenhithe, which is a hamlet belonging to Swanscombe, well deserves notice from its supplying the contiguous counties with immense quantities of chalk and lime. Here is always the appearance of great activity and traffic. The shore is covered with wharfs, and a numerous quantity of barges are continually employed in loading or landing various articles of commerce. The ferry which was anciently established here for the transporting of carriages, is now used only for horses.

Ingress, or Ingries, is also in this parish, and was once a manor belonging to Dartford priory. It latterly formed one of the many estates of John Calcraft, Esq. On his death the mansion was occupied by different individuals, but the property is, we believe, vested in Mr. Calcraft's heirs.

The story of William the Conqueror's being stopped in this place by the men of Kent, headed by the archbishop, and demanding with their arms in their hands, the confirmation of their rights, seems not to be believed by our most sagacious

antiquaries.

The church is a rectory in the gift of the master and fellows of Sidney college, Cambridge. Its value in the king's books is 25l. 13s. 4d. The high road to Dover crosses the village, which has a picturesque appearance from the water, on account of the woods which agreeably cover the brow of the adjoining hills.

SOUTHFLEET.

SUTHFLETA, now called Southfleet, is a place of great antiquity. In the troublesome and dark times of the Saxon heptarchy, Birtrick was lord of the manor of Sudfleta. It afterwards came into the hands of the crown, and we find that Henry the Eighth gave it to Sir William Petre. He sold it to William Garret, Esq.; and it now belongs to the Sedley family, whose mansion is at Scadbury in this parish. Scadbury is a very ancient seat, but is now deserted by its former possessors.

The manor of Pole is in Southfleet parish, but has no particulars attached to it to justify our detaining the reader. There is also a seat or mansion of some antiquity called Hook-place, and a hamlet, the name of which is Betsham, or Bedesham.

A Roman milestone or milliare was found in this parish, which confirms the assertion of antiquarians, that a Roman road passed through Southfleet, and that Southfleet was not improbably a Roman station.

The church is an object which well deserves attention. It is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and has many curious marks of antiquity about it. The font in particular has been very much admired. Its form is octagon, and the workmanship is remarkably curious. There are also six ancient stalls or seats, intended doubtless for the monks. In the east window are some curious fragments of painted glass. On the pavement in the approach to the altar are some red and yellow tiles. There is also a musical peal of bells in this church, and it is altogether an elegant and interesting structure.

We must not leave Southfleet without making honourable mention of its free-school. This was founded in the year 1637 by Sir Charles Sedley, with a decent salary for the master. The heirs of this gentleman in succeeding times improved and increased the institution.

The church is a rectory, in the gift of the bishop of Rochester; and its value in the king's books is 31l. 15s.

LONGFIELD.

LONGFIELD, in Domesday-book written Langafel, and in writings of remoter antiquity Langefeld, is the next parish to Southfleet. It is a mean inconsi-

derable place, consisting only of a few poor and thinly scattered houses. The soil is hard and sterile, abounding in chalk with flint stones almost without number. The manor belongs to the archdeaconry of Rochester. The church is a poor and mean edifice, in the patronage of the bishop of Rochester; nor has it any thing more remarkable appertaining to it, than that the good and generous archdeacon Plume, whose munificent charities have before been recorded, is interred within its walls.

FAWKHAM.

THE common people call this place Fakeham. It has at different periods been written Fachesham, Fealcanham, and Falcheham.

The manor is divided into the two distinct manors of Old and New Fawkham. The first descended from various proprietors to the dowager lady Folkstone; the second belongs to the heirs of William Selby, Esq. of Pennis, a considerable mansion in this parish.

A singular donation bequeathed in part to the poor of this parish deserves to be recorded. John Walter, Esq. of Pennis, left by his will to the two poorest men of the different parishes of Ash, Hartley, and Fawkham, "a large coat of good russet cloth;" – to two widows also of similar situation and description, "two good russet gowns." – It was moreover enjoined those who were to receive the

benefits of this bequest, to appear every Christmas-day at Pennis, at eight o'clock in the morning, and thence proceed to the church, where they were to hear a sermon, for preaching of which the clergyman was to receive ten shillings. After sermon the poor men and women were to return to Pennis, and partake of a comfortable dinner.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary; it is a rectory in the diocese of Rochester, to which the lords of the manors of Old and New Fawkham alternately present.

HARTLEY.

THE name of this village has undergone a very singular alteration. In Domesday-book we find it written Erclei, and in ancient records it has been thus expressed: "Herdei." – This manor reverted to the crown after having been for a long time possessed by the brother of William the Conqueror. From the sovereign it will be

found to have passed through various hands, till it became vested in a family of the name of Gens.

The soil of this parish resembles that which we have described immediately before. It is full of flint stones, and is yet very chalky. The church is a mean and small erection, dedicated to all the Saints. It is of no great value, being discharged from the king's books. The village has nothing in or near it which merits any particular notice.

RIDLEY.

REDLEGE, Redlegh, has finally become Ridley. This village also belonged to Odo, brother of the Conqueror. The manor now belongs to the heirs of William Glanville Evelyn, Esq. in whose patronage also the rectory remains. This village has still less to distinguish it than the former. There is no separate manor in the parish, no premises of which it is necessary to make any distinct mention, no antiquities to record, no appropriate acts of charity to praise. That here they lived and here they died, is all that is known of the rude forefathers of the hamlet of Ridley.

ASH.

THIS village is in Domesday-book written Eisse; in more ancient records it is found AEisce near Farningham, and sometimes near Wrotham.

There are the manors of North Ash and South Ash. We find that the manor of North Ash having been forfeited to the crown, was granted by Henry the Eighth to Cromwell earl of Essex. It now belongs to the heirs of Thomas Lambard, Esq.

South Ash belonged to a family who either received or gave the name. John de Southeshe was the proprietor and occupier in the reign of Edward the Third. It has for along series of years belonged to the family of Hodsell, a name which has at various times been written Huddyshole, Hudsoll, and Hodsoll.

Another manor in this parish is called Holywell. There was, so early as the reign of Edward the Second, a nunnery of Benedictines, called the nunnery of Holywell, situated somewhere in the city of London. It is hardly necessary to inform the reader that this appellation of Holywell is an alteration from holy well,

from some spring or fountain of presumed sanctity or holiness. This manor also now belongs to the Lambard family.

The knights Templars had anciently some possessions in this parish, and there was a manor here named St. John's Ash. By the way, it may stimulate the researches of some of our indefatigable antiquaries, to inquire whence it happens that one or more villages of the name of Ash is to be found in almost every county of the kingdom. There is another village of the name of Ash in the county of Kent, situated in the neighbourhood of Sandwich.

The village we are now describing is somewhat romantic, being nearly surrounded with wood. The soil is hard, and very much covered with flint. The church originally was in the patronage of the knights of St. John of Jerusalem. It now belongs to the Lambard family. It is a rectory, and valued in the king's books at 9l. 18s. 4d.

KINGSDOWN.

THIS place has been anciently thus variously written, Kingledune, Kingesdune, and finally Kingsdown. The manor anciently belonged to the noble family of Fitzbernard. The present possessor is that great and affluent commoner Thomas William Coke, Esq. of Holkham, in Norfolk.

The other manors in this parish are Hever, Chepsted, Maplescombe, and Woodland, which is also called Week.

The manor of Hever also belongs to Mr. Coke of Norfolk; and so also does a moiety of Chepsted – the other part of Chepsted manor is again subdivided among two or more proprietors.

Maplescombe has been at different times written Mapeldreskampe and Mapscumbe, which last is become its general name. In this place formerly was a separate church and a noble mansion: both have long been in ruins. The manor belongs to. Mr. Coke above mentioned.

Woodland or Week, though in this parish, lies in another hundred; it formerly was a parish of itself, though it now belongs to Kingsdown. This last is a poor and inconsiderable place, though, with regard to its soil, it is better than the places contiguous to it.

The situation of the church is most singularly romantic. It stands in the deep bosom of a wood which covers a space of very little less than a hundred acres. It

is a rectory, the patronage of which is in the dean and chapter of Rochester. In the king's books it is entitled a joint rectory with Mapiscombe or Mapscombe, and is valued at 9l. 1s. 8d.

HORTON KIRKBY

IS really an interesting spot. – Here formerly was a castle, of which many large and venerable ruins remain. It is an agreeable, fertile, and truly retired place, and contains in its vicinity many places which have formerly been of great consideration, and now may well excite curiosity and attention.

The manor of Horton was given by the Conqueror to his brother Odo. One of his descendants built Horton-castle, which, from what may yet be seen of it, must once have been a strong and spacious building. The manor now belongs to Queen's college, Oxford, to whom it was given by John Michel, Esq. of Richmond in Surry.

Kirkby-court is also a manor in this parish. In queen Elizabeth's time it belonged to the celebrated Sir Thomas Walsingham; it now belongs to a widow lady, whose name has not reached us.

There is also in this parish. a seat of no small importance, the common appellation of which is Franks, whether we consider the claims and possessions of the owner, or its local situation, and the pleasant point which it occupies on the banks of the river Darent. Another agreeable seat in this parish is called Reynolds-place, of no less magnitude or interest than the former, whether we speak of its antiquity or local advantages. There is also a hamlet belonging to Horton, which is called Pinden, anciently Pinnedene, and which was once of far greater importance than at present.

Horton is a vicarage; the church is dedicated to St. Mary; its patronage is in private hands. It appears from Ecton's Thesaurus that the name of the patron who last presented was Mr. Thomas Williams.

FARNINGHAM.

THIS place, anciently written Ferlingeham, Ferningeham, and Freningham, is one of the most delightful villages in Kent. The scenes every where around it partake of all the beauties of a perfect landscape. There is indeed every variety

which the lover of rustic scenery would require, and the situation is as salubrious as it is agreeable.

Farningham, besides its own particular manor, properly so denominated, contains the separate manors of Chartons and Chimbhams, or, as the common people pronounce it, Chimmans. There is also belonging to this parish, what was once a considerable mansion, known by the name of Petham-place.

The manor of Farningham, after being an escheat to the crown by the disgrace and punishment of Odo, has passed through the hands of various proprietors, till it now belongs to a gentleman of the name of Fuller. Chartons anciently belonged to the archbishops of Canterbury; the present proprietor is John Tasker, Esq. of Franks. Chimmans, or more properly Chimbhams, in the reign of Henry the Third, belonged to John de Chimbeham; at the Restoration it became the property of Sir James Bunce, an alderman of London, and it is now enjoyed by one of his descendants. Petham-place was one of the many purchases made in this part of the county of Kent by John Calcraft, Esq. of Ingress.

There is, as may be supposed from its local situation, a constant traffic through Farningham. The road from London to Maidstone passes directly through it, and the passage is facilitated by a neat and commodious bridge, which is here thrown over the Darent – the bridge is of brick, and consists of four arches. There has also been a mill established in this place from the time of king Stephen, who appears to have given the mill of Frenynham alias Farningham, to a society of monks established at Bermondsey, in Surry.

The church of Farningham alone remains to be spoken of, and this also is entitled to our commendation. It is consecrated to St. Peter and St. Paul; a vicarage, the patronage of which is with the archbishop of Canterbury. There is a very curious font in this church, the antiquity of which must obviously be very remote. It is of an octagonal form, and in each division there are a number of allegorical figures, executed with no mean skill. Some foolish and modern hand, not improbably with the idea of improving it, has so disfigured the ancient devices, that it is almost impossible to comprehend the design of the original artist. The peal of bells in Farningham church is said to be unusually good.

EYNSFORD.

THIS place is in all the maps erroneously written Aynsford. The etymology of the names of places terminating in the word ford, can hardly to the commonest reader require explanation. At this place, in remoter times, was a ford over the river Darent. Here also was one of our ancient castles, which, with the manor, was held of the archbishops of Canterbury. It is now in the possession of Sir John Dixon Dyke.

There are three other manors in this parish, namely, Orkesden, Little Mote, and Pelham-court. Orkesden gave a name to an ancient family, and William de Orkesden was a personage of some note in the reign of John. This manor also belongs to the respectable baronet, proprietor of the manor of Eynsford. The manors of Little Mote and Pelham-court, are the property severally of lord Romney and the Bosvilles of Staffordshire. There is nothing to record of this place, no local customs, antiquities, or peculiarities.

The church is mean and small. There were some curious and ancient monuments, and monumental inscriptions; these, however, partly by time, and partly by unfeeling, and we had almost said unpardonable negligence, are defaced and ruined. The rector of Eynsford presents to the vicarage; and the gentleman who at present possesses this privilege is a layman, and the above mentioned Sir John Dixon Dyke.

There is a hamlet belonging to this parish, not to be omitted in point of accuracy, though of no great importance in itself; and this is Crokerhill. The lands of this, formerly annexed to the priory of Dartford, and afterwards belonging to Percival Hart, who was honoured by the smiles and presence of queen Elizabeth, belong, with almost the whole of the parish, to the proprietor of the manor of Eynsford.

LULLINGSTONE.

LULLINGSTONE, anciently written Lolingestone, and occasionally also Lullingestone, is the last village to be described in the hundred of Axstane.

The history of the manor of Lullingstone, if pursued and explained in detail, would involve many curious and important particulars; but we can only select such of these as seem more immediately pertinent. This is one of the numerous posses-

sions given by William the Conqueror to his brother. To William it again

reverted. In the reign of Richard the Second it appears to have belonged to Sir John Peche. There was a gentleman of this name in possession of this estate and manor in the time of Henry the Seventh, who was of high character for loyalty and valour. He was particularly instrumental in opposing and thwarting the attempts of the celebrated Perkin Warbeck, and indeed was the cause of his final overthrow on Blackheath.

The manor afterwards came into the hands of Sir Percival Hart, and now belongs to Sir John Dixon Dyke. This place is called a village, but in fact it consists only of two or three houses. The church, however, merits particular mention.

The munificence, united with the elegant taste of the patron, has made this church a most interesting spectacle. The monuments, the style of the seats, but above all, the painted windows, exhibit all together a picture which cannot easily be exceeded in elegance or beauty. The subjects delineated very curiously in the windows, are partly scriptural, and partly heraldrical distinctions of the present family and their remoter ancestors.

The church is in the diocese of Rochester. It is a rectory in the gift of Sir John Dyke, and its certified value in Ecton's Thesaurus is 39l. 1s. 3d.

Hundred of Codsheath.

THE next hundred, of Codsheath or Codesede, contains nine different parishes, namely – Shoreham, Halsted, Otford, Kemsing, Seale, Sevenoke, Chevening, that is to say part of Chevening, Sundrish, and what is called Woodland in Kingsdown. In this hundred also is part of the parishes of Speldhurst and Lyghe. The first of these to be mentioned is

SHOREHAM.

THIS place is also in ancient records denominated Schorham. The manor belongs to the crown, and is part of what is termed the manor of Otford. At Shoreham was formerly a castle, to which a distinct manor was annexed. This castle must necessarily have been of great antiquity, for one of our most correct writers

on subjects of local history observes, that of Shoreham-castle only the ruins could be discerned in the reign of Henry the Eighth.

The places most worthy of notice in the parish of Shoreham, are Preston and New-house. The former anciently constituted part of the domains of the archbishops of Canterbury; latterly it belonged, as it does at present, to the family of Borrett, which occupies a very elegant and spacious mansion, to which the name of New-house has been given. There is only one separate manor in the parish of Shoreham, known by the name of Filston, or Vielston. This also belongs to the Borretts of New-house.

There are also two premises, with considerable estates annexed, in Shoreham, and which are called Sepham and Planers. These belong to Mr. Polhill of Chipsted, in the same county.

Shoreham is a mean village, and has nothing more remarkable belonging to it than a handsome bridge thrown over the Darent, which has two not inelegant arches. The church also has some claims to commendation. It is a neat, simple structure; a vicarage, in the diocese of Rochester, and in the gift of the dean and chapter of Westminster. It is what is called a peculiar of the archbishop; the meaning of which term is, that having anciently been part of the peculiar possessions of the archbishop, they are not amenable to the jurisdiction of the bishop in whose particular diocese they lie.

HALSTED.

HALSTED is an obscure and poor village; yet, on the approach to it, it presents an interesting and picturesque appearance. It is lofty, being on a gentle eminence; and the hill, or rather hills, on which it is situated, are of chalk. The manor probably belonged to the see of Canterbury, at least the person whom our ancient records first mention as its occupier, held it of the archbishop. It passed in 1738 to the third son of the duke of St. Alban's, who by his late majesty George the Second was created a peer.

This church is also a peculiar of the archbishop, who has also the patronage

of the rectory. It is much to be lamented that the very curious specimens of painted glass with which the church was once ornamented, are now almost wholly destroyed.

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Halsted-place is an elegant mansion in this parish, which formerly belonged to the above-mentioned lord Vere; it is now the property of John Sargent, Esq.

OTFORD.

AT this place we shall be delayed somewhat longer. Here formerly was an archiepiscopal palace, and it is also of some note in the annals of our country.

The name of the village has at different times been written Ottanford, Otefort, Otteford, and Otford. The manor anciently belonged to the see of Canterbury, but Henry the Eighth obtained it of archbishop Cranmer, in exchange for some other estates. It now remains with the crown, which grants at pleasure what is termed the high stewardship of the honour of Otford, to some distinguished individual of the county. The present high steward is the duke of Dorset.

The palace, of which at present there are but inconsiderable remains, was formerly very splendid and magnificent. The archbishops here, from time to time, kept their court, and exercised becoming hospitality. It is related of archbishop Warham, that he expended in repairing and ornamenting this place a sum very little short of 40,000l. There is a spring in the vicinity of the ruins, and which formerly used to supply the palace, which is called St. Thomas's spring. Of this the following miraculous story is related — Thomas à Becket resided at this palace. His domestics complained of a scarcity of water, upon which the holy man walked forth with his staff, and at a convenient spot struck the earth with it; upon which a stream of limpid water burst forth, and has never since ceased to flow.

The history of the manors and other premises in this parish is involved in some obscurity, of no great importance to our purpose to develope. There is a manor called Sergeant's Otford with the Little Park; there is another manor called Danehull, and familiarly Denhall. There is also a considerable estate belonging to Sir Richard Betenson, known by the appellation of Rye-house; there is another called Broughtons.

Two very bloody battles took place in or near Otford; one between the Saxons in some civil contention, the other between the Saxons and the Danes. The vestiges of these encounters from time to time appear – skeletons have often been found, heads of spears and fragments of military weapons. Of these the parti-

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culars may be seen at length in Camden, and many curious incidents are related in Lambard's Perambulation of this county.

The church or rather chapel of Otford is an adjunct to Shoreham. It was heretofore of much greater repute. The saint to whom it was dedicated was said to have the gift of removing barrenness; and a fair was annually held at this place, in commemoration of his miracles and beneficial qualities.

The ruins of the palace excite on the view a melancholy emotion; for what contemplative mind can view magnificence exchanged for sordid obscurity, luxury for poverty, learning for ignorance, without regretting the imbecility of nature, and the vicissitudes of fortune?

> "Vain end of human strength, of human skill,
> Conquest, and triumph, and domain, and pomp,
> And ease, and luxury." ——

> "Aspice murorum moles praeruptaque saxa
> Obrutaque horrenti vasta theatra situ."

KEMSING.

THE variation which the name of this village has undergone is not a little singular. We find it written Cemecinga, Camesing, and finally Kemsing. The manor in the reign of the second Henry belonged to the earl of Albemarle. Fynes, a gallant soldier, and much beloved by Henry the Fifth, with whom he served in France, possessed this manor in that reign. In the reign of the succeeding monarch this gentleman came to an untimely end. Henry the Eighth seized the manor of

Kemsing on pretence of its belonging by descent to his queen, Ann Boleyn, and afterwards gave it to Ann of Cleves.

Queen Elizabeth granted this and other estates to Sir Henry Carey, who was afterwards lord Hunsdon, and of whom the following singular anecdote is related: He had often solicited his royal mistress, who was also his cousin, to make him earl of Wiltshire, thinking that he had a fair claim to this honour in right of his mother Mary, sister to queen Ann Boleyn. Elizabeth was unwilling to comply with his request, which so exceedingly preyed upon the young man's mind, that it caused a fit of sickness which terminated in his death. When he was dying, Elizabeth paid him a visit, and childishly enough ordered the patent for creating him

earl of Wiltshire, to be placed upon his bed, together with his earl's robes, &c. The kindness, however, was too late to be efficacious, and the dying nobleman told the queen with great firmness, that as she did not esteem him deserving this honourable distinction when in the vigour of health and strength, he did not on his dying bed think it expedient to accept them.

The present possessor of this manor, under certain limitations, is his grace the duke of Dorset.

Mention ought to be made of a very ancient estate in the parish of Kemsing, known by the name of Crowdleham. This has been the property of a respectable family of the name of Bunce ever since the reign of Henry the Eighth. A gentleman of the name of Bunce now occupies and resides at Crowdleham.

Kemsing was formerly of much greater note than it is at present. Here was formerly a market held weekly on a Monday. A fair is still annually kept here on Easter Monday. A tutelar saint also, whose supposed virtues were very extraordinary and miraculous, brought a great concourse of people perpetually to the town, and more particularly to the church of Kemsing – this was St. Edith; her image was placed on a pedestal in the church-yard, and among other benefits which she imparted to her votaries, her power, on proper application, dissipated the pestilence of mildew, and the blights from the corn. St. Edith moreover was a native of the place, and, to mark her affection for her native soil, produced a well called St. Edith's well, which appellation it is said still to retain.

The church is a vicarage, annexed to the adjoining parish church of Seale, and the patronage is with the duke of Dorset.

SEALE.

SEALE, the next parish to the south of Kemsing, is a mean, dreary, and cheerless place. The eye is fatigued with wandering over hundreds of hundreds of acres of uncultivated heath, without any thing to rest upon but a few woods interspersed; and these are of low, ragged, and miserable appearance.

This village was formerly denominated De la Sele, and sometimes La Sele; now as sele is a Saxon word for a mansion of some splendour, a palace, &c. it is not improbable to suppose that here was formerly in remoter times some such edifice.

The manor of Seale now belongs to the duke of Dorset, under the same, or simi-

lar limitations, as the contiguous manor of Kemsing. It is probable that this place gave the additional title to the noble family, the head of which is lord Say and Seale. There are two other manors in this parish, one called Hall, the other Stidulfe's-place, which latter has also the name of the Wilderness.

Hall-place belongs to a gentleman of the name of Thompson; Stidulfe's-place is the property of a family whose name is Pratt, and which originally came from Devonshire. It was the Bickerstaffe family which owned this place in the reign of Charles the First, one of whom changed the name from Stidulfe's-place to the Wilderness, which it has ever since preserved.

Nulcombe and Stonepit are also two considerable estates belonging to the parish of Seale. We before observed that this parish is annexed to the vicarage of Kemsing, but there are no local circumstances to justify any farther detail in this place.

SEVENOKE.

THERE is no portion of Kent more interesting than this which we are about to describe, whether we consider the diversity of the soil, the picturesque appearance

of the country, the number of noble mansions with which it is adorned, and above all, the magnificent palace and beautiful domains of his grace the duke of Dorset.

Sevenoke, or, as it is familiarly called, Sennoke, is contiguous to Seale to the south. Its appellation hardly requires to be explained. Its ancient name was Seoven acca. The town is built upon a hill, upon which, in more remote times, and not improbably when the place was first built upon, seven large oak trees were standing.

The manor of Sevenoke formerly belonged to the see of Canterbury. Henry the Eighth obtained possession of it in exchange for other lands, of archbishop Cranmer. Knole also belonged to the same see of Canterbury; for it appears that in the reign of Henry the Sixth, archbishop Bourchier bought it of lord Say and Seale. This same prelate made a splendid addition to the house, and considerably improved and adorned the adjoining domains. After him different archbishops of Canterbury made this the place of their residence, and in particular that wise and learned character lord chancellor Warham. When the manors of Sevenoke and Knole came into the hands of the sovereign, they were exchanged by Edward the Sixth, with the favourite of himself and predecessor, Dudley earl of Warwick, who was afterwards created duke of Northumberland.

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In the reign of queen Mary these premises and this noble mansion became the property of the celebrated Reginald Pole, cardinal of Rome, and archbishop of Canterbury; a man who was one of the very few upon whom the kindness of that princess was not improperly bestowed. On the cardinal's death they again reverted to the crown, and we find that Elizabeth conferred them upon the lord Hunsdon, of whom we have made mention in a preceding part of this work. A descendant of this lord Hunsdon conveyed them by sale to the progenitors of the present noble owner, an event which, if we are not misinformed, took place in the reign of the first James. A genealogical detail of the family of Sackville would be foreign from our purpose; it is sufficient to say that it may easily be traced back to William the Conqueror's arrival in this kingdom. Herbrand de Saccavilla accompanied that monarch, and partook of his glory.

The mansion of Knole is in itself so interesting an object, and a description of it so indispensable in a work professing to describe all that is curious within a certain distance of the metropolis, that we should be somewhat perplexed to render justice to the place, and at the same time satisfaction to our readers, did not the following accurate and perspicuous representation present itself. It is taken from a book, upon which the public has bestowed its approbation, entitled, Biographical Sketches of eminent Persons whose Portraits form Part of the Duke of Dorset's most valuable and curious Collection of Paintings at Knole; written by Henry Norton Willis, Esq. whose name, however, is not prefixed to the work.

"The architecture of this immense pile bespeaks a variety of dates; the most ancient is probably coeval with the Mareschals and Bigods: it seems as if the whole of it was antecedent to its becoming the possession of the Sackvilles, though certainly many of this family have very considerably repaired it, particularly Richard, the fifth earl. No part appears of a more modern date than the reign of Elizabeth. Thomas, the first earl of Dorset, came to reside at Knole in 1603, he died in 1607; and as the water-spouts, which were put up by him throughout the house, are dated 1605, it would appear that no part of the building is subsequent to this period. The garden gates, the sun-dial, and many other places, bear the arms of Sackville and Middlesex, a title brought into the family by Frances Cranfield, heiress of the earl of Middlesex, and countess to the above-mentioned Richard. In a window in the billiard-room is the portrait of a man

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in armour with this inscription: Herbrandus de Sackville praepotens Normannus intravit Angliam cum Gulielmo Conquestore, anno 1066; and in a room called the Carton gallery, are painted on glass twenty-one armorial bearings, from the above Herbrandus to Richard the third earl of Dorset: a lineage which, as far as the boast of pedigree may be allowed a fair pretension, can be surpassed or even equalled by few in the kingdom. In another room are several shields of the arms of the Cranmer family; this room has, the appearance of having once been the archbishop's private chapel; the window resembles more those of the places

of religious worship than any other window in the house; and the approach to it is by two or three steps exhibiting all together the appearance of what was once an altar.

"The park owes much to nature, and much to its noble proprietor; the line of its surface is perpetually varying, so that new points of view are constantly presenting themselves. The soil is happily adapted to the growth of timber; stately beeches and venerable oaks fill every part of the landscape; the girth of one of these oaks exceeds twenty-eight feet, and probably its branches afforded shade to its ancient lords of Pembroke and Norfolk. The present duke has, with much assiduity and taste, repaired the gaps made in the woods by one of his ancestors, who, 'Foe to the Dryads of his father's groves,' had unveiled their haunts and exposed their secret recesses to the rude and garish eye of day. The plantations are not dotted about in cloddish clumps, as if they had no reference to a whole or general effect, but in broad and spacious masses cover the summits of the undulating line, or skirt the vallies in easy sweeps. Not to dwell, however, on 'barren generalities,' among many others there are two points of view which particularly deserve the visitor's attention; the one is from the end of a valley which goes in a south-west direction from the house; it forms a gentle curve, the groves rise magnificently on each side, and the trees, many of them beeches of the largest size, are generally feathered to the bottom; the mansion with its towers and battlements, and a back ground of hills covered with wood, terminate the vista; the time most favourable for the prospect is a little before the setting sun, when the fore ground is darkened by a great mass of shade, and the house, from this circumstance and its being brightened by the sun's rays, is brought forward in a beautiful manner to the eye. The other view is from a rising ground of the same valley, and of a different kind from the former; on

gaining the summit of the hill, a prospect of vast extent bursts at once upon the eye; woods, heaths, towns, villages, and hamlets, are all before you in bright confusion; the sudden and abrupt manner in which the prospect presents itself, being in perfect unison with the wildness of the scenery. The eye takes in the greater part of West Kent, a considerable part of Sussex, and a distant view of the hills of Hampshire. The fore ground is woody, the whitened steeples rising every where among the trees, with gentlemen's seats scattered round in great abundance. Penshurst, the ancient residence of the Sidneys, stands conspicuously on a gentle swell, forming a middle point between the fore ground and the South Downs that skirt the horizon. It is a venerable mansion surrounded with groves of high antiquity: I know not if the oak, planted the day Sir Philip Sidney was born, and mentioned by Ben Johnson, be yet remaining; if it be, I trust it meets from the present proprietor with every respect due to so sacred a relique. The patriot Algernon, and the poet Waller, have both reposed beneath its shade, and possibly here too Sir Philip sketched his Arcadian scenes."

In the parish of Sevenoke, but at some distance from the town, is the manor of Braborne. After various changes of proprietors this place came into the hands of Henry the Eighth, but in the reign of queen Elizabeth it appears to have been possessed by Sir Ralph Bosville. The family of Bosville continued to enjoy the estate, and occupy the mansion till the year 1761, when it came into the possession of Richard Betenson, Esq. son of Sir Richard Betenson. The heirs of this gentleman not only enjoy the manor of Braborne, but the lands and estate of what is called Blackhall. A very ancient monumental inscription in the church of Sevenoke proves that the estate of Blackhall once belonged to one Robert Totihurst, who in the year 1512 was a kind of dependant on cardinal Bourchier, who for a considerable time enjoyed the see of Canterbury.

We ought not to omit mention in this place, of an estate in the parish of Sevenoke, named Kepington, which, after passing through the hands of various possessors, became the property of the justly celebrated Mr. Thomas Farnaby. This learned man was in his greatest reputation about the year 1638. He is said to have educated almost a thousand of the principal gentlemen of his time, and to have produced more eminent and accomplished scholars than any other person before or since, the famous Busby alone excepted. We should be glad to adorn our pages with many anecdotes of this distinguished personage, but that the doing this

would too far intrude upon our prescribed limits. He exhibited one of the very rare examples of a schoolmaster's acquiring an ample fortune. Mr. Farnaby, however, did this; he purchased large landed property in this and the neighbouring parishes; and his descendants, since raised to the honour of baronets, enjoy this and several other ample possessions.

Neither in speaking of Sevenoke must we pass over Rumsted, or, as it seems anciently to have been called, Rumpshot. Mention is somewhere made of a Sir William de Rumpsted, about whom there is a very interesting traditionary tale, which might have been made consistently enough the burden of an ancient ballad. – William de Sevenoke was deserted by his nurse or guardian, and left to perish by the water, or at the foot of a tree – Sir William de Rumpsted found, preserved, and educated him. This estate of Rumpsted has descended to the Lambard family.

There are other estates also in the parish of Sevenoke with distinct appellations, and belonging to different owners; such, for example, as Wickhurst, Pett-house, Stidulfe, Hoath, Brytaines, Stothe, &c.; but these have no antiquities or peculiarities involved in their history, of sufficient importance to justify our detaining our readers.

The town of Sevenoke itself it is impossible not to praise. Its situation is delightful, and not more pleasant to the eye of a curious observer, than it is both convenient and salubrious. There are a number of elegant and spacious mansions which enliven and vary the spectacle. The town also seems progressively increasing in population, and consequent wealth and importance.

Sevenoke, in the reign of Elizabeth, and, if we are not mistaken, since, was the assize town. There is now an excellent market every Saturday, and two fairs, the one in summer, the other in autumn. The market-place is of some antiquity, which indeed is obvious from its present appearance. The town has two large and commodious streets. At the termination of one of these is a large open space, known by the appellation of the Vine. On this the players at cricket, at which game the men of Kent, and of Sevenoke in particular, are proverbially expert, frequently exhibit their activity and skill.

Brook's-place is a mansion at the distance of about a mile from Sevenoke, situated in the hamlet called Riverhead, a district of the parish, which deserves mention, were it only from respect to the memory of the late gallant lord Amherst. This was a place of great antiquity; but coming into the hands of lord Amherst, he

pulled it entirely down, and erected on a contiguous spot a neat structure of stone, to which his lordship gave the name of Montreal, to commemorate the capture of that place by the British arms.

An elegant obelisk in these domains specifies in detail the many important victories obtained by his majesty's forces in North America, and principally under the conduct of lord Amherst. In another district of this parish, named Sevenoke Weald, is Whitley Forest, which had at no earlier period than the reign of Elizabeth, contained wild boars, an animal long exterminated in these kingdoms, with an exception of a few in one of the royal forests.

Sevenoke possesses, among its various other distinctions, an excellent hospital for the maintenance of twenty poor people, and a free-school for the benefit of the youth of this place. The hospital was founded by Sir William Rumpsted, who was mentioned above, and who in progress of time became lord mayor of London. The narrative of this gentleman's life bears no small resemblance to the late famous Whittington. The same benevolence also firmly established the grammar-school; but this in succeeding times was considerably extended and improved by Sir Ralph Bosville, who flourished in the time of Elizabeth, and called this seminary after the name of that venerated princess.

A daughter of this Sir Ralph Bosville gave two scholarships to Jesus college, Cambridge, for the benefit of two youths, who were to be elected from this grammar-school of Sevenoke. The school itself has been so improved, that there are no less than six exhibitions for young men educated there, who may belong to any college of either university.

The church is a large and spacious edifice. The tower is of a square form; and such is its elevation, that it forms a picturesque and interesting object at various

points of the surrounding country. The rectory is a sinecure. The vicarage requires separate institution and ordination. The patronage of both is, according to Ecton's Thesaurus, with David Papillon, Esq. and his wife. Mr. Hasted, in his History of Kent, contradicts this, and says that "Dr. Thomas Curteis, rector and vicar of this parish, died in 1775, seised of this patronage."

Sevenoke is a place of such consideration, and, as old Philpott observes, is a fountain which streams into so many branches, that it is not impossible but we may have omitted some few particulars which readers of some description might expect to find. We believe however that every thing more material has been noticed in

its appropriate place, and we consequently dismiss this portion of our work with the honest confidence of having exerted a becoming share of diligence and attention.

CHEVENING.

THIS parish, which lies next to the parish of Sevenoke, is not wholly in the hundred which we are now describing. A portion of it, though not a large one, is in the hundred of Somerden. There appear anciently to have been two manors of the name of Chevening, the Greater and the Less. Of these the first has descended to Sir James Dashwood, the latter belongs to the Right Hon. earl Stanhope.

Another manor in this parish bears the appellation of Chepsted alias Wilkes. Mention is made in old records of a John de Chepsted, who possessed this place; but in later times it was occupied by a family of the name of Wilkes, since which it has been indifferently denominated Chepsted alias Wilkes. This also is now the property of the above-mentioned earl Stanhope.

A gentleman of the name of Polhill possesses and occupies a very old mansion called Chepsted-house, which in the reign of queen Elizabeth belonged to Robert Cranmer. A separate manor, also known by the name of Madam's-court, must not be passed over without mention. The correct and proper name of these domains is Morant's-court. The first possessor of this estate, of whom there is notice taken in ancient records, is Thomas de Moraunt, who doubtless, as was the custom of these times, was so named from the place which he inhabited. It is now the property of a family whose name is Price.

Charles Polhill, Esq. the owner of Chepsted-house, is also proprietor of a manor, which is likewise in the parish of Chevening, and called Donington, familiarly by the neighbourhood Dunton.

There is nothing in the village itself, in the church, or indeed in the neighbourhood, either to require or justify specific detail. The church is a rectory, to which the archbishop of Canterbury presents. Its value in the king's books, as appears from Ecton's Thesaurus, is 21l. 6s. 8d.; but there exists an obligation to pay from the profits of the living a small annual sum to the rector of Shoreham.

We may, perhaps, be excused by some readers for adding, that the house inhabited by lord Stanhope was originally built from a design of Inigo Jones, and that

the church of Chevening contains elegant monuments of the Lennard family, which by the marriage of the sister and heir of Gregory Fynes, lord Dacre of the South, became entitled to that barony in the reign of James I. Thomas, a descendant of this marriage, was created earl of Sussex, who leaving no male issue, that title became extinct, but the barony became vested in Ann, his last surviving, daughter; she married Richard Barrett Lennard, Esq., Henry Roper, lord Teynham, and lastly, Robert Moore, a younger son of Henry earl of Drogheda: by the first marriage she had the elegant and judicious Thomas Lennard Barrett, who became in her right lord Dacre, but having had no issue, and dying in 1786, the title came to Trevor Charles Roper, Esq. grandson of lady Dacre, who dying without issue in 1794, the title came to the present lady Dacre, Gertrude widow of the late Thomas Brand, of the Hoo in Hertfordshire, Esq.

SUNDRISH.

THIS place, commonly called Sundridge, should properly be named as we have written it; at least Sundrish is the orthography according to various deeds and records of respectable authority. The manor of Sundrish is now the property of

a family of the name of Hyde, resident in some other province. Anciently it was part of the possessions of the archbishops of Canterbury.

Oveney's-green, sometimes called Overney, is a distinct manor in the parish of Sundrish, and now the property of earl Stanhope. Brook-place is an estate of some consideration, and also in this parish. It belongs to a gentleman of the name of Ward – this is not a manor. Henden is, which also is sometimes written Hethenden. This place formerly belonged to the family of Le Despencer, the principal individuals of which were so obnoxious to the people, and such favourites with the sovereign in the reign of the second Edward; the father and the son in that calamitous reign were both sacrificed to the fury of the people by means the most barbarous as well as ignominious.

Henden afterwards came into the possession of the famous earl of Warwick, who was vulgarly, though not improperly, denominated the King-maker; but in the reign of Henry the Eighth it appears to have belonged to the crown. It is at present possessed by the heirs of Sir William Hoskins.

There is a mansion of considerable antiquity in this parish named Combe-bank. We have before had occasion to intimate that comb is a Saxon word, the meaning of

which is field or camp: nor is it at all improbable that formerly there was in this place or neighbourhood some military station or camp: urns and other fragments of antiquity have at different periods been dug up here, and some of our most sagacious antiquaries have not scrupled to assert, that this was once a regular place of interment for Roman soldiers.

Combe-place has for a long time belonged to the Argyle family, and, if we are not mistaken in our information, it is at the present period occupied by lord Frederick Campbell, member for Argyleshire.

His lordship the bishop of London, of whose good and amiable qualities we are happy in every opportunity of making honourable mention, has a neat cottage in this village. The bishop once enjoyed this benefice from the gift of archbishop Secker, and his attachment to the place was so strong that he has retained a mansion here as a place of retirement from the bustle, noise, and occupations of the metropolis.

The village of Sundrish itself is convenient, agreeable, and salubrious; the stream of the Darent flows through it in a double channel, and it is crossed by the high road to Maidstone.

It may not be impertinent to observe, that this obscure village gives an English title to the duke of Argyle, who is also baron Sundridge of Combe-bank. Sundrish is a rectory, of which the archbishop of Canterbury is patron, and its value in the king's books is 22l. 13s. 4d.

BRASTED.

THERE is some difficulty in the description of this parish – one part of it is within the hundred of Westerham and Eatonbridge; it has also the very uncommon peculiarity of a distinct and appropriate district. This is called the Ville of Brasted, which is unconnected with, and totally independent of any hundred.

We are somewhat particular in remarking the variations at different periods in the orthography of the places we describe, because we deem it both curious and important to mark the progress of language from barbarism to refinement. We make no apology, therefore, for observing, that what is now written Brasted, has undergone the different changes of Bradestede, Briestede, and Brasted. There is little doubt but the name was originally applied from the construction and form of the vil-

lage. It consists of one long street: now in Saxon stede is synonimous with brede, and means any thing of length.

Long antecedent to the conquest of this island by William the First, the manor of Brasted can be traced to have belonged to the archbishops of Canterbury in right of their see. It is unimportant to follow it in its progress through the hands of a multitude of proprietors; it now belongs to earl Stanhope.

There is an estate in Brasted known by the name of Brasted-place, and which anciently was called by the different names of Crow-place and Stocket-place. Two families doubtless of these names, at some time or other, possessed or occupied

this estate. Brasted-place at present belongs to lord Willoughby de Broke.

An estate and considerable domain annexed called Delaware, and also in this parish of Brasted, merits notice, on account of its great antiquity. There was a mansion in this place, and occupied by a gentleman of the respectable name of Delaware, in the reign of the second Henry; at the present period the property of Mr. Streatfeild.

The village of Brasted has in itself nothing which merits particular attention; yet there is something picturesque in its general aspect. The two rivers of Eden and Darent severally cross the place.

The church is a rectory, in the patronage of the archbishop of Canterbury; its value in the king's books is 22l. 6s. 8d.

Hundred of Westerham and Eatonbridge.

THE hundred thus divided consists of no more than the two parishes, each being a hundred within itself.

Westerham is the next parish to the west of Brasted. Its name explains itself – ham is a village, and Westerham is the western village. The inhabitants and neighbourhood familiarly denominated this place Westram.

Some of our readers may probably be pleased with our occasional notice of the variations in the orthography of places, and for our own parts we cannot think any observations unimportant which tend to extend and improve the knowledge of our language. We make no apology, therefore, for remarking, that in Domesday-book what is now written Westerham and Westram was Oistreham.

The manor of Westerham was held of Edward the Confessor by the famous earl

Godwin. It was granted by Henry the Eighth to Sir John Gresham, lord mayor of London; from him, in various lines, it has finally settled with the family of Warde.

The other manors in this parish are those of Squeries and Broxham. Squeries, which is of considerable antiquity, belongs to the same family of Warde: Broxham is the property of the Petleys of Riverhead. Gasum alias Well-street, and Valens alias Hill-park, are two estates of some consideration in the parish of Westram, the latter in particular. Hill-park is its modern appellation. It was called Valens till sold by an Irish gentleman of the name of M'Guire, who acquired great property in the East Indies, to the earl of Hillsborough, who after considerably ornamenting the place, gave it the name of Hill-park.

Westram had the honour of giving birth to two very distinguished characters in the British annals, though in far different lines. The one was Hoadly bishop of Winchester; the other the gallant general Wolfe, who died so nobly at Quebec. With respect to the virtues and talents of the first of these characters there are varieties of opinions. Some dispute his integrity, and call him a republican prelate – Pope censures his abilities as a writer –

> —— Swift for closer style,
> But Hoadly for a period of a mile.

Dr. Lowth calls him – "The great advocate of civil and religious liberty."

With respect to general Wolfe there is no difference of opinion; all agree in the justice of the following inscription to his memory, which not being generally known we are happy to transcribe:

> "General James Wolfe,
> Who,
> Dauntless but deliberate,
> Under numerous difficulties,
> September 2, 1759,
> Engaged to employ his little army
> For the honour and interest
> Of his country,
> And
> In a few days after
> Gloriously fulfilled his promise
> In the conquest of

Quebec,
At the expense of his life."

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The following incident, which, according to evidence the most authentic that can be adduced, happened in this parish, is too remarkable to be omitted; and more particularly in a country where the phenomena of earthquakes, or any of those deviations from the ordinary course of nature which occasion changes of things and places, so very rarely occur. We accordingly copy the account of it from a book which, from its general character, we have gladly respected upon any question where authenticity was concerned.

"Remarkable Occurrences.

"In the year 1596 the following astonishing scene happened in this parish, in two closes, separated from each other only by a hedge, about a mile and a half southward from the town, not far from the east end of the common highway, called Ockham-hill, leading from London towards Buckhurst in Sussex; when on December 18, a part of them containing twelve perches long, was found to be sunk six feet and an half deep, the next morning sixteen feet more, the third morning eighty feet more at least; and so from day to day. This great trench of ground, containing in length eighty perches, and in breadth twenty-eight, with the hedges and trees thereon, began to loose itself from the rest of the ground lying round about it, and therewithal to move, slide, and shoot southward, day and night, for the space of eleven days. The ground of two water-pits, the one having six feet depth of water, and the other twelve feet at least, and about four perches over in breadth, having sundry tufts of alders and ashes growing in their bottoms, with a great rock of stone underneath, were not only removed out of their places, and carried southward, but mounted aloft and became hills, with their sedge, flags, and black mud upon the tops of them, higher than the face of the water which they had forsaken; and in the place from which they had been removed, other ground which lay higher, had descended, and received the water on it. In one place of the plain field there was a great hole made, by the sinking of the earth, thirty feet deep; a hedge, with its trees, was carried southward, and there were several other sinkings of the earth, in different places, by which means where the highest hills had been, there were the deepest dales, and where the lowest dales were before, there was the highest ground.

"The whole measure of the breaking ground was at least nine acres; the eye-witnesses to the truth of which were, Robert Bostock, Esq. justice of the peace;

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Sir John Studley, vicar; John Dowling, gentleman; and many others of the neighbourhood.

"In the spring of 1756 at Toy's-hill, about a mile and a half eastward from the above, a like circumstance was observed, in a field of two acres and an half, the situation of which was on the side of a hill, inclining toward the south, the land of which kept moving imperceptibly till the effect appeared, for some time, by which means the northern side was sunk two or three feet, and became full of clefts and chasms, some only a foot deep, others as large as ponds, six or eight feet deep, and ten or twelve feet square, and most of them filled with water. Part of a hedge moved about three rods southward, and though straight before, then formed an angle with its two ends. Another hedge separated to the distance of eight feet; the southern part, which was on a level before with the rest of the field, after this overhung it like a precipice, about the height of twelve feet; and the land on each side, which had not moved, was covered with the rest, which folded over it, to the height of six or seven feet." – There is no possibility to know why these extraordinary circumstances happened so near together, though at so great a distance of time.

The parish is in the diocese of Rochester, and in the deanery of Malling: the church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a handsome building, and though large, not sufficiently so for the inhabitants; Eleanor, queen of Edward I. gave the advowson of it, with its chapels, to the prior and convent of Canterbury; it is now vested in Mrs. Harriet Bodicoate, who has presented it to the Rev. Richard Board. It is valued in the king's books, including the chapel of Eatonbridge annexed,

at 19l. 19s. 41/2d.

EATONBRIDGE.

EATONBRIDGE lies to the south of Westerham, taking its name from its having had a bridge built over the Eden, a small river, which is one of the heads of the Medway; it has been written Eddelnesbrege, Edilnebrigg, and in Latin, Pons Edelmi. Part of it towards the east is in the hundred of Somerden. Here the weald, or woody part of Kent commences. The land is rich; but being either clay or swampy, it is extremely unpleasant to travellers, and in winter the cross roads are almost impassable, but it is not unwholesome. The people being more detached, become less refined; they, however, are wealthy; and the land pays well to the

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owner, as the country every where abounds in wide hedge-rows of timber trees, especially oak; the houses are chiefly of that material, and which was so common a mode of building in former ages: every thing here reminds the traveller of the situation and the mode of living in the beginning of the last century, or what the state of the people in the most distant parts of England is now.

The river Eden crosses the village, which has nothing remarkable to detain us; but this district is rich in its number of manors, paramount to which was that of Westerham. The first to be mentioned is the manor of Stangrave, or Eatonbridge; which, like all others, once gave name to the family that possessed it; from the Stangraves it passed to John Dynley, who sold it to Hugh de Audley, earl of Gloucester, whose heir took it to the Staffords, who lost it by the attainture of the last duke of Buckingham of that name; when passing through various other hands, it is now vested in Mrs. Sophia Streatfeild, widow of Thomas Streatfeild, Esq. of Oxsted, in Surry, who holds courts baron within the manor.

Stangrave-farm, owned by the Bassetts, claims the right to be esteemed a manor. Sharnden likewise did, but it is now generally reckoned as part of that of Stangrave or Eatonbridge: it belonged anciently to the Cobhams, to whom Edward III. granted a charter of free warren; it now belongs to Mr. James Glover, who resides here. Marsh-green, whose manerial rights are appendant to that of Cowdham, is possessed by another branch of the Streatfeild family. Brown-manor gave the name of Brown to its lords: the Hon. Mr. Lumley now owns it, having purchased it of John Boddington, Esq. Hilder's-farm, sold with it, is called a manor; as is Scanes, the property of Henry Streatfeild, Esq.; Crouch-house, belonging to Mr. Richard Killick; and Coben Bere, to John Major Henniker, Esq. These are all the places of notoriety in Eatonbridge, except Gabriels, a seat built by one of the Seyliards of Brasted; from which family it passed to that of Oatley, and from them to the Stanfords, one of whom now resides in it.

As we have given a relation of some remarkable circumstances having happened in Westerham parish, we cannot omit two others, which were no less wonderful in this, and also from the same author. "An extraordinary and surprising agitation of the waters, though without any perceptible motion of the earth, having been observed in different parts of England, both maritime and inland, on November 1, 1755; and on the same day, and chiefly about the time that the more violent commotions of both earth and waters were so extensively affected

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in many very distant parts of the globe, the like phenomenon appeared in this parish in a pond, an acre in size, across which was a post and rail fence, which the water almost covered; when some persons near it hearing a noise, as if something had tumbled into the water, hastened to see what it was, when to their surprise they saw the water open in the middle, so that they could see the post and rail almost to the bottom, and at the same time they observed the water dashing up over a bank, about two feet high, and perpendicular to the pond. They did not feel the least motion upon the shore, nor was there any wind, but a dead calm.

"On January 24, 1758, about two o'clock in the morning, a slight shock of an earthquake was felt in this parish, and the adjacent parts, which shook the furniture of the houses, and went off with a noise like a small gust of wind. It alarmed many of the inhabitants, but no damage ensued."

Small as this place is, it has its fair, which is held on St. Mark's day, April 25, for cattle, toys, &c.

The church or chapel, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is large and handsome, with a spire; it has some painted glass that is good, and there are the remains of a rood loft, which is now become rare in many of our churches.

Hundred of Somerden.

THE next hundred eastward is called Somerden; but as great part of this lies beyond the bounds we have prescribed ourselves, we shall take only the parishes of Hever, Chidingstone, Penshurst, and Lyghe, omitting those of Cowden and Speldhurst; we have selected the above parishes because they lie opposite to Tunbridge-wells, which we mean to particularize, though lying a little farther than the space allotted; and besides, it was thought important to the work to speak of Penshurst, the residence ‘of the great family of Sidney. The court leet of this hundred is appendant upon the honour of Otford. Domesday-book is silent respecting the whole of Somerden hundred; but this is general to all the places lying within the weald of Kent, Hadlow and Tudeley alone excepted; we can account for this only from its having then been looked upon as a barren, uncultivated waste, like some of the northern counties of this kingdom, which were likewise omitted in that very select remain, which by the munificence of his present majesty has been elegantly printed verbatim et literatim.

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HEVER.

THE ancient name of this parish was Heure, or Evere; the river Eden runs through it. The parish is long and narrow, extending from north to south; it is very woody, and its oaks are of a great size. An inconsiderable part of it has the name of the borough Linckhill, which, with other premises, are subject, as to manerial rights, to Great Orpington, possessed by Sir John-Dixon Dyke, Bart.

The manor of Hever, from an early period, was the property of the family of the de Heure, or Hevers, one of whom in the reign of Edward I. had great contentions with the abbot of St. Augustine, which were compromised by the abbot giving him a grant of the lands here, to hold by knight’s service. In the reign of Edward III. William de Hever rebuilt, and by a licence from that monarch embattled the mansion; upon his death these estates fell to his two daughters and coheirs, married into the families of Cobham and Brocas; whence, to distinguish the property of each, they took the names of Hever-Cobham and Hever-Brocas: but the descendants of the first Brocas disposing of his division to a Cobham, that family enjoyed the whole. In the reign of Henry IV. Sir Thomas Cobham sold the entire estate to Sir Jeffrey Boleyn, lord mayor of London, the founder of one of the most splendid fortunes that any family ever possessed in this kingdom; and what was very singular, this tradesman allied himself to the lord Hoo and Hastings, at a time when nobility and commerce were at the greatest distance from each other; the Boleyns were formed to be set at the pinnacle of worldly grandeur, but only to be exquisitely miserable. Sir Thomas Boleyn his heir, by the daughter and coheir of the earl of Ormond, became the father of Thomas Boleyn, viscount Rochford, earl of Wiltshire and Ormond, and knight of the garter; he married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas, duke of Norfolk, a couple the admiration of England; the parents of Ann Boleyn, the ill-fated wife of a suspicious, sanguinary monarch, who “spared no man in his anger, nor woman in his lust:” she and her brother, the elegant lord Rochford, fell victims of imprudence, but not of guilt, upon a scaffold in the Tower; the mother happily had died the preceding year; the wretched father, overwhelmed with honours and misfortunes, sunk into the grave two years after, and with others of his family lies buried in this church, under a cumbrous monument, a fit object for contemplation for the christian, the philosopher, and the politician. He who could not utter a sigh for the fate of so illustrious a family, must

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be as hard as the marble that gives us his effigies, harder than the heart of the fickle, inconstant, inflexible Henry, who, after years of connubial mortification, lamented the fate of so unfortunate a lady as Ann, and execrated the lady Rochford her sister-in-law, who had ruined the family of her lord, and who at length, promoting the gallantries of another of Henry’s queens, Catherine Howard, paid a just forfeiture with her life. We shall be pardoned saying so much of so

extraordinary a family as that of Boleyn, when it is recollected that this was one of their chief seats, and where Henry spent perhaps some of the happiest days of his life, in courting the elegant, accomplished, gay, witty “Mistress Ann Boleyn,” the mother of that incomparable princess, queen Elizabeth. The chamber in which Ann slept still retains her name.

After the death of the earl of Wiltshire, Henry seized this seat and manor in right of his late wife, and added to the estate by purchases from Sir William Boleyn, and William Boleyn Clerk, and in his thirty-second year settled them on another of his queens, Ann of Cleves, who, more happy than her namesake, was only divorced; this once wife, and afterward adopted sister of Henry, died herein the reign of Philip and Mary, greatly respected by the English, proving by her conduct that she deserved a better fate; she, however, if not happy, was not miserable: she preferred staying in England to returning to Germany; she was certainly of a pliable nature, veering to all Henry’s religious opinions, to those of Edward VI. and Mary I.: more opposite ones could not be. She rode with the princess Elizabeth, afterwards queen, to the coronation of Mary. Her corpse was taken from this place, and interred with great funeral pomp on the south side of the high altar in Westminster abbey, where her monument is of freestone, adorned with the arms of Cleves, and the letters A. C. knit together; it has been engraved by the Society of Antiquaries. Such was the honour that attended Ann of Cleves, even when dead, whilst poor Ann Boleyn’s beauteous form was thrown into a coffer, used to keep arrows in, and buried amongst the attainted in the chapel of the Tower, where it still remains without the smallest memorial, though it would have been an act of pious duty in Elizabeth to have removed it to a more honourable receptacle. – The fate of these illustrious unfortunates has kept us too long, perhaps; we shall, therefore, return to remark, that queen Mary granted the seat, manor, and estates, to her favourite Sir Edward Waldegrave, lord chamberlain of her household, who died in the Tower in the beginning of Elizabeth’s reign, more for his religion, than his

politics; his descendants were ennobled by James II. with whom one of them went into France, and died in 1689. His more fortunate son was created earl of Waldegrave, who conveyed the whole of his possessions in Hever to Sir William Humfreys, Bart, in 1715, being at that time lord mayor of London; he was of Welsh descent. This family ending in two coheirs, they with their husbands joined in conveying Hever-castle, with the manors of Hever-Cobham and Hever-Brocas, to Timothy Waldo, of Clapham, Esq. afterwards knighted; he left the whole, with near thirteen hundred acres of land round it, to his widow, lady Waldo; their only child is married to George Medley, of Sussex, Esq.

It would be unpardonable not to mention Hever-castle as it at present remains. Like most other ancient residences it is moated; the river Eden being led round the castle, its approach is by a draw-bridge. The entrance is noble: within is a quadrangle surrounded by offices, and the great hall; at the farther end of which is a large oak table raised a step higher than the rest of the floor, the constant accompaniment to the halls of the great, in ancient time, now confined only to the farm-houses of the distant provinces. You are led up to the bed-chambers by a grand staircase, which opens also to a long gallery; its ceiling is much ornamented with foliage in stucco: the rooms have oaken wainscot unpainted. On one side of the gallery you are shown a small cabinet or recess, with an ascent of two steps; it has only a single seat with two returns in it, where ten or a dozen persons might place themselves: tradition relates that king Henry used it as a throne when he came hither; but this seems improbable, from the smallness of the room. On one side of the large window at the farthest end of the gallery, in the floor, is a part which lifts up, and discovers a passage deep and dark, which goes a considerable way, but not so far, we suppose, as the moat: it is called the dungeon: most castles had such a receptacle for culprits, and they were seldom without unhappy occupants. They show a chamber now with its window walled up, in one of the towers said to have been a place of imprisonment for the queen, when in disgrace; but she was sent to the Tower immediately after Henry withdrew his protection from her, and she never left it; her days whilst here were all sweet and pleasant, undreaming of the coming storm. In an adjoining closet is a sliding panel called by her name; perhaps through this the royal visitant stole softly to tell his tale of love. The windows have been adorned with painted glass; the arms of the Boleyns, their alliances, and even the Walde-

graves remain.

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It is said, and probably with truth, that whenever Henry with his suit of attendants intended to come to Hever-castle, he used to wind his bugle horn on the top of the hill from whence it was visible, and within reach of the sound; by which mean his approach was announced, and the fair lady made ready to receive her sovereign bedecked with smiles, and adorned with simple elegance, for she neither loved, nor did jewels heighten her charms, lord Russell declaring, the richer she was dressed the more ordinary she appeared; and on that account it was, that when led forth a sacrificatory victim to Henry's violence, she never looked more handsome, as Sir William Kingstone, lieutenant of the Tower, wrote to king Henry.

There was, until within forty years, a court baron regularly held for each of these manors; since then, as they are consolidated, only one, the jurisdiction of which extends over most of this, and several of the adjoining parishes, being very extensive.

Seyliards is a seat which gave name and residence to a family which were created baronets, and branched out into the several parishes of Brasted, Eatonbridge, Chidingstone, and Boxley, all in Kent: the estate belonging to this manor of Seyliards lies partly in this, and partly in the two former parishes. From the Seyliards it came to the Petleys, from whom it was purchased by the Lambardes. Multon Lambarde of Sevenoke, Esq. is the present possessor.

Hever church is a neat structure, but small; it has a spire; it stands at the end of the village, and is dedicated to St. Peter, and is within the deanery of Shoreham, and jurisdiction of Rochester: the rectory is valued at 15l. 17s. 31/2d. It was subject to an annual payment of 2l. 3s. 4d. then a considerable sum, to the priory of Combwell, in Goudhurst. The present incumbent is the Rev. Stafford New.

CHIDINGSTONE.

THIS parish was anciently denominated Cidingstane; stane being the name of a stone, it makes the word less changed than is usual; for most modern ones are so corrupted, that if it was not for deeds and other muniments, it would be impossible to suppose the one could relate to what was of so different an orthography.

Chidingstone is about six miles long from north to south, and about two wide. The Eden here salutes the Medway: a branch of the latter rising at Gravely-hill, in Sussex, bends its passage eastwards, dividing that county and Kent. Though in

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the weald, it has many pretty rural pleasant spots: amongst these we shall mention Wickhurst-green, Bow-beach, Hill-beach, Carey's-cross, and Ranesley-heath. The village lies near a mile distant from the Eden: from its elevated situation it had the name of High-street.

Its manors are numerous: that of Chidingstone-Cobham obtained its additional name from having been possessed by the family of Cobham, who enjoyed it from the time of Edward III. until the reign of Edward IV. when by a female it passed into the hands of the Boroughs, or Burys, who became barons; they alienated it in the reign of queen Elizabeth to the family of Streatfeild, who having erected a seat here called High-street-house, have made it their residence ever since, and from whence many branches have dispersed themselves into various parts of this county: it is now the residence of Henry Streatfeild, Esq.

The manor of Chidingstone-Burghersh or Burgherst, anciently Burwash-court, owed its latter name to a family of great eminence in this county, called Burghersh, but by the commonalty Burwash; who conveyed it away, and after going through a variety of possessors, became vested in judge Willoughby, descended from a younger branch of the lords Willoughby of Parham; who in the reign of Henry VIII. obtained an act of parliament to disgavel this manor, his seat of Boreplace, and other estates in this parish – a proof that he thought it was no privilege to so enjoy his lands. About this period many Kentish gentlemen of great estates procured their lands to be disgavelled; but they have gone through so many hands, and are so widely scattered, that at this time it is scarcely possible to determine what is so disgavelled, as a treatise upon this kind of tenure, published some years ago, acquaints us. The Willoughbys sold this manor to the Seyliards, and they to the Streatfeilds; so that being now held by Henry Streatfeild, of High-street-house, Esq.

as well as the other of Chidingstone-Cobham, they are now consolidated, and have unitedly one court baron.

The seat of Bore-place, the mansion of the De Bores, with the manor of Milbroke, was disposed of by them in the reign of Henry VI. to John Alphew, who rebuilt the former, and dying, left his two daughters his heirs; Margaret, one of them, took the seat and manor to Sir Robert Read, lord chief justice of the common pleas, who much enlarged Bore-place: Bridget, the eldest of his four daughters and coheirs, brought these estates to Sir Thomas Willoughby, also lord chief justice of the common pleas, who still farther enlarged the seat. In the reign of James I. the

whole came by sale to Mr. Bernard Hyde, the benevolent citizen of London; from his family they were purchased by the Streatfeilds, and are now a part of the estates of the gentleman of that name of High-street-house, who in right of his manor of Milbroke holds a court baron.

The manor of Bowzell, formerly Boresell, rather belongs to Chevening parish; it has been enjoyed by the Cobhams, Boroughs or Burghs, Whitleys, Bonnells, and is now the property of the baronet family of Rycroft.

Ranesley, anciently written Rendesley, is a manor which was at an early period owned by the family of Rendesley or Rennesley; it came afterwards to the Alphews, the Reads, Willoughbys, Bonds, and other families, until it vested in that of the present possessor, John-Shelley Sidney, Esq. by the will of his grandmother.

The rectory is a peculiar, and in the gift of the archbishop of Canterbury, and lies in the deanery of Shoreham; the church is large and handsome, having three aisles and as many chancels, with a steeple; there are some good monuments of the Streatfeild family, and of some other gentry buried there: the preferment is considerable, being valued in the king's books at 28l. 9s. 41/2d.; it is now held by the Rev. Sackville-Spencer Ball, L. L. B. also rector of Withiam in Sussex.

PENSHURST.

STILL more eastward is Penshurst, meaning high or lofty wood; hurst or herst is the old word for wood in this part of the kingdom: some centuries ago it was written Pennesherst; but its most ancient name was Pencestre, or, as it was usually termed, Penchester, significant of a high fortification or camp having been built here by the Romans.

The Eden here meanders in separate streams, but uniting also with the more noble Medway directs its course towards Tunbridge. Some part of the parish is swampy, which makes the roads unpleasant; its woods are very beautiful, and the timber extremely fine: in Penshurst-park was felled, a few years ago, a single tree which had not less than twenty-one tons in it, or eight hundred and forty feet of timber; this tree had acquired the name of Broad Oak, from its wide-spreading branches; there is an engraving of it. Here is a fair held on July 1, for pedlary and other wares.

This parish has a very considerable part of it held of the honour of Otford, sub-

ordinate to which is the manor of Penshurst-Halimote, or Otford-Weald, that spreads itself over Chidingstone, Hever, and Cowden parishes. These were held of the archbishops of Canterbury, but who had little more than a nominal claim; and this was passed away with Otford by the meek and pious Cranmer to Henry VIII. in exchange; the crown has constantly retained it, except that, during the usurpation, the republican government had conveyed it to colonel Robert Gibbon, who lost it at the Restoration: the tenure is partly gavel-kind, and, which is rare in Kent, partly copyhold. But excepted out of this jurisdiction is Hallborough, in the lowy of Tunbridge, owning Mr. Streatfeild for its lord, and Chafford, within the cognisance of the court of the dutchy of Lancaster. The honour of Otford, as well as the manor of Penshurst, is held by the duke of Dorset, as high steward of both, under the crown; but the fee-farm rents were alienated from it by Charles II. to the Dashwood family, and it is now enjoyed by Sir James Dashwood, Bart.

The manor of Penshurst: came through a variety of families from that of de Peneshurste or Penchester, until it vested in John duke of Bedford, third son of Henry IV. who dying without issue, it descended to his brother Humphry duke of Gloucester, on whose violent death it vested in the crown, which granted it to the Stafford

family, to whom it was lost by the attainture of Edward duke of Buckingham, in the reign of Henry VIII. who was so pleased with the situation, that he retained it in his own hands, purchased lands adjoining to it, and enlarged the park: Wellplace was part of these acquired premises, with an estate belonging to it, containing 170 acres of land, purchased of John, and William Fry. The king enclosed the whole within a pale fence, though the conveyance was not completed until the reign of Edward VI. who gave the park to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, afterwards duke of Northumberland; but he, in the fourth year of that reign, exchanged it with other lands; when the manor, seat, and all its lands, were granted to Sir Ralph Fane, to hold in capite by knight's service; but this unhappy gentleman fell a victim to the factions which disgraced the government under this young monarch; he was put to death in the sixth year of that reign, on Tower-hill, as an accomplice to the equally unfortunate duke of Somerset, his patron. The estate reverted to the crown.

King Edward in the same year, by letters patents, granted the whole to Sir William Sidney and his heirs; the premises are described to be his majesty's manor and park of Penshurst, le-court lands in Penshurst and Chidingstone, the manor of

Endsfield, called Endsfield-farm, and his park of Lyghe, by estimation 300 acres of land, to hold by the same service by which they had been granted to Sir Ralph Fane. It would be unpardonable to pass by this illustrious family of Sidney with only a slight mention.

Sir William, the eldest son and heir of a knight, one of the heroes of Floddenfield, chamberlain and steward to prince Edward, and at his accession, of his privy chamber, was educated with the young monarch, though some years older; knighted by king Edward, made one of the gentlemen of the privy chamber, and sent ambassador into France when only twenty-one years old. He supported his expiring master in his arms, after whose premature death he retired to Penshurst to indulge his grief; by this the misfortunes that overwhelmed the duke of Northumberland, his father-in-law, were avoided; and he enabled to give an asylum to the remainder of that ruined family. Queen Mary trusted and honoured, more than employed him; queen Elizabeth elected him a knight of the garter, made him a privy counsellor, thrice lord deputy of Ireland; and he died lord president of the marches of Wales, May 5, 1586. His body was conveyed with vast pomp to Penshurst, and his heart deposited at Ludlow, the seat of his government; there has lately been an engraving of the case which enclosed it. By the lady Mary, eldest daughter of John Dudley, duke of Northumberland, he had three sons – Sir Philip, Sir Robert, Sir Thomas, and a surviving daughter Mary, who became countess of Pembroke, whom her brother Sir Philip has celebrated in his Arcadia, and Johnson immortalized by the beautiful lines he inscribed on her tomb.

Sir Philip Sidney, the eldest son, godson of Philip II. of Spain, and the delight of England, was born at Penshurst, November 24, 1554. Brave, learned, elegant, and just, he gained the applause of all good men. Elizabeth would read his letters of advice, when she would disregard that of her ancient counsellors, because she knew all his conduct was directed for her solid interest. His letters will do honour to his memory, so long as virtue and sense are estimable, whilst his Arcadia is neglected by most as laboured and unnatural. He was mortally wounded at the battle of Zutphen in Guilderland, September 22, 1586, when serving under his maternal uncle, Robert earl of Leicester; and he died at Arnheim, October 10 following, at the early age of thirty-four years, in the greatest reputation of any individual in Europe. His honoured remains were refused the Dutch, who asked as a favour to give them a public funeral; that duty Elizabeth took upon herself, and

had them brought over and interred with the greatest solemnity in St. Paul's church. Such was the sense of his loss, that for some time after it was indecorous to be engaged in any public amusement. The Christian and the hero never were more closely united with the statesman, and his refined and elegant manners gave a finish to his character, that nothing could exceed. When we see him wounded, panting with thirst, take the uplifted cup, untasted from his mouth, and direct it to be given to a poor, unbefriended soldier, who lay near him in agonies, because, said he, "Thy necessity is yet greater than mine;" we must, we cannot help weep-

ing his fate. There are many prints of him; but that of Vertue, giving him seated on a bank with Penshurst behind him, is most admired.

Waller has commemorated the incident of a tree having been planted in the park here at his birth:

"Go, boy, and carve this passion on the bark
Of yonder tree, which stands the sacred mark
Of noble Sidney's birth: when such benign,
Such more than mortal-making stars did shine,
That there it cannot but for ever prove
The monument and pledge of humble love."

Ben Johnson also has celebrated this favoured tree; but the lines allusive to the circumstance are most simply elegant in Mr. E. Coventry's poem, intituled Penshurst; – they must please every one.

"What genius points to yonder oak?
What rapture does my soul provoke?
Here let me hang a garland high,
There let my muse her accents try;
Be there my earliest homage paid,
Be there my latest vigils made;
For thou wast planted in the earth
The day that shone on Sidney's birth."

We learn from Collins that the tree was remaining in the park when he wrote; it had the name of Bear's Oak; no reason is assigned for such an uncouth appellation, nor can it be conceived why it was given, unless from the Dudleys crest, and favourite device of the bear with a staff reguled. Mr. Hasted says it is still standing at a small distance from a fine piece of water called Lancup-well, and that it is twenty-two feet in circumference.

Sir Philip Sidney married Frances, daughter and sole heir of Sir Francis Wal-

singham, secretary of state, by whom he had an only child, Elizabeth, married to Roger earl of Rutland. Sir Philip's widow married again to Robert earl of Essex, the insolent favourite of Elizabeth, who fell a victim to his own rash violence: the queen highly disapproved of this alliance as beneath him. The issue of this marriage was Robert earl of Essex, parliament general against Charles I. The lady, left a second time a widow, married a third husband, the earl of Clanrickard. The elegant lord Lyttelton, in his Dialogues of the Dead, makes this lady say how much more happy she was in the last, than in either of her two former marriages; the great Sidney and the ambitious Essex being too much taken up with glory and faction to attend to the endearments of conjugal felicity: he was not unworthy her choice, for Smollett says, he was a very handsome gallant young nobleman, much resembling the late earl of Essex; but it seems very absurd to suppose Elizabeth, then nearly seventy, made advances to him.

Sir Robert Sidney succeeded his brother in his estates. He was a great statesman. Importuning queen Elizabeth for a peerage, which, as descended maternally from the Dudleys, he judged he had almost a claim to demand, she sent him to Flushing, and under flattering pretences kept him there many years. James I., as lavish, as Elizabeth was sparing of honours, created him lord Sidney of Penshurst, viscount Lisle, and earl of Leicester; elected him knight of the garter, a privy counsellor, and lord president of Wales. Dying in 1626, he was succeeded in his titles and estates by

Robert, second earl of Leicester, no less a politician than his father, having represented James I. at the courts of Denmark, France, and some of those in Germany, was appointed lord lieutenant of Ireland upon the earl of Strafford's removal; but siding with the parliament, he excused his going thither: he had the care of the duke of Gloucester and the princess Elizabeth, children of Charles I. At the Restoration he paid his duty at Whitehall. Charles II. received him with respect; their manners were totally dissimilar: being excused attendance, he returned to Penshurst. He died in 1677, blameable in deserting his royal master, because Henrietta-Maria his queen had disobliged him; yet respectable not only for his abilities, but for many private virtues. He was father of his successor, Algernon,

the pride of the republicans, and whose death was certainly illegal (for his history we must refer our reader to Mr. Noble's Lives of the Regicides); Robert, who died at Penshurst in 1674, and Henry, created by William III. baron of Milton,

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viscount Sidney of the isle of Shepey, and earl of Romney; also several daughters – Dorothy; Lucy, married to Sir Thomas Pelham, Bart.; Ann, to Joseph Cart, A. M.; and Isabella, to Philip viscount Strangford. Dorothy, the eldest, was Waller's Sacharissa, a lady whose beauty was beyond expression great; there are two portraits of her at Beaconsfield, the seat of the poet, and likewise a miniature pendent to a valuable string of pearls. The wonder is not that he should love, but that any one should do otherwise: she admired the poet, but, fired with ambition, gave her hand to Henry lord Spencer, afterwards created earl of Sunderland, who was killed on the royal side in the civil war, by whom she had Robert earl of Sunderland, the most perfidious character that has stained our annals, the betrayer of James II. and equally untrue to William III. The beauteous Sacharissa mourned the death of the husband of her youth, but afterwards was prevailed upon to give her hand to Robert Smith of Bidborough, Esq. a match in point of worldly prudence unequal to that of her adoring Waller. The countess late in life asking the poet when he would write such fine poems upon her, received for answer, "When you are young again." An unpublished anecdote of Mr. Waller, received from one of his family, must not be omitted. He as a gay courtier was to appear in the royal presence to meet his all-charming Sacharissa. Every thing was prepared with the nicest care; a ruff of the finest lace and of the largest circumference procured, and a cottager entrusted with it; the man having opened the box that contained it, viewed the strange thing with wonder; the whim took him to put it about the neck of his master's faithful dog who accompanied him; with some difficulty he accomplished it: the creature, surprised and alarmed at the great wired, stiffened, expanded lace, leaped from the man, and run with the utmost speed, followed by the astonished messenger, who with grief saw him dash through the hedges, leaving upon the brambles fragments of the ill-fated ruff designed to adorn the neck of the expecting beau; who at length knowing the catastrophe, having vented his rage at the cur and the clown, was obliged to go to court and to his Sacharissa, less splendidly adorned than he had intended.

Philip, third earl of Leicester, the next possessor of Penshurst, condescended to sit in Oliver the Protector's upper house (see Mr. Noble's Memoirs of the Cromwells). He died in 1702. Three of his sons were successively earls of Leicester; Philip, who died in 1705; John, in 1737; and Joceline, the last earl of Leicester of this family, in 1743. The former and the latter married, but had no child. No two brothers ever

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were more dissimilar than the two last noblemen; earl John being in the highest trust and confidence with his sovereigns, George I. and George II. who made him a lord of the bedchamber, warden of the cinque ports, constable of Dover-castle, knight of the Bath, captain of the yeomen of the guards, lord lieutenant of Kent, privy counsellor, and constable of the Tower. He was not less beloved in private life, than trusted in a public capacity: but he had an unfortunate attachment, which he wanted strength of mind sufficient to break through, until the united solicitations of his best friends, and of the object of his regard, made him at length consent to marry; that his titles might not be contaminated by coming to so weak and so imprudent a person as his brother Joceline. Besides, too, even Joceline had not any legitimate child. All preliminaries being settled, it was agreed that the frail fair should leave his house the next morning early, to prevent the pain of parting, and his lordship went out to spend the evening; coming home late, and passing through a suite of apartments he had been unaccustomed ever to see, as he went to his bedchamber he heard a noise like some one in violent pain. Led by the sound, he entered the room in which this gentlewoman was, and found her suspended to the top of the bed, struggling with death: instantly taking her down, by proper methods she was recovered. He then excused himself to the lady he was going to marry, and to her friends, declaring that he never could desert one, who had owned she could not live without him. He thought her preservation by him was almost miraculous, as she never had slept before in the chamber in which he discovered her, nor had he ever gone through the same range of rooms. He was the more

struck with her passion for him, as he had been more pressed to break their connexion by her than any other, pleading to him that his honour and interest united to urge him to it: by no arguments could she be prevailed upon to accept but a moderate annuity just sufficient for a maintenance. It would have been criminal to have parted from such a woman; it would have been virtuous and glorious, despising the opinion of the gay and inconsiderate, to have given her a legal claim to his love.

The title at length vested in Joceline his brother, who disgraced himself and it, as had been foreseen. His countess, Elizabeth, daughter of a gentleman of the name of Thomas in Glamorganshire, was no less profligate. They separated, each pursuing their guilty pleasures. After their parting she had several children. He left an illegitimate daughter, to whom he bequeathed the whole of his estates, which disposition was disputed by his nieces, daughters and coheirs of the Hon. colonel Thomas Sid-

ney – Mary, married to Sir Brownlow Sherard, of Lowthorpe, in Leicestershire, Bart.; and Elizabeth, to William Perry, of Turville-park, in Buckinghamshire, Esq. At length a compromise, sanctioned by an act of parliament, took place, which established them as tenants in common of the manors of Penshurst, Cepham, Howsbrooke, Hepsbrooke or Ford-place, West Lyghe, East and West Eweherst, Rendsley, Penshurst-place, and the part consisting of 419 acres of land within the park pales, Well-place also within the park; Ashore, part of it, with other parcels belonging to it, and the other estates comprised in the act, some of which they divided into distinct moieties: Sir B. Sherard and his lady taking the mansion of Ford-place farm, Ensfield, Moody's farm, Upper Latterhams or Warrens, Lyghe-park, South-park Priory and Crouch-lands, Court-lands, and other open and woodlands, with the advowsons of the churches of Lyghe and Cowden. – Mr. and Mrs. Perry received the advowson of Penshurst, parsonage farm at Lyghe, messuages and premises called Nashes, Doubletons, Redlease, and other lands and woods appurtenant to them.

Lady Mary, the elder coheiress, dying without issue, devised her interest in the estates to the baronet Younge family, seated at Escot, in Devonshire, who disposed of the undivided moiety to Mrs. Perry, the other coheiress; and they also conveyed the divided moiety to Richard Alnutt, Esq. a merchant of London, who erected a seat here, called, from the name that part of the estate had borne, South-park; who left it with its manerial rights, and the other part of the estates he had purchased, to trustees for the benefit of his grandson, Richard Alnutt, Esq. the present proprietor and resident.

Mr. Perry, who by sign manual in 1752 took the surname of Sidney, repaired and beautified Penshurst-place, and added many valuable pictures to the collection there, purchased by him in Italy. Dying in 1757, he left his widow in possession of what had been apportioned to her; and she, in 1770, added to these estates purchased of lady Younge and Sir George Younge, K. B. her son: when, to the surprise of all, the whole was claimed by John Sidney, Esq. who also challenged the title of earl of Leicester, founding his pretentions upon this, that as his mother, the wife of Joceline the last nobleman, had never been divorced, he, as eldest son-in-law, was entitled to be representative of that nobleman, as much as if he had been owned by him as his son and heir-apparent. The cause, one of the most singular upon record, was tried in 1782 in the court of common pleas, being on a writ of right,

"The proceedings of which," says my author, "are all ancient and singular, by a grand assize, consisting of four knights of this county, with twelve gentlemen their companions, the tenor of whose oath is to say, whether the tenant who possesses the lands has more right to hold the lands than the demandant has to demand them. But Mrs. Perry, in support of her right, exhibiting the will of Joceline earl of Leicester, to whom the demandant claimed to be son and heir, by which the estates in question were devised away from him, and consequently he could not claim them by heirship to the earl; and as the issue to be tried was solely, whether the demandant had a better title than the tenant? – the old maxim of the law, melior est conditio possidentis, was cited, to prove that Mrs. Perry's title being in possession, was better than that of Mr. Sidney the demandant, who had no possession, and had lost all right by the above will, which gave them away to another, let the claim of the deviser against Mrs. Perry be what it would;

and the court was of this opinion, and the grand assize unanimously gave their verdict in her favour." – Mr. Sidney was equally unsuccessful in his claim to the earldom of Leicester.

Mrs. Perry, or, more properly speaking, Sidney, died in 1783, having lost her only son Algernon Perry Sidney, who died unmarried in 1768, and leaving only two daughters and coheirs; Elizabeth, married to Bishe Shelley, Esq. and Frances, to Mr. Poictiers: though the latter also had children, she devised all these estates to trustees for the benefit of her grand son, John Shelley, Esq. conditionally, that he procured the surname of Sidney; and he now resides here.

The extraordinary history of the Sidney family, the peculiar circumstances of the descent of their property here, will plead excuse for so long a relation. – Something must now be said of the ancient seat of Penshurst. This old mansion is a hollow square, irregularly built; the tower in the front was erected by the first Sir Henry Sidney, as a monument of gratitude to the generous monarch who had granted it to his father. The house stands in the south-west corner of the park, which, though diminished, contains more than 400 acres, finely wooded with oak, beech, and chesnut trees, beautifully diversified, and through it flows the Medway. The state rooms are superbly furnished; but its collection of pictures, especially the portraits of the Sidneys and Dudleys, with the monarchs who favoured them, are far the most valuable: some of these are by Holbein, as are others. We

cannot quit this charming spot, consecrated by having been the residence of such illustrious characters in every thing great, without a sigh, remembering that

> "Here mighty Dudley once would rove,
> To plan his triumphs in the grove;
> There looser Waller, ever gay,
> With Sacharissa in dalliance lay;
> And Philip, sidelong yonder spring,
> His lavish carols wont to sing."

There is an estate here called Salmans, once the seat of a family so denominated, who remained possessed of it until the reign of Henry VI.: it afterwards was owned by the Rowes. Derking-hall or Darkenols, formerly belonging to the Willoughbys, Seyliards, Scullards, is now vested in the Streatfeilds.

The manor of Hepsbrooke, whose mansion has the name of Ford-place, was the ancient residence of the Sidneys, before they procured the grant of Penshurst-place; it followed the course of descent we have mentioned. Since the time of Sir William Sidney it came in the division of estates to the two coheiresses of the Hon. colonel Sidney, and vested wholly in Mrs. Perry, by purchasing the other moiety of the Younge family, and was devised by her to John Shelley Sidney, Esq. with the exception of the farm, or demesne lands called Ford-place farm, disposed by lady and Sir George Younge to the Alnutts, who still enjoy it.

Chafford-place, so many centuries the residence of the River family, situated at the southern extremity of the parish, was taken down by its purchaser, Mr. William Saxby, who built upon its scite a farm-house. It is now possessed by James Harbroc, Esq. remarried to the widow of Robert Burgess, Esq. who had purchased it of Mr. Saxby.

Redleaf-house stands in the north-west part of Penshurst, once the Spencers', the last of whom devised it to Thomas Harvey, of Tunbridge, who left it by his will to the Rev. Thomas Harvey, the resident, his son.

This parish is in the deanery of Shoreham, and. is a peculiar of his grace of Canterbury: the church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is large and venerable, and has three chancels, with a spire. It is rich in ancient and splendid monuments. The family of Sidney are patrons. The Rev. Matthew Nicholas, S. T. P. is the present rector. This preferment is valued in the king's books at 30l. 6s. 01/2d.

LYGHE.

TO the east of Penshurst is Lyghe, written also Leigh, and West Leigh, formerly La Lye, and more anciently Leaga, the signification of which is feeding or pasture: our Anglo-Saxons, like all the other nations of antiquity, giving names

appropriate to places. It is, however, not so moist a soil as the parish we have just left; its extent is from north to south about three miles and a half, and two and a half broad. It has a fair for pedlary wares, held on the 25th of July; yet it is an inconsiderable place, where we shall not long detain our readers; being, as it were, an appendant to Penshurst.

The manor of Lyghe, or West Leigh, has for ages followed the same descent as Penshurst, and is now part of the estate of John Shelley Sidney, Esq.

Ramhurst was anciently accounted a manor, held of the honour of Gloucester; it was in the reign of Edward I. the property of the family of Rouland, whence it went to the Culpepers, where it remained for many generations. They disposed of it to Worral, who in the reign of Henry VIII. conveyed it to Lewknor; and in queen Elizabeth's time it became the Saxby's, who sold it to Richard Children, Esq.: he made it his residence, and died here in 1753, upon whose death it descended to his eldest son, John Children, of Tunbridge, Esq. whose son, George Children, of that place, Esq. is the present proprietor.

There is a large tract of land called Hollenden, which, though separated from this parish by that of Tunbridge intervening, is generally accounted as belonging to Lyghe, or at least the greater part of it. It was a manor of itself whilst held by the Freminghams and Cheneys; but prior to the reign of Henry VIII. it lost all traces of such a distinction, from its having been broken into a number of small freeholds.

There is, however, one part of Hollenden which has been kept very entire; and in the reign of the last-named monarch was conveyed to William Waller, Esq. whose son Richard Waller, Esq., left it to his widow, and she took it to her second husband, Stephen Towse, gentleman. He died in 161 r, and some time after the Crittendens possessed it, who, in the time of Charles II., conveyed it to the Harrisons, and they about the year 1717 to the Burges's: Richard Burges claimed the manorial rights of it as the manor of Lyghe-Hallendon. This gentleman rebuilt the seat, and dying in 1794, left the whole estate to Sarah his wife, who took it to her husband, James Harbroc, Esq. the present inhabitant.

The church of Lyghe, though small and mean, is rich in ancient memorials of the dead, and there is some painted glass in the windows. It was given to the convent of Tunbridge. It is a vicarage, but the clergyman claims tithe of every thing but wheat: the present incumbent is the Rev. Dickson Lillington, D. D. This preferment is in the deanery of Malling, and charged in the king's books 9l. 18s. 9d. There was anciently a free chapel in this parish, but it was suppressed by the act passed in the first year of Edward the Sixth's reign, and his majesty seized the revenues, valued at 6l. 5s. per annum.

TUNBRIDGE.

THE town of Tunbridge stands in a district of its own called a Lowy, vulgarly Lewy; in Latin leuca. It is of French origin, meaning an exempt jurisdiction round an abbey, castle, or chief mansion. This lowy was very large, extending over the parishes of Hadlow and Capel; but the latter being out of the district prescribed, will not be noticed.

The parish is very extensive, not less than six miles each way, extremely well wooded; near the river it has fine pasturage, and the best lands higher up are planted with hops. Tunbridge stands in a central situation, and is about thirty miles from London. The roads here branch off to the Wells, to Cowden, and to Rye in Sussex; and one from the middle of the town eastward, through Hadlow to Mereworth, and thence to Maidstone.

The Medway runs through the town near the south end, separated in five streams, each of which has a bridge, from which circumstance it takes its name, the town of bridges: the southern was once the chief; as is now the northern one, which was deepened to form the inner moat of the castle. It is navigable, and in 1775 there was a new bridge erected by the county at the expense of 1100l., from a design of Mr. Milne, but it does not exhibit any beauty. Trade has much increased since 1740, when the Medway was rendered navigable from Maidstone to this place. There is a wharf near the bridge for the reception of the timber brought from the Weald. It is greatly to be wished that the river were also made capable of having larger vessels proceed to the main channel that comes from Penshurst,

and which is not more than one mile.

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The town, consisting of one long spacious street, inhabited in part by gentlemen, is remarkably clean, both from its descent, and from having 32l. the rent of what is called the town land, given at some distant period, applied to that purpose. The end of it leading to London has a fine stone causeway, made at the expense of John Willford, citizen of London, about the middle of Henry the Eighth's reign.

Though Tunbridge was originally little more than the suburbs of the castle, yet it became of such consequence, that in the reign of Edward I. it had its members of parliament; but is now become of far less importance. There are three fairs in the year, on Ash Wednesday, July 5, and October 29, for cattle and toys; besides which they have a very considerable monthly Tuesday's market for the former, and a weekly one, on Friday, for meat and poultry. Two town wardens are chosen at the court leet held every three years. Owing to the strength and situation of the castle, this place has given titles to some of our most illustrious families. The Staffords, dukes of Buckingham, were barons of Tunbridge; the Burghs, earls and marquises of Clanricarde, in Ireland, were viscounts of it; and the Nassaus, earls of Rochford, still remain viscounts of Tunbridge.

It is generally allowed that this place was, in the time of the Anglo-Saxons, part of the demesne of the metropolitan see of Canterbury; but in the violent convulsion that shook the whole kingdom at its conquest by William the Norman, Odo bishop of Bayeux, the maternal brother of that monarch, with a rapacity that peculiarly marked his character, seized this, with much other territorial property of that church, in the archiepiscopate of the meek, intimidated Stigand, and still more after his death, whilst the see was vacant. The matter entirely changed when Lanfranc succeeded the deceased archbishop; he had strength of mind sufficient to contend with his violent adversary, and deputed an officer with his complaints, ordering him to lay the matter before William, who was then in Normandy. The king, knowing the character of his brother, and fearful of injuring the first prelate in his new dominions, determined to have the cause fully investigated, and that too in the solemnest manner.

The most considerable persons for abilities and wealth were fixed upon, selected from those counties in which the archbishop had estates: they chiefly lay in Kent; the remainder were in Surrey, London, Middlesex, Essex, Suffolk, Oxfordshire, and Buckinghamshire: the commissions were such as a cause between

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the two greatest subjects of England demanded. They met near Aylesford; Lanfranc, learned and eloquent, with justice on his side, pleaded his cause in person, and obtained a decision in his favour. The intruder was obliged to restore to the despoliated see twenty-three manors, and amongst them this of Tunbridge.

It happened, however, that Odo had before this given a grant of Tunbridge to Richard Fitz-Gilbert, or Gislibert, a young nobleman, earl of Ewe, descended from an illegitimate branch of the dukes of Normandy, and who had eminently distinguished himself at the battle of Hastings, which transferred the English crown from Harold to William. He, having a passion for the place, interceded with both the king and the archbishop to retain it, and through the mediation of the former with the latter, an agreement was concluded, by the archbishop accepting the town of Brionne in Normandy, with its jurisdiction, as an equivalent; but that neither might be dissatisfied with the terms, it was settled, according to the simplicity of the eleventh century, that the district of Tunbridge should be encircled by a string, and that the same quantity of land should in that manner be inclosed at Brionne.

Thus established, he built a castle, and made it a place of great strength; and so highly pleased was he with this residence, that he took for his surname de Tonebrige. He became one of William's most puissant barons; for besides his great patrimonial inheritance in Normandy, he received 176 lordships in England, exclusive of thirteen burgesses in the town of Ipswich, of which Clare was one. Jointly with William Warren he executed the high office of justiciary of England, whilst William was in Normandy, and assisted him in suppressing a conspiracy raised by the earls of Hereford and Norfolk; but declaring for Robert duke of Normandy,

in opposition to his younger brother William, who had seized the crown after their father's death, he was besieged in this castle, obliged to make his submission, and swear allegiance to Rufus, to whom he afterwards proved faithful, and was taken fighting in his quarrel in Normandy by Robert, and detained until that eccentric prince resigned to William his dukedom, as he had before his kingdom. He was slain at Abergavenny in the commencement of Stephen's reign, fighting for that monarch against the Welsh. Such was the founder of Tunbridge-castle, and of a most illustrious family in England.

Gilbert, dropping the surname de Tonebrige, took that of Clare, of which he was created earl, the title passing through many of his descendants; the latter of

whom had also the earldoms of Gloucester and Hertford, ended in the male line at the beginning of the fourteenth century. The history of these great peers would take up far too much of our time to detail.

It may, however, be proper to give such incidents of their lives as particularly relate to the castle of Tunbridge. – A constant contest subsisted between these potent chieftains and the see of Canterbury, from the time of that haughty prelate Becket, until the reign of Henry III. when an accord was made, by which it was agreed that the earls of Clare and Gloucester should hold Tunbridge and its lowy by the grand sergeantcy of being chief butlers and high stewards at the instalment of the metropolitans, and grant them wardship of their children. Whenever one of them attended upon the solemnization of inthronization, he was to receive, for the service of steward, seven robes of scarlet, thirty gallons of wine, fifty pounds of wax for the use of his own lights on the feast, the livery of hay and corn for eighty horses for two nights, and the dishes and salts which should be placed before the prelate at the first course of the feast; and when the nobleman should take his leave, entertainment for three days, at the expense of the archbishop and his successors, at their nearest manors by the four quarters of Kent, wheresoever the peer should make his election, so that he did not go thither with more than fifty horse: and when the castle went into the hands of the Stafford family, we find that these services were retained; but instead of provisions, it was in the fourteenth century both to the de Clares and the Staffords compounded for a sum of money, generally two hundred marks, and the silver gilt cup with which the earl should serve before the archbishop. So late as the reign of Henry VIII. we find Edward duke of Buckingham executing in person the office of steward at the inthronization of archbishop Warham, and the butlership by his deputy Sir Thomas Bourchier. These are traits of character in our history that may be deemed worthy preservation, as they mark the customs of former periods.

Tunbridge-castle was alternately the scene of war and the abode of pleasure, but ever of consequence. Gilbert, surnamed Rufus, earl of Clare, Gloucester, and Hertford, joining the rebellious barons against their sovereign Henry III., was besieged by prince Edward, the king's son, during which the garrison set fire to and burnt the town, to prevent its being useful to the prince; who, however, took the castle and the countess of Gloucester, but gave her liberty: he nevertheless put a garrison in the castle. Some time afterwards Gilbert, convinced of the badness

of the cause in which he was engaged, joined the royal standard, and in reward for his returning loyalty received again the possession of this castle.

Here it was that he entertained Edward, then become his sovereign, upon his return from Palestine. The reception was splendid; and though the king was desirous of reaching his capital, yet he remained here many days; and so acceptable did he become to the king, that having divorced his wife for her ill conduct, Edward gave him his own daughter, Joan of Acres; who, as part of her jointure, had this castle settled upon her, which she made the place of her residence in her widowhood; and in her second marriage with Ralph de Monthermer, a private gentleman in her service, whose presumption in marrying a princess at first drew upon him the vengeance of offended majesty; but by the intercession of the bishop of Durham, Edward received him into favour, and his merit was such, that he obtained his confidence and affection; and from this second alliance have descended many noble houses. We must here observe, that prince Edward, afterward Edward II. also resided at Tunbridge in the twenty-second year of his father's

reign, when he was left supreme governor of the kingdom, whilst the elder Edward was in Flanders.

Upon the death of Gilbert de Clare, the last earl of Gloucester of this family, in the partition of his vast estates to his three sisters and coheirs, Tunbridge castle and manor came to Hugh de Audley, in right of his wife Margaret, the second of them; till joining with some discontented barons, this castle was seized by Edward II. who made Bartholomew de Badlesmere governor; but he also traitorously joining the malecontents, gave the custody of it to Henry de Cobham, whose deputy, Crevequer, intending to follow the standard of revolt and deliver up his charge to the rebels, was ordered to be hanged, and this castle, the scene of his treason, to be razed to the ground: it fortunately escaped, having been one of the four which Edward soon after fixed upon as safe receptacles to deposit the records and charters of the kingdom in; and in the following reign Hugh de Audley was restored to favour, had the earldom of Gloucester in right of his marriage given him, and was permitted to re-enjoy this castle.

Margaret, his only daughter, took the castle and manor of Tunbridge to Ralph lord Stafford, created earl of Stafford, and elected knight of the garter, who died here. His descendants rose to a rank that eclipsed every other subject, having the earldoms of Buckingham, Hereford, Stafford, Northampton, and Perch, with

many baronies vested in them, and at length raised to ducal honours, and made hereditary constables of England. Tunbridge-castle was neither neglected nor deserted by this puissant family; but little of consequence relating to it is known whilst in their possession. The archbishops still retaining their seigniory, claimed the ward of the sons of these noblemen during their minority, with custody of the castle; and though they had been left by one of them to Thomas of Woodstock, duke of Gloucester, a son of England; yet these were allowed by parliament to be of right vested in the archbishops of Canterbury.

When Richard III. had cut off the first duke of Buckingham, he sent Sir Marmaduke Constable to reside here, and by writ under his sign manual commanded the inhabitants of the honour and lowy of Tunbridge to attend upon him, forbidding them to take clothing, or be retained by any manner of person or persons whomsoever; and from his ledger-book we find he appointed his trusty friend, Robert Brakenbury, Esq. constable of Tunbridge-castle, with a fee or salary of ten marks. Brakenbury was afterwards knighted by him, and was the trusty friend that murdered the royal youths, Edward V. and his brother the duke of York: perhaps this was part of his fee for the horrid deed.

This castle was forfeited to the crown at the ruin of the last Stafford, duke of Buckingham, when this family, every way so great, fell, to rise no more; and in a course of descents, the last male of them was found with his sister in the lowest state of abject wretchedness. Charles I. who ought to have compassionated the strange reverse of fortune of the Staffords, illegally obliged him to resign his title, which he granted away to a branch of the Howard family.

King Edward VI. in his fourth year gave a grant of the lordship, manor, and castle of Tunbridge, and his two parks of Posterne and Cage, lying near the town, with his forests and chases of North Frith and South Frith, to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, afterwards duke of Northumberland; but reconveying them to the crown, queen Mary gave the whole of them to hold in capite by knight's service, to Pole cardinal archbishop of Canterbury, for life, with the power to demise them to whomsoever he pleased, during a year complete after his death; but he making no such provision, and dying the same day as his sovereign, they became vested again in the crown.

Queen Elizabeth granted these, with other premises, to her cousin Henry Carey, lord Hunsdon, and his heirs male, remainder to the crown; but she gave him a

farther grant in fee under the same tenure that they had before been held; so that from his family they came by an heiress to the Berkleys, by them conveyed to Sir John Kennedie, he to Gosson and Johnson, and they united in alienating them to Sir Peter Vanlore, a naturalized merchant, whose son was created a baronet: this family ending in females, after very complex claims, and many law-suits, the manor, castle, and part of its demesnes, finally settled in Jacoba, married to Henry

Zinzan, alias Alexander, Esq. the descendants of whom, in 1729, disposed of it to John Hooker, Esq., whose son, the elegant Thomas Hooker, Esq., in 1793 built a handsome stone seat close to the castle, and laid out the ground with correct taste; but before it had received the last finish, he disposed of it to William Woodgate, of Somerhill, in this parish, Esq., married to his sister Frances; and now that gentleman enjoys it.

It must be remarked that the castle presents a picturesque object, and is a monument of its former splendid consequence, once the residence of the first peers, who received there the visits of majesty, though now the abode of the screech-owl and the bat: indeed its glory set with that of the ennobled unfortunate Staffords.

It still retains its court leet and baron. Dues for castle guard are discontinued; as are some for encroachment on the lord's waste. Some excuse ought perhaps to be made for having so long detained the reader.

There is a large district containing all the north-west part of the lowy of Tunbridge, called Hildenburgh, containing the manors of Hilden, Dachurst, Martin-Abbey, Lamport, Nizell, Hadlow, the lands denominated Hollenden, the small manor of Leigh, or Hildenborough in Leigh, and that of Penshurst-Halymote, all under the jurisdiction of the honour of Otford; the high steward of which holds his yearly court leet in this borough to elect a constable, borsholder, &c. the singularity of which is, that it should be under the jurisdiction of two manors, the one civil, the other military.

The manors of Dachurst, Martin-Abbey, Lamport, and Nizell, after the attainture of the Staffords, vesting in the crown, remained there until the great rebellion, when they were sold to colonel Robert Gibbon, but reclaimed by Charles II., who granted the fee-farm rents to the Dashwood family, by which they are still retained. The demesnes of Dachurst, Henry VIII. granted to the Skeffingtons, who sold them in small parcels.

Hilden manor, a mile from Tunbridge, was anciently the Vanes', and passing

through many families, came to the family of Dyke, one of whom took down the manor-house: they sold it the Harveys, who now possess it, and hold a court baron.

The estate of Philipots is reputed a manor. It was the seat of the Philipots, and since of the Children family. It now belongs to Mr. Richard Polhill or Polley, of Chatham, one of whose ancestors is said to have been bow-bender to queen Elizabeth: a bow, supposed to have been her majesty's, not many years ago hung up in the house; it was curiously enamelled and studded.

Baden manor, lying a little space from Tunbridge to the south-west, was once of such importance, as to give name to a "borough" of considerable extent; the Badens long enjoyed it; afterwards it was divided: that part which was once the benevolent Sir Andrew Judde's, is now the property of Thomas Streatfeild, of Sevenoke, Esq. The other part, containing the manor, is enjoyed by Charles Polhill, of Chepsted, in Chevening, Esq.; as is the small adjoining manor of Hadlow. Mr. Polhill, about ten years ago, called a court baron, but as no one attended, it is probable none will in future be held.

The borough of South, or Southborough, included within it the southern part of the lowy of Tunbridge. Mention will first be made of the manor of the same name, more memorable for its possessors than its own consequence. From the Clares it went to the Audleys and Staffords, and having been lost by the attainture of the last of them, Henry VIII. granted it to the wise and learned Sir Thomas More, lord chancellor; and at his attainture, to the elegant and equally learned George Boleyn, viscount Rochford, brother to queen Ann Boleyn, who, like the two last possessors, stained the scaffold with his blood; as did its next owner, Dudley duke of Northumberland. How blessed are we in having exchanged such ferocious, sanguinary times for the present! and how careful should we be, in never expressing dissatisfaction with the blessings we enjoy, blessings unknown to our ancestors! Queen Elizabeth gave it to Sir Richard Sackville, conveyed by him to Thomas Smith, Esq. called Customer Smith, whose descendants, by his second son, possessed it until 1790, when it came to its present owner, the earl of Darnley, who holds here a court baron; and a fair is also kept on the 24th of March.

Haysden, or East Haysden, is a small manor at the south-west extremity of the lowy, belonging to Henry Goodwyn, of Enfield, Esq. who holds a court baron for it.

There was a large district, as before mentioned, called North Frith, and ano-

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ther, still larger, denominated South Frith, each enclosed by pales. This followed the descent of the castle, until the death of Hugh de Audley, earl of Gloucester, when the South Frith went to his youngest daughter Elizabeth, who took it in marriage to the Burghs, and they to Lionel duke of Clarence, third son of Edward III.; and Philippa, his sole child, to that branch of the royal family called the house of York, wherein it continued, until the death of Cicely dutchess of York. It merged in the crown in the person of Henry VIII., her grandson, who retained it in his own hands. Edward VI. granted it to the duke of Northumberland, who reconveyed it to the crown. By queen Mary it was granted to cardinal Pole; at his death queen Elizabeth gave it to her favourite, Robert earl of Leicester, for a term of years; and at its expiration she gave the fee to Frances, the widow of her once no less favoured Robert earl of Essex, who took it to her last husband, the earl of Clanricarde. The parliament sequestered it for the loyalty of Ulick his son, created marquis of Clanricarde, to reward their general, the vain-glorious Robert earl of Essex. At his death it was given to that miscreant Bradshaw, who had passed sentence against his sovereign. It is said to have come, after his decease, to his natural son; and some old people remember an aged man, supposed to have been this person, and reported to have been the possessor of Somerhill. The Restoration gave that place, with South Frith, to its legal owner, Margaret, daughter of the marquis of Clanricarde, who took it to her three husbands, Charles M'Carty, viscount Muskerry, who left no issue; John viscount Purbeck; and Mr. generally called Beau, Fielding: she, after a life of the most wanton extravagance, died in poverty and contempt. These estates were sold by her and John viscount Purbeck, her son, who, as well as his son, claimed the earldom of Buckingham. The family of Hill purchased about 1200 acres of open and wood land, now belonging to the Rev. John Templer.

South Frith with Somerhill was sold to a person of the name of Dekins, which coming to the family of Woodgate, the mansion is made their seat, and the whole are now enjoyed by William Woodgate, Esq. Many small parcels of land went into the hands of various individuals; it is neither necessary, nor, perhaps, practicable to specify them. There is a court baron held for this manor: several of the tenants hold by copy of court roll, a circumstance very unusual in this part of Kent.

Little, or New Bounds, is a seat, built by lord chief baron Bury, now the pro-

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perty of lord Darnley. Calverley, another seat, is the residence of its owner, Thomas Pannwell, Esq.

Here was a priory founded in the reign of Henry II., by Richard de Clare, the first earl of Hertford, lord of Tunbridge-castle, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, for the order of Premonstratensian monks, called white canons, which was burnt down in 1351, with all its costly furniture, but rebuilt. It was suppressed, to found and endow the colleges intended to be erected at Ipswich and Oxford, by cardinal Wolsey, at which time it was valued at 169l. 10s. 9d.; but upon that great ecclesiastic's misfortunes, Henry VIII. seized it. After going through many possessors, it is at present the property of the Rev. John-Weller Poley. Some parts of it yet remain; the chapel is the most entire, and is now used as a barn, and a stowage for hops, of which Buck has given us an engraving. Near was a spring, also dedicated to St. Margaret, once walled in, but which has given place to the purer water of the Wells. In this monastery were buried several of the Staffords.

The free grammar-school standing at the north end of the town, was founded and endowed by Sir Andrew Judde, a native of this place, who became citizen, skinner, and lord mayor of London. It was erected in the reign of Edward VI., and he died in 1558. He placed it under the guardianship and care of the skinners' company, which has behaved with a liberality that does them the greatest honour. The old part of the building is more than 100 feet long: it is of stone, neat and uniform. In 1676 an addition was made to the master's apartments, with an hall or refectory, and a small neat library built by the company. There are also detached offices, a garden, and a play-ground belonging to it. The college

of All Souls is visitors. It has had great benefactors; amongst these, Sir Thomas Smith, son-in-law to the founder, stands first; Mr. Fisher, Sir Andrew's executor, was another; Mr. Lewis, Sir James Lancaster, Mr. Worrall, Mr. Robert Holmedon, the liberally benevolent Sir Thomas White, lady Margaret Boswell, Mr. John Strong, and the Rev. James Cawthorn, one of its masters. – There are many exhibitions belonging to it. The skinners' company visit in much state every year. There are few institutions which have been better kept up. Its masters have been a succession of learned men. The Rev. Vicesimus Knox, D. D. son of a father of both his names, succeeded him upon his resignation as head of this seminary: his elegant publications speak his great merit as an able writer.

A very ample relation of this place has now been given; what relates to the church,

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with which the account of Tunbridge, and its justly-celebrated Wells, will be closed, excepted. The Wells are about thirty-six miles from London, situate on the south side of Kent, but in several parishes; Tunbridge, Frant, and Speldhurst, containing four small villages, Mount Ephraim, Mount Pleasant, Mount Sion, and the Wells: these, if closely united, would form a town of no inconsiderable size. They are almost on the borders of Sussex, and are bounded by Tunbridge on the north, Lamberhurst on the east, a large, and in a great measure uncultivated, forest, belonging to lord Abergavenny on the south, and East Grinsted on the west. They are of no antiquity; their rise was singular. The gay, dissipated, young Dudley lord North had exhausted his constitution by his gallantries in the court of Henry prince of Wales; and was advised by his physicians to retire to the country as the last trial to regain his lost strength. In the year 1606 he went to Eridge-house, a hunting seat of lord Abergavenny, whose park was "an assemblage," says Mr. Aaron Hill, "of all nature's beauties – hills, vales, brooks, lawns, groves, thickets, rocks, waterfalls, all noble and regularly amiable." This situation, however charming, ill suited a young nobleman in his twenty-fourth year, who had been engaged in all the pleasures attendant upon a court; he therefore determined to leave his retreat and return to town; the solicitations of his friends prevailed upon him to promise to remain another six weeks. Tired with solitude, he broke through restraint, and set out for London. His way lay through the wood in which these springs were; it was in the morning, and he had leisure to contemplate the water, with its surface shining with mineralic scum. One of those persons who instantly discovered what others, less observant, neglect, he sent to a neighbouring cottage for a vessel; drank of the stream, and was convinced it was chalybeate. Pleased with the idea, he determined to have it examined by the physicians; for which purpose he took some with him to town. The faculty coincided in opinion: his lordship, therefore, returned in the summer, that he might add the power of the waters to the purity of the air, and they unitedly restored him to the full enjoyment of his health, and he lived upon the remains of a noble fortune to an happy old age, dying January 16, 1666, aged eighty-five years.

So wonderful a restoration made a great impression upon the public mind. Lord Abergavenny, procuring the consent of Mr. Weller, of Tunbridge, the lord of the manor, came down personally to inspect the place, and to see it cleared of all its

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incumbering brushwood. He then had wells sunk, paved with stone, and enclosed with rails in a triangular form. Hither came the afflicted, and returned healthy; but as no accommodations were nearer than the town of Tunbridge, the number was few.

The beautiful Henrietta-Maria, queen to Charles I., being much indisposed after the birth of the prince, afterwards Charles II., stayed here six weeks; but as no house was near, suitable for so great a personage, she and her suite remained under tents pitched upon Bishop's-down. The splendid court formed a fine contrast to the country, every where rude, and in the hands of nature. In honour of her majesty the wells changed their name from Frant to that of Queen Mary's Wells; both have given place to their present one, Tunbridge-wells, though the springs evidently rise in the parish of Speldhurst.

Pleasure uniting with health, first neat cottages, afterwards handsome lodging-houses, were erected; and that trade might be an attendant, retailers took their stands, with various wares, under a row of planted trees in the road which the

company were accustomed to take when they went to drink of the limpid stream. Southborough and Rusthall, the one two, the other one mile from the wells, soon had houses for the use of visitants. Poetry aided the fame of this new-discovered spot, consecrated alike to health and dissipation. Waller makes his tuneful verses celebrate the virtues of the waters, in the lines he addressed to his exquisitely beautiful Sacharissa. Dr. Rowzee wrote to prove the fact professionally.

The civil wars that ensued left the wells neglected and almost forgotten; but legal government restored, they shone forth with redoubled lustre. The sincere joy that event brought with it, led the English to an extravagance of mirth and entertainment unknown before. It was seen every where, Tunbridge-wells uniting in the general sentiment: hence we may date the assembly-room, bowling-green, and other appropriate places at Rusthall; and another bowling-green and a coffee-house at Southborough. Lord Abergavenny's old wooden rails in 1664 gave place to a strong stone enclosure, built by lord Muskerry, son to the second earl of Clancarty. His lordship also renewed the stone pavement within the wall, made a handsome basin over the main spring, the better to receive the water; erected a convenient hall to shelter the dippers from the weather, during their hours of attendance upon the company, and made a projection

to preserve the well from any mixture with rain-water. The wells, by his premature death, the following year, in the Dutch war, lost a patron that would, had he lived, have perfected all that could be wanting. Few have ever been deservedly loved or lamented by their sovereign, soldiers, or tenants, more than this elegant, gallant, munificent, and charitable nobleman. The surrounding country caught the happy enthusiasm of the amiable young peer. The circumjacent wilds were spotted with neat, rural habitations; until whim, and some altercations between the lord of the manor and the tenants, soon varied the scene.

Rusthall was deserted for Mount Ephraim; and that for Southborough, which again was eclipsed by the new favourite Mount Sion. Here you might have seen a jovial company with a house placed upon a machine, conveying it to this future abode of pleasure, attended with music and every festive decoration. The town of Tunbridge was now left to its original quiet; for the wells became a complete village, with houses sufficient to lodge all the visitants, owing to the liberal manner with which the lord of the manor granted building and other leases. Benevolence united with piety, raised and supported the school for feeding, clothing, and educating the children of the poor, and the chapel for the worship of the Almighty; which by an excess of loyalty was indecently dedicated to king Charles the martyr: there is only another instance of this enthusiasm. Charles had many great virtues, but he had many great failings; the former were the man's, the other the monarch's.

It must be allowed that no place owed more to the fostering care of the royal house of Stuart than Tunbridge-wells. Henrietta-Maria first honoured it with her residence. Charles II. and Catharine his queen came hither, and delighted in this place. How inimitable is count Grammont's account of the dissipated court whilst here, in that most elegant edition of his Memoirs printed by the late earl of Orford; what he says of it cannot be omitted:

"Tunbridge is the same distance from London that Fontainebleau is from Paris, and is, at the season, the general rendezvous of all the gay and handsome of both sexes. The company, though always numerous, is always select: since those who repair thither for diversion, ever exceed the number of those who go thither for health. Every thing there breathes mirth and pleasure; constraint is banished, familiarity is established upon the first acquaintance, and joy and pleasure are the sole sovereigns of the place.

"The company are accommodated with lodgings in little, clean, and convenient

habitations, that lie straggling and separated from each other, a mile and a half all round the wells, where the company meet in the morning. This place consists of a long walk, shaded by pleasant trees, under which they walk, while they are drinking the waters. On one side of this walk is a long row of shops, plentifully stocked with all manner of toys, lace, gloves, stockings, and where there is raffling, as at Paris, in the Foire de Saint Germain. On the other side of the walk is the market; and as it is the custom here for every person to buy their

own provisions, care is taken that nothing appears offensive upon the stalls. Here young, fair, fresh-coloured country girls, with clean linen, small straw hats, and neat shoes and stockings, sell game, vegetables, flowers, and fruit. Here one may live as one pleases. Here is likewise deep play, and no want of amorous intrigues. As soon as the evening comes, every one quits his little palace to assemble on the bowling-green, where, in the open air, those who choose, dance upon a turf more soft and smooth than the finest carpet in the world."

Here was the empire of love established. Charles bent to that all-conquering, weak beauty, Miss Stewart, afterwards dutchess of Richmond: even the hard-featured chymical prince Rupert became enamoured of Mrs. Hughes the actress. Here, in one of the constant evening dances at the queen's apartments, the diminutive, distorted lady Muskerry, the well-known "princess of Babylon," dropped, in the quick, mazy dance, the cushion she had placed to hide her advanced pregnancy, which was taken up by the facetious duke of Buckingham, and dandled as a new-born babe, to the no small diversion of the king and all the court: even the queen, though outwardly checking, inwardly enjoyed that mirth which shone every where around her, especially in the features of Miss Stewart, who laughed herself into hysterics: but the cushion replaced, another round of country dances commenced, and the "princess of Babylon" went through the second evolutions without any farther "miscarriage." Here, too, the sprightly Grammont became more enchanted with the beauteous, prudent Miss Hamilton, who came hither from the melancholy residence of Peckham, and its tiresome master, Mr. Wetenhall.

No apology is offered for dwelling so long upon this brilliant part of the history of Tunbridge-wells, where majesty honoured the scene, and beauty bespangled every part of its bounds. – After two months, Catharine returned to London, less happy than the vain and foolish lady Muskerry, the princess of Babylon, who

report said would have twins, whilst the queen showed no signs of ever being mother to one.

In 1670 his royal highness James duke of York, afterwards king James II., with his dutchess and two daughters, our future queens, Mary and Anne, came to the wells, as did the latter with the duke of Gloucester her son, in 1688; and she might have been the patroness of the place, when seated on the throne, if she had not been disgusted with the mercenary conduct of those, whom she had entrusted with money, to render it more eligible for the reception of the prince.

His present majesty's father, and his illustrious consort, came hither in 1739: the princess Amelia often, and his royal highness the duke of Cumberland in 1762. Their royal highnesses the dukes of York and Gloucester were here in 1765. The princess Sophia came to these springs in 1793, and by using the waters, happily obtained a perfect recovery. Hither also have lately been their royal highnesses the duke and dutchess of York, of whose conjugal, and every other virtue, Britain justly boasts.

Of the waters it may be remarked, that, if not so strong, they are pleasanter than many other chalybeate springs. The air is purer than that of any other part of England, being our Montpellier, consequently the reiteration of health to the visitants may be due as much to the latter as the former.

We shall now describe the present state of this place and its environs. The wells, properly so called, form the centre, near which are the markets, the medicinal water, chapel, assembly-rooms, and public parades; the latter are called the upper and lower walk, formerly paved with brick, but in 1793 with Purbeck stone, at an expense of 710l.; the other is unpaved, and used chiefly by country people and servants.

On the right of the paved walk in the way from the well is the public parade, on which is one of the assembly-rooms, the library, coffee-house, post-office, Tunbridge ware, milliners', and different kinds of toy shops. A portico extends the whole length of the parade, supported by Tuscan pillars, where the company occasionally walk. On the left is a row of large flourishing trees, which has a gallery in the centre for music; the whole being divided from the lower walk by a range of neat palisadoes. In this place are three principal taverns, the Sussex, Kentish, and New Inn tavern. The Angel tavern and inn is by the road side

on entering the place, and near the mineral spring: they are all extremely well attended.

There are clusters of houses on Mount Sion hill, Mount Pleasant, Mount Ephraim, and Bishop's-down. The first is by far the most charming, combining all that a romantic situation, aided by taste, can afford. Upon these different eminences are dispersed some elegant seats; those of the late Mrs. Wogan and Richard Cumberland, Esq. are on Mount Sion. His grace of Leeds has one on Mount Pleasant; and lady Peachey another, on what is called Little Mount Pleasant. Mrs. Byng and Mrs. Whitaker have houses on Mount Ephraim: Bishop's-down has the seat of Martin Yorke, Esq. To mention any particular houses for the accommodation of visitants would be invidious, unless all were given.

There may be said to be a peculiar trade carried on here – turnery ware, called that of Tunbridge, in which the people greatly excel. A history of the place, more than what has been given, is not to be expected. One disaster alone is recorded, which happened in 1687: – a fire broke out in what is now called the Flat-house, at the bottom of the walk, which spread so rapidly, that the whole range of shops and other buildings were destroyed, and a child perished in the conflagration: the shops arose more beautiful than before. Here are two meeting-houses, the last built by the mistakenly pious countess of Huntingdon.

It would be unpardonable not to notice the rocks and Adam's well in the vicinity. The first is about one mile and an half distant from Tunbridge-wells. Nothing can be more romantic, and at the same time more stupendous. Here are seen vallies with a stream stealing through them, amid naked, craggy rocks, some of which are seventy feet high, and some thrown by the convulsions of nature upon others, in the rudest confusion, and seem to menace instant death to the curious intruders. The duke of York, afterwards king James II., with the princesses his daughters, first brought these rocks into notice, since whose visits a small house has been erected, and hither the company often make parties.

Adam's well is more chalybeate than those of Tunbridge, and, though till lately inaccessible by carriages, more ancient. It was, indeed, so encircled by briars and thorns, that even foot passengers got thither with much difficulty and distress. About thirty years ago it was purchased by the late Mr. Pinchbeck, who, at the

persuasion of Mr. Foster, an attorney of Yorkshire, and others whose horses had been cured by having drank of the spring, made it every way eligible for use, enclosing one part for the poor, and the other for horses and dogs; and with a benevolence that deserves the highest commendation, declared them free to whomsoever should apply.

Tunbridge is in the diocese of Rochester, and deanery of Malling. Its venerable church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. Here were buried many illustrious dead; and there are some handsome monuments within, and tombs without it. The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 90l. 3s. 4d. It is in the gift of David Papillon, Esq. whose son, the Rev. J. R. Papillon, A. M. is the present incumbent.

HADLOW.

HADLOW is a borough, in the lowy of Tunbridge: it includes its own parish, except a small district in the northern part of it, which runs into the hundred of Littlefield. The parish is extensive, rich in hop plantations, and no less so in its pasture. The rivulet called the Sheet crosses this parish, and joins the Medway a little above Brandt-bridge. There is a flowing bolt at Harlake-bridge, by which, in dry seasons, they can inundate the meadows, a scheme highly advantageous. The village is a thoroughfare from Maidstone to Tunbridge. It has a wharf, called Hadlow stairs, where timber and coals are chiefly stowed. There is a fair on Whit-Monday.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, Eddeva held Hadlow. William the Conqueror gave it to Richard de Tonebridge, who held it of that king's half-brother, Odo bishop of Bayeux, afterwards of the see of Canterbury. It followed the descent of Tunbridge-castle, until the attainture of the last Stafford duke of

Buckingham, when it often changed hands by attainture or sale, until it settled in the Bartons, by marrying the elder coheir of the France family: Walter Barton, Esq. who has taken the surname of May, is the present possessor. There is a court leet and baron held for the manor, and by a decision of law, it is now settled independent of Tunbridge.

Hadlow-place, anciently the seat of a family so called, went by alienation, in the reign of Henry VII., to the Fanes or Vanes; and by the same mean about that

of Charles I. to the family of Petley; and is now possessed by Mrs. Elizabeth Petley, the widow of Ralph-Robert-Carter Petley, of Riverhead, in Sevenoke, Esq.

Fromands alias Goodwis, is a manor which came from the Fromunds to the Fane or Vane family, and from them to the Petleys. There is a court baron still held for it.

Crombury or East-Crombury, anciently Cranchberi, afterwards Crongeberi, went from the de Horsmondens to the de Mereworths, thence to Fromunds, the Godwins, and the Peckhams; one of the latter sold it to the Fanes or Vanes, and they to the Petleys, who now enjoy it, and also hold a court baron for it.

Caustons, another manor, gave name to a family who disposed of it to the Wettons, they to the Fanes or Vanes; the Maynards purchased it of them, and sold it to the Kippings; Mr. Thomas Kipping is the present possessor.

Goldwell or Coldwell was once the estate of Beald. It has been that of the Fromunds, Colepepers, Cottons, Chownes; the two latter receiving it by females. It was then sold to the Bartons, who by a daughter took it to the Keriels, by whom it was sold to Mr. William Heath, who leaving no issue, it descended to his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Burges of Westerham, whose only son, Robert Burges, of Hall-place, in Lyghe, Esq. lately died in possession of it.

Peckhams is a manor that gave name to the de Peckhams, who held it of the Clares. It has been enjoyed by the Colepepers, Cottons, Herrers, Leighs, Rivens, Dallings, and now is vested in Mr. Jonathan Chilwell, by marrying the heiress of the last possessor.

Fish-hall, once belonging to the Fishers, who received that name, because they had the liberty of fishing without control in the lowy of Tunbridge, given them by Gilbert de Clare earl of Gloucester, and one of his descendants had a grant from Henry VIII. of the manor of Hadlow, and soon after of all the rivers, fisheries, and ponds within it. He sold it the Vanes, who alienated it to the knightly family of Rivers, who made it their residence. They sold it to John France, the younger coheir of whom took it the Swaynes, and by them disposed of to Mr. John Porter of Hadlow, the present owner.

Barnes-place is an estate of much extent. Sir John Van Hatton sold it to Sarah viscountess Falkland, who at her death devised it to her husband Lucius

Carey viscount Falkland, with remainder to T.-Motley-Austen Wilmington, Esq.: he has purchased that nobleman's life estate, and now enjoys it.

The parish is in the deanery of Malling. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is small, with a short steeple. It once belonged to the Knights Templars, and is valued in the king's books at 13l.; the patron is Mr. James Berdmere.

Hundred of Wrotham.

THE hundred of Wrotham is west of Larkfield, and contains the parishes of Shipborne, Ightham, Wrotham, and Stansted.

SHIPBORNE.

THIS parish, written Scriburna in the Textus Roffensis, is below the sand hills, and is accounted within the Weald. It is a disagreeable part of the country, and travelling is extremely bad. It has its fair held upon St. Giles the abbot, September 1, which is of little consequence.

The manor was once possessed by the de Says, and thence went to the de Bavents, a lady of which family gave it to the priory of Dartford: at its dissolution it was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Ralph Fane, jointly with Anthony Tut-

sham, Esq., who sold his share to the former, in whose family it remained until the death of William-Holles Vane, viscount Vane of the kingdom of Ireland, who devised it to David Papillon, of Acrise, Esq. It is to be remarked that this nobleman was the character so much and so justly censured for his romantic affection to his lady Frances, the beautiful and accomplished widow of lord William Hamilton, and daughter of Francis Hawes, Esq., a director of the South Sea company. The reader will recollect their history in Peregrine Pickle, from materials which she gave to Dr. Smollett; but even that indecent relation, nor any other insult to connubial love, could change his ill-placed devotion to the frail fair one.

Budds is a hamlet not quite a mile to the west of the church. It was formerly the residence of the Collins, since of the Turners, and is the property of George Children, of Tunbridge, Esq.

This parish was the birthplace of the poet Smart, son of Peter Smart, Esq., a native of the bishopric of Durham, whose ancestor was a very factious and justly

obnoxious prebendary of that church, punished for his disloyalty to Charles I., and rewarded for it by the parliament, yet he died insolvent. Mr. Peter Smart was steward to the Vane family, but losing that office, retired to Barming, where he died. Christopher, his only son, the poet, left Kent, lived in London, as poets usually live, and died in poverty and wretchedness, as too many of them have done.

The chapelry of Shipborne is in Malling deanery. It is not in charge; but pays a fee-farm rent of eight shillings yearly to the crown. It is in the gift of Mr. Papillon; the present curate is the Rev. Dr. Vicesimus Knox, the learned master of Tunbridge school.

IGHTHAM.

THIS parish might be supposed of great consequence from the name Ightham, literally meaning Eightham, a place composed of eight boroughs or hams; which are Eightham, Redwell, Ivyhatch, Borough-green, St. Cleres, the Moat, Beaulies, and Oldborough: but on the contrary, it is not more than five miles long, and only one wide. It is neither pleasant nor profitable; much, indeed, is waste land. They have a fair on Wednesday in Whitsun-week, which has acquired the name of Coxcombe fair, but for which no reason is assigned.

It, however, boasts some antiquities. Through it runs the military road of the Romans, leading from Ofham and Camps, pointing towards the west. Oldberry and Stone-street are appropriate names: at the former, signifying Oldborough, is a very considerable intrenchment of that once great people, the cruel enslavers of other nations. It is of an oval form, containing 137 acres; there is a cave, which is supposed to have led to a long subterraneous passage: this place is thought with some reason to have been a castra aestiva, or summer quarters. Two fine springs are in the centre of this ancient enclosure.

The manor of Ightham was, so early as the reign of Henry III., held by the de Crevequers; from that time it passed through a great variety of owners, and is now the property of Richard James, Esq., colonel in the West Kent regiment of militia, descended from a family who have owned it from the reign of Henry VIII. having been purchased by Roger Van Hastretcht, of Dutch parentage, but settling in London, took the name of James.

St. Cleres, or West Aldham manor, joining Kempsing, was originally the

property of the Aldhams, but came by purchase to the Sidley family in the reign of Charles I. by a female, from whom it descended to the Evelyns; from them in the same way to Alexander Hume, of Hendley, in Surry, Esq., brother to Sir Abraham Hume, who has taken the name of Evelyn, and resides at St. Clere.

The Moat, adjoining to Shipborne, is an ancient seat and manor, with a park. They were long in the possession of the Hauts, one of whom being beheaded by Richard III., at Pontefract, for aiding the duke of Buckingham in his design to dethrone him, his estates were granted to that infamous character, Sir Robert Brakenbury, lieutenant of the Tower, who was sheriff of this county; but after his death, at Bosworth, where he fell with the cruel Richard, the lands were given again to the Hauts; they soon after parted with them. The benevolent Sir John Allen, lord mayor of London in 1526 and 1536, was once the owner of it. His

son sold it to the Selbys, which family expired in 1781, when it was claimed by John Brown, Esq., who has taken the name of Selby, and now resides here.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, is in Shoreham deanery. It is valued at 15l. 16s. 8d.; the lords of the manor are patrons. The present rector is George Bithesea, A. M.

WROTHAM.

THE derivation of Wrotham is difficult to determine. It is written in Domesday-book Broteham, and is generally pronounced Ruteham. It is every way an important parish; five miles in length from north to south, and from two to three in breadth; fertile in its valley, and sterile on its very high hill. The village, or town rather, had its market on a Tuesday, and it still retains its annual fair, held on May 4, for horses, cattle, &c. In the middle of the town stand its market-place and common well, both reparable by the lord of the manor. The great road from London to Maidstone passes through this place, from which it is distant twenty-four miles. At Basted is a paper mill belonging to Mr. Taylor. The Weald takes in part of the parish. The Roman military way went from Ofham through Wrotham, near the Camps westward, leading to Oldborough and Stone-street; but we do not think it was the Roman station Vagniacae – yet here might have been a town even in the time of the Britons; for about seventy years ago, silver money coined by those, our ancestors, was discovered by a mole having thrown up some of them, which were all claimed by the lord of the manor.

Within these three or four years, in making a new road through this parish, several urns were found by the workmen, who wondered to see so many “bones jugged in that manner.”

In Sir Thomas Wyat’s rebellion against queen Mary, his friend, Sir Henry Isley, in marching towards Rochester to aid him, was overtaken at Blacksole-field, in this parish, by Sir Robert Southwell the sheriff, and lord Abergavenny, with five hundred gentlemen and yeomen, and completely beaten, the rebels flying with the utmost precipitation to Hartley-wood, about four miles from the field of battle, many of whom were killed, and about sixty were taken prisoners: the dead were buried at Blacksole-field. Sir Henry fled into Hampshire, where he was taken, disguised as one who had belonged to a coal-vessel, and in that unseemly condition conveyed to the Tower, and being condemned, was executed.

The Anglo-Saxon monarch Edgar in 964 gave Wrotham to Christ-church, in Canterbury; but it was in the division between that convent and the metropolitical see assigned by archbishop Lanfranc, in 1070, to the latter: but it appears by Domesday-book that there were tenants in soccage under the archbishop, besides what Richard de Tonebridge held of his lowy.

The prelates enjoyed this manor until its exchange by Cranmer to Henry VIII. for other lands. They had anciently a palace here, until it was partly taken down by Islip, to finish that which Ufford had begun: at Maidstone it stood on the east side of the church-yard: a gateway and some remains of the offices are still standing; and the garden, bowling-green, and surrounding terrace may be traced. The park was south-east, and the lodge is still in being: the land has for more than two centuries been disparked. Edward VI. granted the whole to Sir John Mason, he to the Bings, and they to the ancestor of Richard James, of Ightham, Esq., who now inherits it. Walter archbishop of Canterbury had the privilege of a weekly market on Thursdays, and a fair on the feast of St. George, granted him by Edward II. to be held at this his manor.

Little Wrotham lies towards the north-east part of this parish, next to Trottescliffe. Odo also in the Conqueror’s reign possessed this manor, as did Richard de Tonebridge in that part which was his lowy; and Godwin and Edwin held it for two manors in the Confessor’s time. It fell to the crown upon the bishop of Bayeux’s disgrace; but was, in a succeeding reign, given to Geoffry Talbot, who granted the greater part of it to the see of Rochester, which paid aid for half a

knight’s fee for it, the whole of which is 130 acres; the remainder, about twenty acres, is the property of Mr. Tomlyn, of Neupiker. Together they pay forty sheaves or shocks of wheat to the rector of Wrotham.

Wrotham-place is on the south side of Wrotham-street. It has been for many centuries the residence of gentry: the baronet family of Rayney were in possession of it at the commencement of the present one, since which time it has been the seat of the Haddocks, and is now the habitation of Charles Haddock, Esq.

Yaldham is another district lying to the west of the church. Its manors are East or Great Yaldham, West or Little Yaldham, and Yaldham or St. Cleres in Ightham, all comprised under the name of Ealdham, i. e. old dwelling. From the Aldham family they came to the Peckhams; the latter were resident in this parish so early as the reign of Richard I.: they continued at Yaldham until the year 1713, when they passed it away to George St. Loe, Esq., a captain in the royal navy, and commissioner of Chatham yard; whose son disposed of it to Mr. Francis Austen, of Sevenoke, who sold it to W. E. Glanville, father of William-Evelyn Glanville, Esq., the present owner.

It is singular that the Peckhams should continue stationary here such a length of time: the most memorable of them was Reginald Peckham, Esq., son of the high sheriff who distinguished himself against Sir Thomas Wyat. Since they have left Yaldham, their mansion is become a farm-house, and the courts for the manor have been discontinued. The tithes were given by Gosfrid de Ros to the priory of St. Andrews, in Rochester: at the dissolution Henry VIII. gave them to the see of Rochester. W. G. Evelyn, Esq. is the present lessee.

Ford was the manor and seat of Le Clerkes or Clerkes, from the reign of Henry V. to that of Charles II. One of them was particularly obnoxious to the rebels under Sir Thomas Wyat. Another memorable person of the family was Sir William Clerke, knighted for his eminent loyalty by Charles I.; he died with Sir Philip Boteler, his neighbour, at Cropredy-bridge, at the head of the regiments they had raised. The estate went by purchase to Mr. John Know, whose daughter and heir took it to the Bartholomew family, and from them it has been devised to its present owner, Sir William Geary, Bart., one of the representatives of the county. The seat is now used as a farm-house.

The hamlet of Borough-green, a mile from the church to the north, has the manor

of Wingfield, lying within the borough of the same name, belonging anciently to the St. Quintins, who sold it to the Peckhams, of Yaldham; they to the Millers, of Crouch; who, by a female, took it to Mr. Munday, of Derbyshire; and in 1756 he disposed of it to Sarah viscountess Falkland; and it is now the property of F.-Motley Austen, Esq., who obtained it in the same manner as he did Barnes-place, in Hadlow. No court is held for the manor, and the seat of Horsnel's-Crouch, in the hamlet of Crouch, is now only a farmer's residence.

Great and Little Comp are to the south of Wrotham-heath, and are two hamlets, taking their names from two camps, raised, probably, by the Romans. Here was formerly a chapel; the remains are still discernable, which belonged to Leyborne, though there are two parishes between it and this place; the glebe still remains with that preferment, and is a great part of its income. The lands in this hamlet are much divided. A singular circumstance happened some years ago at this place; in falling a tree, a great number of solid pieces of brass were discovered under the roots.

Plaxtool is a very considerable hamlet, and the street so called makes a village of itself. In it is the manor of Sore, anciently belonging to the Colepepers, of Preston, in Aylesford; from thence it passed, in the time of queen Elizabeth, to the Millers: the last baronet dying without issue in 1714, it went to the family of Bartholomew; and with the adjoining manor of Badlesmere, is possessed by Leonard Bartholomew, of Addington, Esq. In the manor-house of Sore is a chapel, supposed to have been used by the people of this district before the present structure was erected.

Fair-lawn is quite at the outskirt of Wrotham, so that the stables belonging to the seat are in the parish of Shipborne. It has belonged to the Bavents, Colepepers, Chownes, and Vanes; the late viscount Vane devised it to D. Papillon, Esq. This house was peculiarly unfortunate; a wing just rebuilt was burnt down in 1739, and before it could be again erected met with a similar fate in 1742: not discouraged, however, it was a third time built.

The chapel stands at the west end of the village; it continued with divine service being performed only casually, until Thomas Stanley, gentleman, in

1638 gave an estate, valued seven pounds, to support a curate; and the parliament, in 1648, divided the whole hamlet off from the rest of the parish, and made it a

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separate one, giving a brief to collect money sufficient to build a church there: in consequence, the present sacred structure was erected; but at the Restoration it was considered only as a chapel, and having received queen Anne's bounty of 200l., with an appointment from the incumbent of the mother church, makes a suitable provision for the curate, who is the Rev. Thomas Dalison.

Wrotham, in the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Shoreham, is a peculiar to the see of Canterbury. The rector has the tithes of the chapelry of Woodland, and the adjoining parish of Stansted; of the former, ever since its chapel went to ruin in Elizabeth's reign; and of the latter, since, as well as before, the Usurpation, when, like those of Plaxstool, they were taken from the clergyman of Wrotham.

The church stands in the town, is a very large and fine Gothic edifice; the chancel was beautified and repaired by Dr. Potter, a late rector. The brass plates are very numerous in the body of the church. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 50l. 8s. 11/2d.; the vicarage at 19l. 0s. 103/4d. In this century they have been constantly given to the same clergyman, and unitedly make it the best piece of parochial preferment in the county; not less than 1000l. per annum. The rectorial house is a suitable residence to so valuable a living, which is rendered more so by having a large glebe. The vicarage-house is a mean building; it is in the road from Wrotham leading to Yaldham. The Rev. Richard Levett is the present incumbent: he was formerly rector of Berkswell, in Warwickshire, and with it held the chapelry of Barston, in the same county.

We must remark to the botanist, that the pentaphyllum, or creeping cinquefoil, is found in considerable quantities near the town of Wrotham. It appears that this parish had more gentlemen's seats in the two preceding centuries than the present. Formerly Wrotham contributed to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge.

STANSTED.

THIS parish is north of Wrotham: its derivation is from stane, a stone, and sted, a place. It boasts of a fine extended prospect; but that ill compensates for its rough, uncultivated surface; chalk, flints, and brush-wood, every where present themselves.

Its manor, esteemed a borough to Wrotham, has gone through a variety of dif-

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ferent families; and is now enjoyed by Richard James, of Ightham, Esq., whose ancestors purchased it of the Bings.

Scranks, the other manor in this parish, was, in Henry III.'s reign, vested in the see of Canterbury; but, in the following one, a family obtained it, who took the surname of Scranks, and after many changes, it was purchased by Mr. John Cox, who, adding other lands to it, built a mansion here, to which he gave the appropriate name of Fairseat; but as the view from thence is great, it has given place to Fairsee. He left this estate to John Cox, Esq., his son, who dying without issue, it devolved to his sister Sarah, who took it to her husband, George Wilson, Esq.; they reside here.

The church is dedicated to the blessed Virgin; it has sunk to the state of a chapel of ease, and the nomination of its curate is vested in the rector of Wrotham. The parliament in 1647, by one of their pretended ordinances, made it a parish of itself; but at the return of Charles II. it reverted to its subordinate situation, and as such it is mentioned in the king's books, and without any valuation.

Mr. Hasted relates a circumstance which happened in this parish; if not well attested, it would seem incredible. "About Easter, in the year 1666, a pasture field in this parish, which is a considerable distance from the sea, or any branch of it, and a place where there are no fish-ponds, but a scarcity of water, was scattered all over with small fish, in quantity about a bushel, supposed to have been rained down from a cloud, there having been at that time a great tempest of thunder, hail, wind, &c. These fish were about the size of a man's little finger; some were like small whitings, others like sprats, and some smaller like smelts. Several of these fish were shown publicly at Maidstone and Dartford."

Hundred of Littlefield.

WE now descend again somewhat southward to the hundred of Littlefield, comprising only Mereworth, a part of West Peckham, and part of the parishes of Hadlow and East Peckham, the churches of which are in another hundred.

This hundred is judiciously called Little; in Domesday-book it is written Litlefelle, and elsewhere Leighfield. It was, in the reign of Edward II., possessed by the crown: that monarch, with the approbation of his parliament, granted it to

his half-brother Edmond of Woodstock, then created earl of Kent. His daughter Joan, in the end his heir, took it in marriage to the equally illustrious and unfortunate Hollands. It continued in some one or other branch of the royal family after it left them, and in the reign of Henry VIII. it was again enjoyed by the sovereign. Dudley duke of Northumberland held it a short time. Queen Elizabeth, in the latter part of her reign, granted it to the Cobhams: that weak and wicked peer, Henry lord Cobham, lost it for his treason to James I., and it has not since that time been in the possession of a subject.

WEST or LITTLE PECKHAM.

THIS parish is east of Shipborne: it has lost little of its original name, peack, high, and ham, a village. It is rich in meadow land; every part of it is in the Weald. The quarry stone hills bound it to the north, covered with the Herst woods. It is finely watered; a streamlet passes through the parish, upon which are two corn mills. Its two parks were disparked before the year 1570.

The inhabitants were assessed in part to repair the fifth pier of Rochester bridge. The village fair is held yearly on the 16th of June.

The manor of Little Peckham was the estate of earl Leofwine, brother of Harold II. William the Conqueror gave it to Odo bishop of Bayeux. In the reign of king John it was possessed by Beudeville, who held it by grand sergeancy, by the service of bearing one of the king's goshawks beyond sea, from the feast of St. Michael to that of the Purification, when demanded, and this in lieu of every other service. Such tenures appear to us extraordinary; but when we reflect that in the days of our Normanic and Angevine sovereigns, the sports of the field were the first, almost the only royal amusement, it takes away much of our surprise. The manor going into another family, they assumed its name; but it remained there only a little time, and in Edward III.'s reign it was divided; one part of it is now the property of lord Le Despenser.

The other part was taken by Elizabeth, daughter and heir of the Burghs earls of Ulster, to her husband Lionel duke of Clarence, third son of Edward III., whose daughter Philippa gave it to Edmond Mortimer, earl of March, and from thence it passed to the Colepepers of Oxenhoath, in this parish, until judge Colepeper, in king Henry IV.'s reign, gave it to the Knights Templers, who

made it a preceptory, commandery, or chantry magistrale, being a mansion where some of that society dwelt, to take care and be stewards of the estates the knights held in that part of the county. The manor was valued at 63l. 6s. 8d. per annum, and 60l. clear income.

Henry VIII. gave it to Sir Robert Southwell, who, as well as his brother, were ministers to that monarch, and his three children who succeeded him. It is impossible to determine whether most to admire their abilities, or detest their vices; the Southwells were the most profligate family that stains our biographical volumes. Sir Robert was sheriff of Kent in the year of Sir Thomas Wyat's rebellion, and whose projects he opposed with energy and judgment. The manor was sold by him to the Walsinghams; it came next to the family of Master, and is now the property of the earl of Torrington.

Hamptons, a seat standing at the west end of the parish, with its borough of the same name, supposed in the hundred and manor of Great Hoo, near Rochester, came to the Stanleys, of Lancashire, in Elizabeth's reign, who, by a female, took it to the Dalysons: the present owner is William Dalyson, Esq.

Oxenhoath, though so far distant, is accounted in the hundred and manor of Hoo,

near Rochester, the court of which yearly elect a borsholder for this hundred. Its manor, called also Toxenhoath, is held of that of Hoo, by the service of a pair of gilt spurs: that acknowledgment is discontinued. The Colepepers long enjoyed it: by one of the coheirs of Sir Richard Colepeper, sheriff of Kent in the eleventh year of Edward IV., it came to the Cottons, who conveyed it to the Chownes, they to the Millers; the daughter and heir of the last of them brought it to the Bartholomews, from whom, by a female, it was inherited by Sir William Geary, Bart., M. P., who now resides in the handsome seat of Oxenhoath.

This parish is within the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling. Its church is small, with a short steeple. The priory of Leeds held the great tithes; the dean and chapter of Rochester now have them, and have also succeeded to the patronage. It is a discharged living, but greatly improved lately by queen Anne's bounty. The vicarage was rebuilt by the benevolence of Philip Bartholomew, of Oxenhoath, Esq. The present incumbent is Richard Bathurst, A. M.

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MEREWORTH.

THIS parish lies east from West Peckham: it is always written Mereworth, yet seldom so called, but Merrud, a pronunciation nearer to its original name in Domesday-book, where it is given Marourde. It slided gradually to its present orthography, being in the Textus Roffensis Maeruurtha, and Meranwyrthe, very barbarous words.

This is one of those parishes which compose the charming ride from Maidstone to Tunbridge, and having been the residence of nobility and taste, we see every where marks of elegance and expense. Its plantations are extensive, its pasturage wonderfully fine, supporting oxen larger than elsewhere in the county. The Medway glides through, and its woods are beautifully contrasted with the other parts of the scenery, making a delightful whole: it is a landscape not grand and terrific, but such as may be expected from the improvement of man in his highest state of civilization. The one may be awfully sublime, the other exquisitely pleasing.

The manor belonged to Hamo de Crevequer, vicecomes, or sheriff of this county under William the Conqueror, and until his death in the time of Henry I. Soon after it came to another family, who took their surname from it. The de Mereworths resided here, and obtained the royal leave to make their seat a castle; at their failure of heirs male it came to John de Malmains, who sold it to the Brembres, and they forfeiting it by attainture, Richard II. granted it to John Hermenthorpe, who disposed of it to the Fitzalans, earls of Arundel; from them, by a female, it came to the ennobled families of Beauchamp, who took it, and the barony of Abergavenny, to the Nevils; and they also failing in the male line, this estate came by a daughter to Sir Thomas Fane: James I. created and allowed her to be baroness Le Despenser, as some recompence for the barony of Abergavenny going to the Nevils. He was the father of two sons; Francis, the eldest, was created baron Burghersh, and earl of Westmorland; and Henry, ancestor of the viscounts Fane. George, the younger son of lady Le Despenser, had the manor, seat, and advowson of Mereworth, whose grandson devised the whole to Mildmay Fane, Esq. younger brother of Thomas earl of Westmorland, to whom he left these premises: desirous to dispose of all his Kentish estates, he procured an act of parliament to empower him to sell them, but afterwards his lordship was so pleased

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with Mereworth, that, so far from carrying his first intentions into effect, of making Apethorp, in Northamptonshire, his seat, he came, resided, and died at Mereworth-castle.

At his death his title of earl of Westmorland, with the estates, came to Mildmay, another brother, who had been created baron Catherlough, of the kingdom of Ireland. This nobleman was the embellisher, the patron of Mereworth; for he rebuilt the seat in a most elegant splendid manner, as also the church and parsonage-house; and adorned the whole place with marks of his munificence. In every situation he was called to fill he behaved with the mind of a prince; in nothing more than at his installation, when to the office of high steward was added that of chancellor of the university of Oxford. Dying in 1762 without issue, the

Irish title became extinct; that of Westmorland went to Thomas Fane, Esq., a merchant at Bristol: but the barony of Le Despenser descended to Sir Francis Dashwood, Bart., which also was confirmed by his majesty; and the seat, and whatever else belonged to it in this parish, was devised to him by the earl, with remainder to Sir Thomas Stapleton, Bart. This nobleman, so well known for the magnificence of his numerous buildings at High Wicombe, and for the extreme profligacy of his manners, leaving no issue, Mereworth-castle and its dependencies came to Sir Thomas Stapleton, Bart., who also, by the death of Rachael, lady Le Despenser, sister of the late lord Le Despenser, and widow of Sir Robert Austen, Bart., succeeded to that title. His lordship now resides here; he and his lady Elizabeth, second daughter of S. Eliot, of Antigua, Esq., commanding the love of all around them by their virtues, especially their great benevolence to the poor.

It would be unpardonable not to speak particularly of a seat, the pride of this part of Kent. It is called a castle; but for this there is no other reason than its having been built upon the scite of one; it is still moated, has four fronts, each has a portico, those on the sides are closed; the rooms and offices for servants are under the hall, and the most magnificent apartments. In the centre is a cupola, lighted at the top, and from this all the apartments diverge, and the wall being double, admits the flues to be taken to the top of the cupola, by which mean the smoke is suffered to escape, without the offensive appearance of chimnies. The wings are equal in elegance to the body. In the front of the house is a large sheet of water, upon which is an elegant vessel. Lord Westmorland cut a road through the woods to join that from London: this was done at a vast expense, being three

miles. The neighbouring hills are all planted, and have prospect-rooms upon them, from which, wherever the eye is turned, are seen elegant structures, forming appropriate objects.

The castle is from a design of Palladio, which had charmed lord Westmorland in a seat near Venice, built for a great ecclesiastic; but it was injudiciously adopted, being rather for the climate of Italy than Britain; besides, it is far less than the original; from which cause all the apartments are too small, being sacrificed to external beauty. Its fine flight of steps, its dome, the grandeur of its wings, all have, however, so imposing an appearance, that few will let just criticism exert her powers. The wing which is now the stables, was the spot where lately the parish church stood: the parishioners were extremely and justly hurt, that the house of God should give place to the habitation of horses, and that ground consecrated for the repose of their venerated relatives' remains, should become a dunghill.

The house has been furnished and adorned by the present noble owner, in the most costly and superb style. The eye of taste is hurt to see the high varnish upon the fine collection of pictures; it proved, as was expected, that they had been sent to London to be greatly injured. Here is a collection of stuffed animals and birds.

Yokes-place, anciently written Jeotes, afterward Jotes, is a very handsome seat, the possession of which has been in the Sharstedes, Clintons earls of Huntingdon, the crown, Fitzalans earls of Arundel, Beauchamps earls of Worcester, the Nevils lords Abergavenny, the Southwells, Walsinghams, and the Masters, by whom it was left to their relation William Daniel, Esq., who in compliance with the request of the testator, took the name of his benefactor: he expended large sums in almost rebuilding the seat, and laying out the adjoining land according so the improved plan as adopted by Brown: it is now the residence of Mrs. Masters his widow, upon whose death it will be the property of the earl of Torrington, Mr. Masters having left no legitimate issue.

The manor of Swanton-court to the westward of Yokes, followed the descent of that part of West or Little Peckham manor, which fell to the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, and, like it, is now possessed by lord Torrington. The house is used by a cottager, and is as mean as such dwellings usually are.

Fowkes, a manor, once an appendage to that of Watringbury, anciently belonged

to the abbey of St. Mary Grace, near the Tower in London. It is now the estate of Sir Charles Style, Bart., whose family have long enjoyed it.

Barons-place was owned by Sir Nicholas Pelham, of Cattsfield-place, in Sussex,

who passed it to Christopher Vane, lord Bernard; since that time it has descended with Shipborne and Fairlawne, until it now, with them, centres in D. Papillon, Esq.

Mereworth is within the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling. Its church, dedicated to St. Laurence, is a magnificent structure, consecrated August 26, 1746. It was built in the centre of the village by John earl of Westmorland, upon the model of the late church of St. Paul in Covent-garden, the design of which was by Inigo Jones. The steeple is fine, but unfortunately the stone of the upper part is sandy, and, though erected so lately, wants repairing. The east window is beautifully adorned with the finest painted glass brought from the old castle. A gallery is appropriated for the use of lord Le Despenser's family; the church has no pews, but seats like those upon the continent; the pillars are painted to represent marble: the interior is more gaudy than majestic. In a chapel at the west end are the remains of some of the earls of Westmorland, and with their wives and offspring were removed to that place when the old church was taken down. To the memory of one of them is a very elegant costly monument. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 14l. 2s. 6d. The owners of the castle have always been the patrons; the present incumbent is the Rev. Robert Style, A. M., third son of the late Sir Thomas Style, Bart., and uncle to the present Sir Charles Style, Bart.; he is also vicar of Watringbury, and is an active, judicious magistrate. The earl of Westmorland equally disliked the parsonage, or the church, so near the castle; he therefore took down the former, built an elegant structure at some distance, and exchanged other lands for the old glebe, part of which now encircles the parsonage-house, and has been laid out with great taste by Mr. Style, who is the first rector that ever resided in the new house.

We shall not quit this parish without observing that it is very healthy: in 1604 Martha Mills, widow, died, aged 102 years. In the Quarry-hills are still remaining some of the martin cats, like those of Hudson's Bay; and so late as queen Elizabeth's reign were wild swine in the Herst woods: the Weald anciently had many, from the quantity of pannage or food, chiefly acorns which fell from the oaks abounding in that district.

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Hundred of Twyford.

THIS hundred lies to the south of that of Littlefield: it was anciently called Tuiferde, as we see by Domesday-book, significant of the two fords, then over the branches of the Medway, a little above Yalding. It comprises the whole of the parishes of Nettlested, Watringbury, Teston, and West Farleigh; part of those of East Peckham, Yalding, and Hunton, all of whose churches are within it; and some part of the parishes of Brenchley, Capel, Marden, Pembury, and Tudeley, the churches of which being in other hundreds, beyond the prescribed bounds of this work, will not be noticed.

EAST PECKHAM.

SOUTH of Mereworth is East or Great Peckham, also within the Weald. A streamlet passes through this parish, rising near Yokes, and mixing with the Medway: upon the former is Brandt-bridge. The roads from Maidstone to Tunbridge lie through this Peckham, as does that through Watringbury to Nettlested.

This parish was given in 961 to Christ-church, in Canterbury, by queen Ediva, mother of the Anglo-Saxon monarchs Edmund and Edred, and free from all secular service, excepting trinoda necessitas, repelling invasions, and repairing castles and highways. At the partition of that monastery's lands with those of the see of Canterbury, by archbishop Lanfranc, this fell to the monks.

At the dissolution of abbies, Henry VIII. granted this manor to Sir Thomas Wyat the elder, in capite, by knight's service, who conveyed it to George Multon; but upon Sir Thomas Wyat's attainture it was reclaimed by the crown, as it had been limited to the heirs male of his father, who had neglected to levy a fine or recovery. Queen Mary gave it to Sir John Baker; from that time it went through various families, until it came to that of the Twisdens. Sir William-Jarvis Twisden, Bart., now enjoys the court-lodge and demesnes of the manor; but the manor has ever remained in the crown, except during the Usurpation, when it was granted to colonel Gibbon, who lost it at the Restoration. The present grantee is his grace

the duke of Leeds.

Roydon-hall, formerly named Fortune, was the seat of the Roydons, one of whose daughters and coheirs took it to the Twisdens; and Sir William-Jarvis

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Twisden, Bart., still possesses it, and resides in this ancient seat. The manors of Albans or Wimplingbury, generally called Auborne, with those of Eastmere and Spilsted, are now also held by Sir W. J. Twisden, Bart.

The manor of Black-pitts or Guildfords was united to that of Albans for some centuries, but at length by an heiress of the Stidulfes it came to the Fanes earls of Westmorland, and is now by the limitation of one of them vested in lord Le Despenser.

Hextall's-court was a place of much consequence in former ages; and took its name from a family originally of Hextall, in Staffordshire. In the reign of Richard II. Richard Hextall resided at this seat: his eldest son and heir dying without issue, it passed with Margaret, his younger daughter and coheir, to William Whetenhall, Esq., who died here at the latter end of Henry VI.'s reign. Margaret his widow was remarried to Henry Ferrers, Esq., seated at Hambleton, in Rutlandshire; he was second son of Thomas Ferrers, of Tamworth-castle, in Warwickshire, and, it may be presumed, resided here, as he was sheriff of this county in the ninth year of Edward IV. and third of Henry VII. At his death Hextall reverted to the son of her first husband, and Sir Edward Ferrers, her eldest son by her second marriage, settled at Baddesley-Clinton, in Warwickshire, ancestor of the antiquary of that name. That seat is still possessed by Edward Ferrers, Esq., the head of that ancient and once illustrious house, which has given earls to Derby, and has had so many barons of Groby. The windows at Baddesley, rich in emblazonry, exhibit the arms of the Hextalls with others, their marriages and descendants, from the time of the Norman conquest until the seventeenth century. One of the Hextalls disgavelled this estate by an act of parliament; from them it passed to John Fane earl of Westmorland, and is now the property of lord Le Despenser.

The borough of Stokenbury, mentioned in Domesday-book as the property of Ralph Fitz-Turold, held of the bishop of Bayeux, though in this parish, is within the manor of East Farleigh, to which quit-rents are paid, and a borsholder elected for it.

This parish is in the diocese of Rochester, but is a peculiar to the see of Canterbury, and as such included in the deanry of Shoreham. Its church, dedicated to St. Michael, is large, with a square tower, situate on the top of a hill at one end of the parish, and is close to Mereworth-park. The great tithes belonging to the priory

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of Christ-church, in Canterbury, came to the crown at the dissolution of that religious house, who gave it the newly erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, now patrons of the vicarage, which is valued in the king's books at 14l.; the present vicar is Thomas Viner, L. L. D., a prebendary of Canterbury. This parish contributed formerly to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge, as did that which is next in order of description, as well as some others.

WATRINGBURY.

NORTH-EAST from the last parish is Watringbury, in Domesday-book written Ostringaberia; in the Textus Roffensis, Wotringaberia: the derivation is supposed to have been from its situation, which is watery. It is nearly a square of a mile and quarter, and its population is estimated to be eighty-three families.

The village is very pleasant; the land good, though not so well planted as the adjoining ones. The Maidstone road to Tunbridge goes through this parish, and the Medway waters it. The springs are here extremely fine, and a stream rises near the seat of Sir Charles Style, upon which a considerable mill is erected, and gliding on, joins that river at Bow-bridge.

The hamlet of Pizein-well, so called from an owner of a well there, lies in the west part of the parish, and was known as a vill or borough. Lilly is another hamlet belonging to Watringbury, though five miles to the south of it, enclosed by those of Yalding, East Peckham, and Tudeley. The benevolent John Cole, of Horsmonden, Esq., now owns the greatest part of it; Lilly having been left him

by his uncle Alexander Courthorpe, Esq. In it is only one house.

"There was," says Mr. Hasted, "till of late years a singular, though a very ancient custom kept up, of electing a deputy to the dumb borsholder of Chart, as it was called, claiming liberty over fifteen houses in the precinct of Pizein-well, every householder of which was formerly obliged, to pay the keeper of this borsholder a penny yearly. This dumb borsholder was always first called at the court leet holden for the hundred of Twyford, when its keeper, who was yearly appointed by that court, held it up to his call, with a neckcloth or handkerchief put through the iron ring fixed at the top, and answered for it. This, borsholder of Chart, and the court leet, has been discontinued about sixty years;

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and the borsholder, who is put in by the quarter sessions for Watringbury, claims over the whole parish.

"This dumb borsholder was made of wood, about three feet and half an inch long, with an iron ring at the top, and four more by the sides near the bottom, where it had a square iron spike fixed, four inches and an half long, to fix it in the ground, or on occasion to break open doors, &c. which was used to be done, without a warrant of any justice, on suspicion of goods having been unlawfully come by, and concealed in any of these fifteen houses.

"It is not easy at this distance of time to ascertain the origin of this dumb officer. Perhaps it might have been made use of as a badge or ensign, by the officer of the market here. The last person who acted as deputy to it was one Thomas Clampard, a blacksmith, whose heirs have it now in their possession." A circumstance, so peculiarly whimsical, will excuse this extract.

Edward II. granted a market to this place, now long discontinued; tradition gives the spot upon which it was held to be Chart-garden, now a wood, near Pizein-well, on the south-west part of the parish, where remain foundations of walls and houses, and near it are several draw-wells.

Ralph Fitz-Turald and Hugo de Braiboue held it of the bishop of Bayeux in the reign of William the Conqueror; at this time it is mentioned by Domesday-book, that Leuric de Otringaberge was possessed of sac and soc for the lands he had in Aylesford; and this family of Otringberge or Watringbury continued to enjoy landed property here, but of the Meduanas, who held the fee of the king: from thence it went to the Leybornes, of Leyborne-castle, one of whom had a grant from Edward II. for a market to be held in this manor on Wednesdays, a fair on the feast of St. John the Baptist, and free warren in his lands comprised in it. Upon the failure of heirs of this family the estate escheated to the crown, where it remained until Richard II. granted it to the abbey of St. Mary Grace, near the Tower in London, which he had just founded for monks of the order of Cistertians; at the dissolution of which this manor was given by Henry VIII. to two private persons, from whom it has passed into various families until it came to the De la Hays: one of them conveyed the manor of Chart to the ancestor of Sir W. J. Twisden, Bart., who now holds it, and the manor of Watringbury to the Wilkinsons, who disposed of it to the Styles, and it is now the property of Sir Charles Style, Bart., with that of Fowkes.

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The seat of the Styles, called Watringbury-place, is a handsome, modern brick building, erected upon the scite of the ancient one, which had a moat, now filled up; its approach is peculiarly disagreeable. Some fine painted glass of the armorial bearings of the family and their alliances was destroyed in the great hail-storm, which we shall mention in a future page: the loss was, in some measure, supplied from Langley, in Beckenham; presented by the family who now enjoy that seat, once belonging to the other, and elder branch of the Styles. There are some good family portraits in Watringbury-place. The Styles are originally of Ipswich, in Suffolk: their great ancestor was a confidential minister to Henry VII., who employed him in several embassies, particularly to Naples. The portrait of this venerable person is still remaining, on board. His descendants were afterwards engaged in commerce, and were amongst the most considerable merchants in London, and their munificence to that city was very conspicuous.

Westbury manor was once the property of Peter Fitz Robert, who held it of Simon Fitz Adam, as the twentieth part of one knight's fee. Afterwards it came

to a family who called themselves by its name, which becoming extinct without issue, left it to a female relation, after which it came by sale to the Brownes, who in queen Elizabeth's reign sold it to an ancestor of Sir W. J. Twisden, Bart.

Canons-court is another manor borrowing its name from the prior and canons of Leeds, who long possessed it, by the gift of Simon Fitz Adam, and the confirmation of Bartholomew his son. At the dissolution of the monastery of Leeds, it was granted to the new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester; Sir Charles Style, Bart., is the present lessee under them. A court still continues to be held for this manor.

Pelicans was long the seat of a family of the name of Codd, who were gentlemen; the last of them, James Codd, Esq., died in 1708, whilst sheriff of this county: as he had no child, and left no will, his real estates were divided amongst several persons who claimed affinity to him. Pelicans went to Thomas Kirby, gentleman, as heir: at his death it came into the possession of a person of that name, who disposed of it to Mr. Brattle of this parish: his son is the present owner. The Rev. —— Gammon now resides in it.

Wardens was the seat of the Woods for a number of years, who, in the latter end of Charles II.'s reign, conveyed it to the Rev. William Burleston, rector of Warehorne, whose descendant disposed of it to Thomas Whitacre, of Trottes-

cliffe, gentleman: he left it to his second son John Whitacre, of Barming, Esq.; upon whose death without issue, it came, by entail, to his nephew, Thomas Whitacre, of Trottescliffe, Esq., and he now owns, and lately resided in it.

This parish has been peculiarly unfortunate in having the plague several times in the beginning of the last century; for in each of the years from 1601 to 1614 inclusive, many died of it, which reduced the population very much; it was worst in the year 1607, and fell chiefly upon particular families, some of whom lost four, and one, the Hosmers, five persons by this dreadful malady. Several who died of it were buried in orchards or fields near their houses; a practice probably customary in such times of fatality, when contact was so dangerous: this may account for finding human bones near dwellings, and make us cease to suspect violence.

Watringbury is not accounted unhealthy, though it was so unfortunate during these years, and two instances of longevity will serve to evince it: – Thomas Boothe was buried here March 24, 1562, whose age was 112 years; consequently he must have lived in the reigns of nine sovereigns – Henry VI., Edward IV., Richard III., Henry VII., Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth: and Henry Fiveash, aged 104 years, was buried July 24, 1677; he lived in the reigns of Elizabeth, James I., Charles I., during the Commonwealth, the protectorates of Oliver and Richard, and the reign of Charles II., and being eleven years old at the death of Boothe, he might have remembered him. To these two instances we might add a third, of a person who lately died, wanting but one year of an hundred.

This parish is within the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling. Its church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, stands at the west end of the village; it is an ancient structure without any beauty, but very neat within. Much money was spent upon it in the year 1745, and again very lately. The fine painted glass which the great hail-storm left has lately been very injudiciously taken away. The portraits of Edward III. and Philippa his queen, and the history of the decollation of St. John the Baptist, were particularly admired. There are some very good monuments of the baronet Style family; they have with great care erected the sculptured marble to the memory of their departed relations, with an attention that does them great credit, and is a duty too much neglected by the wealthy. In the church-yard is an elegant one placed over Sir Oliver Style, who died in 1702, with a long Latin

epitaph, commemorative of this singular circumstance, that whilst at Smyrna, the room he was in was swallowed up by an earthquake; the catastrophe happened whilst at dinner with a set of friends, all of whom were ingulphed alive, amongst them the object of his tenderest regard. He was then a merchant, but by the death of his elder brethren he succeeded to the estate and title, which he retained but a few months: he never married.

The church of Rochester has the great tithes, and the patronage of this vicarage, which is a discharged living of the clear yearly value of 48l.; it has been twice augmented by queen Anne's bounty. The Rev. Robert Style, A. M. rector of Mereworth, is now the incumbent; he has greatly improved the vicarage-house, which the Rev. George Charlton, one of his predecessors, nearly rebuilt. The garden is laid out with great taste. The Rev. William Forster, D. D. has taken a lease of, and now resides in it.

NETTLESTED.

THE parish of Nettlested lies on the south side of Watringbury; its name is written Nedested in Domesday-book. The Medway washes the left side; and the road branching from that of Maidstone to Tunbridge, goes through this parish, which is long and narrow, occupying the rising hill, or winding along the valley. It is rich in pasture. The hops in this district are not so abundant, but are supplied, in some measure, by the fineness of the corn, which covers the higher parts of it. Nettlested is more pleasing to the contemplative traveller, than to the gay and lively one; it is embosomed in spreading oaks and lofty elms, to which the habitation of man has within a century given place: there are now only three or four farm-houses, and not many more cottages.

Before the Norman conquest Godric held this place of Edward the Confessor; after that national misfortune it became a part of the rich possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under whom were Haimo and Adam, as also Rayner or Rannulf de Columbels, who had some property here, which in king Edward's reign had been the estate of Alnod Cilt, who had held it of that monarch.

At the disgrace of Odo the manors of Nettlested, Hylth, and Pimpe, fell to the illustrious family of Clare earls of Gloucester, under whom the Pimpes held them; they made Nettlested their chief residence, and from thence it was also

denominated Pimpe's-court; they had two other seats, one in East Farleigh, the other at Allhallows, in the hundred of Hoo; that in East Farleigh also was called Pimpe's-court.

The Pimpes remained here in great credit for many generations, often employed in the first offices of the county. Reginald and John Pimpes, Esquires, were engaged in the scheme of the duke of Buckingham, under whom we apprehend they held, to displace Richard III. in favour of Henry earl of Richmond; for which they were deprived of their estates; but fortunately escaping with their lives, and surviving that sanguinary usurper, they obtained their lands again from the prince in whose cause they had lost them. Reginald dying without issue male, Ann his daughter and heir took this estate to Sir John Scott, of Scott's-hall, by virtue of an act of parliament; but from some cause not assigned, John Pimpe, Esq., his relation, obtained, and died possessed of them in 1495, with other estates in this neighbourhood; all of which he held under the dutchess of Buckingham. Winifred, his sole daughter and heir, married to Sir John Rainsford, who left her a widow and lunatic; at her death without issue, in the 18th year of queen Elizabeth's reign, they came again into the family of Scott, Sir Thomas Scott, of Scott's-hall, obtaining them as her heir.

We seize this opportunity of giving the life of one, whose excellent character deserves peculiar attention: if Britain had many such, she might bid defiance to adepts in philosophy, and to all the illuminés that disgrace humanity, and shock our nature.

Sir Thomas Scott's immediate progenitors were Sir Raynold, Sir John, Sir William, and Sir John Scotts, knights. His mother was a daughter of Sir William Kempe: his descent therefore was extremely good, though not noble. He came to his estate incumbered with a debt of two thousand marks; but by attention to all his concerns, and appropriating every thing to its proper use, he was enabled to live with the greatest respectability, and perform the most important services to the queen his sovereign. He was made deputy lieutenant, and often a knight of the shire. In the county and in parliament he was ever attentive to his duty. As a magistrate he was wise, just, and indefatigable; he was "a father of Romney marsh;" the haven of Dover was contrived by him, and executed under his eye; nothing could exceed his assiduity in having it brought to perfection. His skill in whatever related to war was so great, especially horsemanship, that he was

fixed upon to govern the camp of Narbonne, where he acquired great commenda-

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tion. He was so active in the public service, that when the Spanish armada threatened our coasts, and the privy-council sent to him to raise what forces he could collect, he sent four thousand armed men, who reached Dover the next day. His hospitality was as extraordinary: he kept house at Scott's-hall thirty-eight years without intermission; he generally had a hundred persons in his house; but the resort of those who came from affection, duty, or business, was incredible. His Christmas's were beyond belief splendid; and yet notwithstanding his expenses at home, and still more those on behalf of the state, in the latter of which he was ever lavish, he increased his stock, his "stuff," his plate, was also a great builder, and at his death he did not owe five pounds. As he had no ambition or vain glory, the sycophant and flatterer never intruded themselves, where they were sure to meet reproof and contempt. He was religious without any pretence to extraordinary piety, for which reason he neither loved, nor was commended by the puritans. He could write well, as his essay upon the management of horses evinces: he said little, but when called upon he was eloquent as well as wise; and such was his hatred to litigation, that he never had any law-suit. Possessing such an exalted, and at the same time so amiable a character, it is no wonder that he had not a known enemy in England. As a testimony of the public esteem, the people of Ashford requested permission to bury him at their own expense, conditionally, that they might be permitted to retain his respected remains amongst them; but that being declined, he was interred in Braborne-church amongst his ancestors. He married thrice; his wives were of the families of Baker, Heyman, and Beere; he had no issue by the two last: by the first, who was sister to lady Buckhurst, he had seventeen children. His widow resided at Dartford, where she was born, and with the same hospitality she had seen at Scott's-hall. His eldest son inherited that seat; his second son, Sir John Scott, knighted in the field, in his life-time, possessed Pimpe's-court, in Nettlested; his third son was slain in his sovereign's service: all his other children were virtuous. One of his daughters married a knight of great reputation, and the others "matched to gentlemen of very good worship and credit." Such was Sir Thomas Scott, who died December 30, 1594, aged fifty-nine years: nor can any one be surprised to learn that he was "as much missed and moaned as any that died in Kent these hundred years." His justly acquired reputation was the reward of his fidelity to God, his sovereign, and his country. He was enabled to support his munificence in private life from superintending his affairs, and having

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no waste made in his house. It was remarked, that "at his table he would have neither want nor superfluity." – May God raise up such characters amongst us to stem that inundation of impiety, disloyalty, and turbulence which threatens us with ruin; that debauchery, idleness, and extravagance, which render us at once ridiculous and contemptible.

Sir John Scott, second son of Sir Thomas, settled at this place, which he is supposed greatly to have improved; however, the additions appear to be chiefly made by his father, because he was "a great builder," and on a stone portal in the west front is the date 1587. This ancient residence was a large stone edifice, with fine Gothic windows; the grand entrance to it from the river is now, or lately was, standing; its gardens and fish-ponds remain. The small ruin of this once pleasing mansion serves for a cottager's dwelling, and as an hoast for drying hops: such are the vicissitudes of places, as well as of families. There is a neat modern farm-house, in which the occupier of the manerial farm lives: it is built between the old seat and the church.

This knight had two wives, whose monuments are in the church; but leaving no issue by either of them, this estate came to his brother Edward Scott, of Scott's-hall, Esq., whose descendants disposed of the manors of Nettlested, Hilthe, and Pimpe, with the mansion and advowson of the church, by virtue of an act of parliament, to Sir Philip Boteler, of Teston, Bart., whose son Sir Philip devising one moiety of his estates to Mrs. Bouverie, and the other to Elizabeth viscountess dowager Folkstone, and William earl of Radnor, the whole of the property in Nettlested fell to Mrs. Bouverie in the division.

Lomewood or Laysers, also heretofore called Bromes, is a manor anciently pos-

sessed by the Clares earls of Gloucester, one of whom gave it to the priory of black canons, in Tunbridge. Cardinal Wolsey obtained it to endow his new-erected colleges; but upon his disgrace, Henry VIII. granted it, by the name of Lomewood alias Le Bromys, to Sir Edward Nevil, third son of George lord Abergavenny, who gave it to George Roydon, Esq., partly in consideration of a sum of money, and partly as a marriage portion with Catharine his daughter: in this conveyance it is called cardinal's lands of Bromes, in Lomewood. The issue of this marriage was five daughters and coheirs; Elizabeth, the second of whom, took this manor to the ancestor of Sir W. J. Twisden, Bart.

This parish is in the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling. Its church

is dedicated to St. Mary, and being upon the hill that fronts one part of the valley, makes a very pleasing object. It is an elegant, small, Gothic building, but unfortunately its spire is low; within it is finely adorned with painted glass, and though much of it was broken by the great hail-storm, yet in what remains besides the arms of the Pimpes and their alliances, are many curious compartments upon other subjects, religious or historical: some of these are very finely executed. The sun or star, and the open fetter-lock, two of Edward IV.'s favourite badges or cognizances, frequently appear, which ascertain the time when they were put there, and prove that the Pimpes were Yorkists, though they united to depose Richard III.; but his crimes made him justly odious to all, and the friends of the white rose supposed that by raising the daughter of their favourite sovereign Edward IV. to the crown jointly with Henry earl of Richmond, they were not deserting that interest, little suspecting that Henry would affect the conqueror, or plead any hereditable right. The church and chancel have, within the last year or two, been repaired and beautified at the expense of the rector and his parishioners, in a manner that does them the greatest credit. The rectory in the king's books is valued at 12l. 10s. 10d.; in which sum is included the chapelry of Barmingjett, to which the rector of Nettlested is instituted, though the tithes are not paid to him. The patronage has ever been an appendant upon the manor. The present incumbent is the Rev. James Kennedy, also vicar of Teston. The parsonage-house, long deserted, is in part ruinous, though much improved by Mr. Kennedy; the out-buildings are very large, and indeed cumbrous: the glebe is forty acres, lying within a ring fence; it is finely situated for cultivation. Nettlested is also one of those parishes which anciently was obliged to contribute towards the fifth arch of Rochester bridge.

TESTON.

THE parish of Teston is east of Watringbury, to which it adjoins; Domesday-book calls it Testan; the Textus Roffensis, Terstana: it is now invariably called Teeson. It is a borough, with a court leet belonging to it, and elects a borsholder, being exempt from the jurisdiction of the court leet of Twyford hundred; yet here may be chosen a constable for that hundred.

The parish is very small, and gently rises from the banks of the Medway, the seat of Mrs. Bouverie lying nearly half way up; it is in the highest state of culti-

vation, and both by nature and art is the most beautiful spot in the county for its size. The great road from Maidstone to Tunbridge lies through it, and the roads to Ofham and Town Malling lead from it to the right, and another to Cocks-heath, Yalding, and the Weald, goes to the left. There is a fine bridge over the Medway, which, though of seven arches, is often overflowed; but the wonder ceases when we learn that the Medway sometimes rises eighteen feet above its usual height in twenty-four hours, and will fall as suddenly.

By Domesday-book we learn, that a Saxon named Edward held Teston under the Confessor, and Adeold under Odo: Robert farmed it at that time as tenant to Adeold. The Crevequers obtained it afterwards from the Conqueror, upon the bishop of Bayeux's deprivation; they held it in capite, as a member of the manor of Chatham, which was held of the sovereign in capite, by barony: the Crevequers joining the rebel barons, it came by attainture to the crown, where it remained until Eleanor, the queen of Edward I., received it from her royal consort: she exchanged it with the priory of Christ-church, in Canterbury, for the port of Sandwich; Edward confirmed the grant, and king Edward his son gave the prior free

warren. The possession remained in that religious house until its dissolution by Henry VIII.

That monarch gave Teston to Sir Thomas Wyat to hold in capite: his son Sir Thomas lost it and his life for his rebellion against queen Mary, who gave it to her attorney-general, Sir John Baker, whose descendants sold it, during the Usurpation, to Mr. Jasper Cleyton, of London; he, in the reign of Charles II., disposed of it to Sir Oliver Boteler, of Barham-court, in this parish, Bart. In the division of the estates of his grandson Sir Philip Boteler, this fell to the share of Mrs. Bouverie, who now resides here, diffusing happiness to all around by her very extensive liberality, and whose private and unknown charities far exceed, it is believed, those which cannot be concealed.

It would be inexcusable to pass over this most delightful seat without being more particular. It had formerly the name of Berham or Barham-court, from its having long been the residence of a family of that name, the heiress of which carried it to the Botelers in the reign of James I., when they came hither from Sharnbrooke, in the county of Bedford. It was here that the rebels in Charles I.'s reign wreaked their vengeance upon that virtuous character Sir William Boteler, by plundering his house and destroying his property, though they had for his supposed

crime made him give 20,000l. bail, when they released him from the Fleet prison: – the reader will feel a suitable indignation when he learns that the whole of Sir William's "delinquency" was having, in 1642, joined with many of the neighbouring gentry to petition the house of commons to listen to a peace with their sovereign, which was delivered by captain Richard Lovelace. Dr. Bruno Ryves has given the whole of this shocking tale, which was closed by this loyal baronet's taking up arms in behalf of his sovereign, and dying at the skirmish of Cropredy-bridge, in 1644, displaying as much courage there as he had firmness in the senate. His descendants constantly resided here, and the last Sir Philip Boteler expended great sums in improving the seat, the name of which he changed from Barham-court to that of Teston-house, which it still retains: he also procured leave to take the turnpike-road lower down, so as to leave a lawn from the house. He died here in the year 1772, very deservedly esteemed and lamented. Mrs. Bouverie has likewise much improved and enlarged this her favourite seat, and laid out the grounds with uncommon taste. The house is a large stuccoed edifice; an elegant plainness both without and within is conspicuously visible: the gardens are numerous and extensive: the plantations around it in every direction are equally judicious, and all unite profit with beauty. The farm, as well as the park, under the superintendance of Sir Charles Middleton, Bart., the friend of Mrs. Bouverie, are such as exceed any thing to be seen not only in this, but in any other part of the kingdom. It ought to be the model for every gentleman who has a plantation farm. A greater contrast cannot be, than these and the adjoining lands.

Teston is in the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling. Its church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, was enlarged by the last Sir Philip Boteler, before which it was the smallest parochial one in England. The body of the old edifice looks like a second chancel; with this addition, it is but a very small room, and scarce large enough to contain the inhabitants, so greatly is population increased under two such benevolent owners of the estate, as the late and present possessor. It is singular, that though so many of the Botelers are buried within the church, there is not so much as one sepulchral inscription to their memories, nor indeed to that of any other. We mention this, because Mr. Hasted, though so laborious a writer, has been misled in this instance.

The Crevequer family gave the great tithes of this parish to the priory of Leeds in the year 1119, with sixteen acres of land; but in Stephen's reign the prior and

canons were invested with the parsonage, and the latter were afterwards canonically inducted to it: the priory therefore endowed the vicarage with the great tithes, reserving only a pension of twenty shillings; which pension, at the dissolution of that religious house, coming into the royal hands, Henry VIII. gave it to his newly-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, who still receive it. The crown however retained the parsonage and advowson of the vicarage, until Charles I. granted them to Sir William Boteler, and they have ever since gone with the manor. This pre-

ferment is a discharged living, and is valued in the king's books at 47l. It being a vicarage endowed, the vicar receives the great as well as the small tithes. The present vicar is the Rev. James Kennedy, also rector of Nettlested, as have been the four preceding incumbents, who have all resided at Teston; the last was that worthy benevolent man, the Rev. James Ramsey, at whose house died the pious Mr. La Trobe.

WEST FARLEIGH.

WE now cross the Medway to the pleasant parish of West Farleigh; called Forlega in Domesday-book, and Fearnlega in the Textus Roffensis; we think its name is derived from fare, a passage, and lega, place.

The borough of West Farleigh choose a borsholder at their own court leet, and owe no service to that of the hundred, yet a constable may be elected from that hundred out of this borough. One part of the parish is holden of Newington manor, near Sittingborne, in free socage tenure, but at different yearly rents.

There are few districts more pleasingly situated than this of West Farleigh: it rises on the south side gradually from the Medway; the houses prettily detached, with a verdant sweep down to the river, communicating with the opposite bank by three bridges, St. Helens, Barnjett, and Teston. It is rich in plantations of every kind, and has for several centuries been the residence of gentry.

The manor of West Farleigh underwent the same fate as that of Teston, until the Baker family disposed of it to Mr. Robert Newton, of London, grocer, who alienated it to Augustine Hodges, gent.; he disposed of it in the reign of Charles II. to John Amhurst, of East Farleigh lodge, Esq., who devised it to his brother, Nicholas Amhurst, of West Barming, gent.; whence it came to Stephen Amhurst, gent., who built here a brick house for his own residence,

near the lodge, which, with the estate, he left to a younger son, Stephen Amhurst, gent., who now owns it.

Smith's-hall is an ancient seat, long possessed by the De Brewers, so called from Brewer's-place, in Mereworth, from whence they came: branches of them were settled at Boxley, Ditton, and Malling. The last possessor of this name at Smith's-hall, was John Brewer, Esq., who, dying in 1724, left this seat and estate to Jane, his only child: she having no issue by either of her husbands, John Carney, Esq., or John Shrimpton, Esq., devised them to her relation, the Rev. John Davis, D. D. rector of Hamsey, in Sussex, whose son, Sir John Davis, Knt., sold this estate, in 1774, to William-Philip Perrin, Esq. The seat is red brick, too long and low to be handsome; but there is an intention of altering, or rebuilding it. Here are some portraits of the Brewer family stipulated to be left hanging in the principal rooms; a vanity that neither the privacy of that family, which never gave any public characters, nor the execution of the paintings, could justify.

Totesham-hall, generally called Tutsham, gave name to the De Toteshams, who owned this seat and manor, until in the reign of Henry VIII. Anthony Totesham, Esq., disposed of this estate, with Henhurst, to Thomas Chapman, gent., one of the grooms of that monarch's chamber. It went by purchase to the Colepeper family, who disposed of it soon after to John Laurence, Esq., captain of Tilbury fort. From this family it went by sale to Augustine Skynner, Esq., whose son Augustine Skynner, Esq., was one of the commissioners appointed to sit in that nefarious tribunal called the high court of justice, erected to try their sovereign Charles I.; Mr. Skynner however had virtue sufficient to decline that infamous business. We find by Mr. Noble's Lives of the Regicides, &c. that this gentleman survived the Restoration, and died in the Fleet prison. His misfortunes were chiefly owing to his having, with borrowed money, purchased the manor of Trotiscliffe, and some other episcopal estates belonging to the see of Rochester, which he lost at the restoration of Charles II. After his death in 1672 his heirs sold Totesham-hall to the Goulstons, who made it their residence; one of them sold it to Sir Philip Boteler, Bart., at the division of whose estates this was allotted to Mrs. Bouverie; and the seat, after having been a lodging-house, was at length taken down, to the irreparable loss of the neighbouring scenery: it was, from its fine situation upon the banks of the Medway, the great plenty of water bursting forth in many parts, with the rapid Ewell stream, a spot which was every way appropriated for

the residence of a gentleman who could direct its various beauties to form a complete whole; but now an oil-mill has just been erected upon a beautiful part of this estate of Totesham.

This parish is in the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling. Its church, dedicated to All Saints, is a small edifice: the foundation of an older structure is visible, when graves are made at the west end, so that the present church is either not so large, or is built more to the east than the original one; it is very neat within, and adorned with elegant marble monuments: there are some beautiful yew trees in the cemetery. The rectory was given to Leeds priory by Robert de Crevequer, and at the dissolution of the monastic institutions to the dean and chapter of Rochester, which present to the vicarage: it is valued in the king's books at 6l. 10s. 5d. The Rev. Thomas-Weeks Dalby, A. M., also vicar of Chippenham, in Wiltshire, and chaplain to the bishop of Exeter, is the present incumbent. He has greatly improved the vicarage-house and lands: it is a very charming spot; from the garden is seen Mereworth-castle and spire, the church of Watringbury, the village of Teston, with the church; and Mrs. Bouverie's grand mansion lies exactly opposite to it, producing a scenery seldom equalled.

The cyclamen Europaeum, sowbread, grows wild in the woods of West Farleigh, though some of our greatest naturalists thought it was not to be found in Britain: the aristolochia clematalis, climbing birthwort, is also seen in the woods between here and Maidstone.

HUNTON.

TO the south of the last parish lies Hunton, anciently Huntington, a small part of which being the old demesne of Aylesford is accounted in the hundred of Larkfield, and another small part in that of Maidstone; the borough of Hunton claims the remainder, which is vested with the same powers relative to its court leet, as that of the last parish. This is within the Weald; the scenery is fine, but too crowded with timber in the hedge-rows to be so advantageous to the farmer as those parishes last mentioned. The plantations of hops are large, but the greatest part is pasture and tillage. It is too wet in winter, and too much scorched by the summer's sun to be so agreeable as that part of Kent which lies above the hill: the traveller experiences the badness of the roads in winter, and is annoyed

by an infinity of flies from the spreading foliage which overhangs them in the hot months. A stream runs through this parish, strengthening as it flows by the union of smaller ones coming from the higher grounds, which passing on, joins the Medway in Yalding.

Huntington, or Hunton manor, belonged anciently to the monastery of Christchurch, in Canterbury; it then went to the primates of Canterbury, who granted it to the Lenhams to hold of them by knight's service. This family also obtained the manor of Benstede, at the Conquest written Benedestede, and which had belonged to Odo bishop of Bayeux, and the Crevequers, who are supposed to have afterwards taken the name of Benstede. These manors were long united in the same families: by a female they passed to the Gyffords, and by them were sold to the Clintons, who owned them until Edward lord Clinton disposed of them to Sir Thomas Wyat; he lost them by attainture. Queen Mary gave them to Sir John Baker, her attorney-general, to hold in capite by knight's service: his descendant disposed of them in the reign of Charles II. to Mr. Clarke, of Boughton, who devised Hunton manor to Mr. Thomas Turner for life, remainder to his own brother, who purchasing the reversion, gave them by will to his nephew Thomas Turner, gent., who now owns and resides in the seat, which is near the church. He holds a court baron for this manor.

Benstede or Bensteddle, the name it has now acquired, was bought by the Bartholomews of Mr. Clarke, and by them left to Sir William Geary, Bart., who also enjoys other estates in Hunton: the lodge or manor-house is become, by length of time, a very small, mean building; but the marks of its former greatness remain in its moat and some scattered relics of foundations, and evince that it was a suitable habitation for even the Clintons, one of whose monuments still remains in the south chancel.

Burston, anciently Buston, Buricestune, or Burregicestune, is a manor which gave name to a family, who long enjoyed it; one of them, leasing it for a term to

Mr. Head, an opulent tradesman and alderman of London, he very much enlarged and improved it. In queen Elizabeth's reign it was disposed of by the Burstons, to the Fane family. Sir Thomas Fane the purchaser resided here; became lieutenant of Dover-castle, and dying without issue in 1606, devised this seat to his nephew Sir George Fane, the second son of Sir Thomas Fane, by Mary baroness Le Despenser, and brother of Francis earl of Westmorland. Colonel Thomas Fane,

his eldest son, succeeded him; a gentleman of great abilities, and still greater integrity, having been loyal to his prince, and faithful to his country, in the worst of times, vigorously asserting the cause of religion and the laws; thrice unanimously returned a member of parliament for Maidstone, against the restless designs of popery and arbitrary power, charitable to his poor neighbours, and no less bountiful and liberal to his servants, a remarkable instance of which he gave at his death: this valuable man died September 5, 1692, in the sixty-sixth year of his age, and was buried in Hunton church, where, against the south wall, is his monument, from whence is copied what we believe to have been his true character; his bust in white marble upon it is a good piece of sculpture. He left this estate to Mildmay Fane, Esq., the seventh and youngest son of Vere earl of Westmorland, who was not more than two years of age, being desirous that this estate should never go with the title of Westmorland; but, like all other such distant projects, his intentions were defeated by this gentleman, who resided at Mereworth-castle, dying in 1715 unmarried, when the whole of his landed property became possessed successively by Thomas and John his brothers, earls of Westmorland; by the will of the latter this estate is now vested in lord Le Despenser.

This seat commands an extensive view over the Weald; the right wing is of brick, ornamented with stone, the architecture of the sixteenth century; the other parts are more modern. The park, enclosed about the time of James I., now cultivated land, with the seat, is occupied by Mr. Skudder, a respectable yeoman; the mansion is falling fast to ruin.

Jennings is a handsome house built near the parsonage, by Sir Walter Roberts, of Glassenbury, in this county, Bart., upon the scite of an ancient one, which, with some land also purchased of a person of the name of Snatt, he left in 1745 to his two daughters, his coheirs, one of whom dying in France, young and unmarried, the other became possessed of this seat, which procured her the splendid misery of being wife to George duke of St. Alban's, so well remembered for his vices and weakness; he gained her affections whilst on a visit at Sir Philip Boteler's, at Teston-house, by flattering her that she should have the most superb equipage of any lady in England; forgetting the promise she had made to Sir Philip and lady Boteler not to listen to his addresses, they having humanely cautioned her against his attack by showing the profligacy of his character. Miss Roberts became a dutchess, and the most unhappy of women – she soon gave place to the lowest female in her house.

Some little time before her death, a gentleman hearing her grace mention her sister, observed that her dying young was a fortunate event; she replied, "By no means, Sir: if she had lived I should not have been an object to gratify avarice, nor a dupe to grandeur." – She chose Jennings for the place of her retirement, and here her sorrows were closed by death in 1778, without having been a mother. Happily part of her property was at her own disposal; much of it she devised to a gentleman of her own name, distantly related to her, who resided in Ireland; Jennings she left to her friend Miss Davies, who, after the duke's death in great distress upon the continent, disposed of it to the lady dowager Twisden, who resides here, dispensing her very ample fortune in acts of benevolence.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary; it is in the diocese of Rochester, a peculiar of the metropolitan's, and consequently in the deanry of Shoreham. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 16l. 13s. 11/2d.: the patron is the primate of Canterbury; but the present rector, the Right Hon. and Rev. lord George Murray, third son of his grace John late duke of Athol, was presented by the crown upon the promotion of the former incumbent, the Right Rev. Dr. Beilby Porteus, bishop of Chester, to the see of London; both of whom have greatly improved the rectorial residence. The above pious and learned prelate spent his summers at Hunton, diffusing good to all who wanted his fostering care, and countenancing the neighbouring

clergy, whom he entertained with that urbanity, gentleness, and condescension that so conspicuously mark his character. It is singular that there are now living two clergymen, who have been rectors of this parish – Dr. Fowel, who resigned it for Bishopsborne; and the bishop of London. Hunton has been long famed for the peculiar respectability of her clergy. Amongst these were the learned and unfortunate Theophilus Higgons, A. M., who succeeded Anthony Pawle or Paule; Mr. Higgons had been perverted to popery, but was reclaimed by Dr. Morton, then dean of Winchester: he was ejected by the fanatics, and died before the Restoration, when it was given to Mr. George Latham, ejected by the Bartholomew act.

The church is a very large, ancient building; in it are many monuments of the Clintons, Fanes, Hatleys, and others: Philipott mentions the effigies of two of the lords Clintons in one of the windows, but there are now no remains of them. In the church-yard are many tombs of the Foots, Snatts, and Beestons. In the church are two grave-stones, upon each of which is an heart inscribed I. H. C.

We shall quit this parish with observing, that in 1683 was found, in enlarging a pond, a stratum of shells called conchites, though so far from any river; and on Midsummer-day 1746, happened the greatest storm of thunder and lightning, wind and rain, that had ever been known, and which was only exceeded by that which fell in the year 1763.

YALDING.

THE parish of Yalding lies in the Weald, and is to the north-west of Hunton; it was written Ealding in former times, a name significant of an ancient meadow or low ground. It is chiefly in the hundred of Twyford, but the borough of Rugmerhill is part of the old demesne of Aylesford. One part of the parish holds of the manor, and is in the borough of West Farleigh: the other is held of the manor, and is in the borough of Hunton: each has its own borsholder, chosen at their respective leets, and are exempt from the jurisdiction of the hundred of Twyford, though its constable may be chosen out of either of these boroughs.

It is a long narrow district, much interfered by the different branches of the Medway, one of which is called the Twist. Upon two of the larger streams of the river is situated the town of Yalding, which is a long dreary place: it has a narrow stone bridge over it, and there are two others also in the parish called Twyford and Brant bridges; besides the main road passing from Teston bridge through West Farleigh towards the southern part of the county, there are others of less consequence leading to the east and west. As the river is made navigable to this place, barges take in timber, great guns, and bullets, for Chatham and Sheerness docks, London, and other places, and return with such different articles as there are demands for: much coke is made, and sent from this place for drying hops.

Yalding is one of those parishes profitable to the farmer, but not pleasant as a residence: in the north parts it is rich in plantations, in arable and pasture lands, but cold and wet, and to the southward becomes poor and sterile. Though a most populous parish, yet it is allowed to be unwholesome, and suffered very greatly from the plague, which broke out in the years 1590, 1603, 1604, 1608, 1609, and 1666: most died in 1609; it chiefly fell upon particular families, ninety-two persons dying of it in that year. It appears that the plague was first brought to Yalding by children sent from London to be nursed, and though they must be sensible

of the danger, it did not prevent their repeatedly suffering from the same cause. It was an article of profit to so many, that they would not discontinue the practice, though at the risk of their own and their neighbours' safety: many of these unfortunate children were buried here. It is extraordinary that so damp and unhealthy a place should have been fixed upon for the reception of them, when so many every way eligible were near.

The manor of Yalding was given to Richard de Tonebridge, whose descendants, the Clares, took it to Hugh de Audeley, jun., who held it of Edward II. in capite, and obtained a grant of a weekly market, and a yearly fair to continue three days, on the vigil of the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, and the day subsequent to it. The fairs are now held on Whit-Monday and October 15th. Margaret his only daugh-

ter took this manor to the Staffords, on whose attainture, Henry VIII. gave it to Henry duke of Somerset, who alienated it to the barons Abergavenny; after several descents it went to Isaac, and he conveyed it to Freers, who sold it to the Brewers of Smith's-hall; the heiress of that family devised it to Dr. Davis, whose son, Sir John Davis, disposed of it to W. P. Perrin, Esq., and he exchanged it for some lands lying near his seat of Smith's-hall, with Mrs. Bouverie, in whom the manor now vests, and she holds a court baron for it.

Woodfolde manor is about a mile to the south-east of Brant bridge. It was a joint property in the reign of Edward II.; at length it settled in the Lodnefords, who passed it away to the Burtons, and they to the Fanes in Henry VIII.'s reign, and with their other estates in the neighbourhood, has settled in the person of lord Le Despenser.

Lodingford or Bermondsey is half a mile to the east of the last manor: the Bermondseys, who gave it the latter name, held it under the Clares earls of Gloucester: in the reign of Henry VIII. it was owned by the Woods, who sold it to the Fanes; they to the Austens, and Mrs. Austen devising the manor to Mary, the daughter of Mr. Piggott, of Cambridge, she took it in marriage to the Rev. William Forster, D. D. who holds a court manor.

Jennings-court manor is subordinate to that of Pippingheath; it lies in this and the parishes of Nettlested and West Barming. It has gone through the families of Huntingdon, Knot, and Atwood, which last held it partly in capite, and partly under the dukes of Buckingham; it has long been granted to Brazen Nose

college, in Oxford; Sir John-Gregory Shaw, Bart., is the present lessee. A court baron continues to be held for this manor.

Bokingfold manor is of very great extent, spreading over part of the parishes of Brenchley, Horsmonden, Marden, and Goudhurst: it had a free chapel, and a park or forest; only one house belonging to it stands in Yalding, which is accounted the mansion or lodge, though not on the scite of the more ancient one. The Crevequers held it of the manor of Chatham, until it was forfeited by them for treason in the barons' wars, when it rested in the crown, until granted, with its chapel, to Bartholomew de Badlesmere, at the yearly rent of 25l. payable in the exchequer; but there arising some demur about the right to the advowson, which the prior of Leeds claimed by a gift from Hamo de Crevequer; it occasioued an inspection into the right, when the king thought his claim so undoubted, that, upon an exchange six years afterwards between him and this gentleman of some other estates, another grant and confirmation was given of this manor and chapel, to hold by socage. The tenure was singular; he was to pay a pair of clove gilliflowers, by the hand of the sheriff; but though he obtained for these and other estates free warren, with various liberties and privileges, yet departing from his allegiance and joining the enemies of his beneficent sovereign, like many of the conspirators, he expiated his guilt upon the scaffold.

This seat had the honour to receive Edward II. when he left London, with an intention of visiting France, to perform his homage for the dutchy of Aquitaine. That wise, faithful, and munificent prelate Hamo Noble bishop of Rochester, and the king's confessor, sent both wine and grapes from his vineyard at Halling for his royal master's table. The king whilst here discovering that many persons had illegally hunted in this forest or park of Bokingfold, commanded that the culprits should be prosecuted.

The manor and advowson of the chapel were soon after granted by this monarch to Thomas de Camvill, to hold by the same tenure; upon his death Edward III. confirmed them to Giles, son of Bartholomew de Badlesmere, whose four sisters became his coheirs; upon the division of his landed property, these estates were separated into two parts: the manor and fifty acres of wood went to Maud the eldest of the sisters, who was married to John de Vere earl of Oxford: and another fifty acres went to Margaret the youngest sister, wife of John de Tibetote.

Upon the death of John earl of Oxford, it was enjoyed by his widow during

the lifetime of Thomas earl of Oxford their son, and also during that of his grandson, Robert earl of Oxford, created duke of Ireland, the unworthy and unfortunate favourite of his still more unfortunate sovereign Richard II.: after the violent

death of this imprudent nobleman, the remainder was given to Thomas of Woodstock duke of Gloucester, the king's uncle, to hold in capite. This great prince soon after conveyed them to the college he had founded at Pleshy in Essex, and which the master and priests obtained at the death of the countess dowager of Oxford, and held both the manor and advowson until the dissolution of the college, when Henry VIII. gave it to Sir John Gates, a gentleman of his privy chamber, who, in the reign of Edward VI., obtained an act to disgavel his lands. This sacrilegious plunderer of churches, and destroyer of monuments, fell beneath the axe for joining the ambitious Dudley duke of Northumberland, in his attempt to place lady Jane Grey upon the throne.

Queen Mary in the same year gave Bockingfield, with its appendages, except the advowson of the chapel, to Susan Tong alias Clarenceux, first lady of her bedchamber, widow of Thomas Tong, Esq., Clarenceux king at arms, to hold in capite; she, in the third year of that reign, disposed of it to Thomas Colepeper, of Bedgbury, Esq. His son, Alexander Colepeper, Esq., alienated that part of this manor which was in Goudhurst to Sharpeigh; and the other part which was in Yalding, Brenchley, Marden, and Horsmonden, to Roger Revell. The chapel remained in the crown until queen Elizabeth gave it to Richard Tilden, of Brenchley.

Revell's part of the manor was conveyed by him to Benedict Barnham, citizen and alderman of London, upon whose death, in 1598, it came in the division of his estates to Bridget his youngest daughter, married to Sir William Soame, who sold it, in the commencement of the reign of Charles I., to Mr. George Browne, of Buckland, in Surry, a relation of Mr. Tilden, who had obtained the chapel; he, in 1685, alienated it to his brother Ambrose Browne, of Buckland, Esq.; he disposed of it to Mr. William Woodgate, of Chidingstone, whose great grandson, William Woodgate, of Somer-hill, in Tunbridge, Esq., now possesses it.

The court-lodge of the manor of Yalding, with its demesne lands, has been for a number of years separated from the manor itself; and it is now the property of William Plumer, Esq., who resides in the county of Hertford, for which he is one of the representatives in parliament.

Henhurst is an estate that gave name to a family so early as the reign of Edward II., at which time Gilbert de Henhurst held half a knight's fee in Henhurst of the Clares earls of Gloucester; and Richard Totesham, Henry Gervas, and John de Sandherst, paid respective aid for it in the next reign. The Toteshams, of Totesham-hall, in West Farleigh, obtained the whole, and afterwards it followed the descent of that seat, going from them to the Chapmans, Colepepers, Laurences, Skinners, Gouldstones, Botelers, and is now held by Mrs. Bouverie, of Teston.

Kenwards is another estate which the late Sir Philip Boteler, Bart., purchased of Sir Thomas Twisden, of Bradburn, Bart., and dame Ann his wife, and came, after Sir Philip's death in the same manner as Teston, and the other estates near it, to Mrs. Bouverie.

Trendherst-denn is a district which, though in Yalding, is within the manor of Gillingham, near Rochester.

Yalding is in Rochester diocese, and the deanry of Malling. Its church is a large Gothic structure, consisting of a nave and two aisles, a large chancel, and at the west end a square tower. The great tithes with the advowson belonged to the priory of Tunbridge, until its suppression by parliament, to endow cardinal Wolsey's college at Oxford: after his fall they remained in the crown until queen Elizabeth granted them upon a lease, and James I. in perpetuity. It is now the property of several families, but not in equal shares. The rectory pays a yearly fee-farm rent of 30l. to the crown. It is valued in the king's books at 20l. 18s. 9d. The rectory has one, and the vicarage another manor. The vicar is the Rev. Richard Warde: the Rev. John Warde the late incumbent, son of Mr. Thomas Warde, whose turn it was to present, built a very handsome commodious vicarage-house.

In the year 1757 was taken, in that part of the Medway which runs through this parish, an eel whose length was five feet nine inches, and eighteen in girth, weighing more than forty pounds: the Medway is remarkable for eels; they are numerous and often very large, but inferior in flavour to those in many other rivers.

THIS hundred once included the town and parish of Maidstone; but as they are now a separate jurisdiction, they will be particularized in a future page. The parishes now comprised in the hundred are Boxley, Detling, Loose, Linton, East

Farleigh, East Barming and West Barming, Barmingjet or Barnjett, and a part of those of Hunton, Bersted, Marden, and Staplehurst: the four last named are out of the distance prescribed by this work. The hundred owned the primate of Canterbury for its lord in the thirteenth century; the present one is lord Romney.

Previous to the description of the town of Maidstone, it will be pleasing to survey the beautiful scenery and rich productions of that parish and its environs. Maidstone stands in a fruitful vale: the rag-stone hill to the south, and the barren chalk hill on the north, forming a striking contrast; the one most highly cultivated, the other with only small detached pieces yielding any thing except a thin herbage, which even sheep do not graze: the sameness of it is broken here and there by chalk-pits and brush-wood.

The river Medway divides the valley; it is of unequal depth, and muddy; but at this place of a good breadth, and receives the tides: the winding course is charming to the traveller, who skirts its beautiful banks, which are constantly varied in their productions; rich meadows, hanging woods planted upon land, once excavated for stone, a few quarries still open, with some orchards of apples or cherries, and sometimes plantations of hops down to the water's edge: farther from Maidstone towards Tunbridge, fine spreading timber, particularly the pride of Britain, oaks of the largest size, adorn the landscape. The extremity of the banks is beautifully fringed by a vast variety of low shrubs and flowers of the liveliest hue. The tanacetum, or garden tansey, is in great profusion in Maidstone, Barming, and Teston: the lysamachia, or willow weed, is seen a little higher up in the last of these parishes; and the creeping periwinkle, with almost perpetual flowers, at the foot of the trees: the greater mullein presents its singularly elegant and stately appearance; it generally loves a higher and drier situation. The bryony fantastically festoons the hanging woods, and enlivens them with its scarlet berries; and as the peripatetic wanders along, he is often arrested by the bubbling spring or the gurgling rill that runs beneath his feet, and falls into the river. He will often see, and oftener hear the pheasant, handsomest of our native birds – the brilliant woodpecker, the kingfisher, whose painted plumage is still more exquisitely fine; the blackbird, thrush, and nightingale warble forth "their wood-notes wild" in the utmost profusion. If the traveller looks to the water, other pleasures await him; the leaping fish leaving behind the mazy, circling waves; diverging from its centre, the dashing water falling over its tumbling bays; barges sailing or hauled along, loaded with timber,

hops, stone, chalk, lime, coal, coke, bricks, fine white sand, fuller's earth, or bales of party-coloured rags; and frequently the painted boat richly bedecked without, but graced within with the richest treasures of Britain, our fair country-women, often such that "beggar all description."

We shall now notice the agricultural productions of this district – and first in consequence wheat, and lately cone or bearded, which we think is most prolific, and makes the sweetest bread; fine barley; oats yield well, the Siberian is the best, it is a beautiful plant; beans, peas, and vetches: buck-wheat is chiefly used to plough in green for manure. Sometimes cabbages, and very often potatoes, are raised as food for cattle, but more generally turnips; and as these are kept exactly hoed, they are very productive, whilst those left without that management, as is the case usually in the midland and northern parts of the kingdom, are not half so beneficial. The foreign grasses, lucerne and santfoigne, are greatly used; clover takes well, but is frequently ploughed in after the first year, and forms a lay for wheat; the two former remain for years: lucerne loves a deep soil; it had used to be sowed in drills or rows for the more commodiously weeding it, but now the broadcast is preferred: santfoigne will grow upon chalk, but feebly: it loves the stiff land upon the rock; in sinking quarries where it grows, the roots are found eighteen feet deep: the first expense in the seed is the only one attending it; the increase after the first and second year is very great; a few acres of these invaluable grasses are sufficient to supply fodder for a great stock of cattle. Lucerne bears a blue, and santfoigne a red flower, both of them beautiful; the former yields three or four

crops for cutting, the latter only one in a year, but excellent grazing afterwards.

The chief produce of this charming part of England is from the plantations; and the hop, as most valuable, claims our earliest attention. It grows well upon the loam, but better upon that land which has stone at no great distance from its surface. The method of planting it is either by bedded sets, or such as are just separated from the parent root; if the former, they must be a year old, three of them will do for each hill, of the latter five: care should be taken to procure the most healthy, and such as have at least three joints: but the stock must not he hurt by taking too many sets away from it; a hole a foot wide and one deep should be made, and very fine mould put into it, in which plant the sets, and then cover them over with the same earth; the plants must be at exact distances, 1000 or 1100 to an acre. A very small stick will do the first year, unless the sets have been bedded,

and then two somewhat larger are sufficient; the second year the poles must be small; the third year they come to perfection, and will have cost 100l. rearing: they will yield, in a favourable year, from eight hundred to more than a ton weight, and sometimes, though rarely, a ton and an half. They should be manured at least once in three years, and that all over; but too generally the farmer does it only close to the hill: it is a good method sometimes to well clear round the hills, and put manure or compost; that is best which is a mixture of dung and soil: but dung alone is used, as is lime alone, or with soil: but what greatly surprises strangers, woollen rags, which are purchased in London, or imported from the continent; as these are the sweepings of hospitals, the refuse of wretchedness, filth, and disease – we have known fatal effects happen to those who cut or chop them for use; they are extremely disgustful, as parts of amputated limbs have been found amongst them. This kind of succedaneum for dung is most useful to such who have no other land than hop-grounds; we think there is not so much of this filthy commodity used as was a few years ago; the war occasioning a difficulty, and greater expense in bringing it from the continent.

The hop hills require from two to five poles, and to each pole three bines; but generally three poles are used. They are gathered as soon as the seed begins to be brown and hard. The poor and the lowest people in London, at that time usually out of employment, assist in gathering them; the strangers are lodged in sheds or out-offices. After cutting the bine, the pole is pulled up by hand, or by a dog, an iron instrument, and leaned against a bin, being a slight wooden frame, and the hops picked from it; they are then measured out, taken to the kiln or hoast, laid upon an hair cloth until they are thoroughly dry; afterwards they are put into bags, and are then ready for sale, when they are weighed by the exciseman, who marks them with the weight, the planter's name, residence, and date of the year.

Nothing can exceed the beauty of a hop-garden when the plant is luxuriant, and near the time of gathering; the busy scene is extremely pleasing when the hoppers are in the ground: it is, however, in some respects, disgusting to have the refuse of London, and other places, poured in upon the country. Yet all are so partial to the growth of them, that from the nobleman down to the tradesman they join the regular farmer in having hop-gardens; none, perhaps, gains less than the tradesmen, for they pay dearer for every thing, and have every disadvantage to contend with, except in point of selling the commodity. The great art of ma-

naging hops and gaining by them, is in having just as much as the farm can reasonably support, as to manure, wood, and other requisites; and duly considering the fitness of the soil, and poling them exactly according to the manure given them, else they will be too luxuriant and choked, or weak and unable to reach the top of the pole.

They are a constant and heavy expense; but as no two persons can agree in what the cultivation of an acre costs, we shall be silent on that head; generally speaking, those who are at the greatest expense have the best profit: few have so many as fifty acres, those who have only ten are thought considerable growers. Perhaps no commodity more varies than hops; they have been sold so low as forty shillings, and as high as 18l. per hundred weight. The picking is generally as much as the duty; the poor in this county will obtain not less than 100,000l. in a great year by picking only. In this neighbourhood they have many harvests; haying, cherrying, cutting

grain, filberting, hopping, and appleing.

Hops to a proverb are in some years productive; but they have innumerable misfortunes to contend with: – the wire and sword worms at their roots; a small insect of the bat kind attacks the shoot when first breaking the ground; afterwards the fly, a delicately fine creature, which comes in cold evenings in myriads, and covers all the under side of the leaf, and if it stays long leaves its young ones, which adhere close to the plant, are unwinged, and flat; these again get to a much larger creature, and at length obtain wings, but millions perish to one that becomes a fly; they are aphis which so often and so variously change their appearance. No art has been discovered to kill these devastators; the greatest friend to the planter against them is the lady-bird, lady-cow, or fly-golding, as it is variously called; the grub of which is black, or nearly so, and therefore called a negro, and eats up vast quantities of them, as do the lady-birds, when in their most perfect state. But these are not the only enemies the hop has to contend with; the cold weather often strikes them in the burr or blossom, and prevents its ever coming out, and if that is obviated, the fen, the white mould shrivels it up, or what is worse, the red mould, which makes it fall to pieces: but even if all these dangers are escaped, and the planter thinks he shall have a fine crop, the honey-dew, which destroys the plant, being the eggs of an animal which the microscope alone can discover, the fire-blast, owing to the solar rays collected by the dense steams arising in the gardens, or the high winds setting in, will in one day blast all his hopes, dispersing

them in every direction, or tearing up the plant by the root, twisting off or bruising the branches, that they fade and become useless. It must be acknowledged that fortunes, and very considerable ones, have been acquired by the growth of hops, but often they are lost by injudicious persons cultivating them.

Some distinguish them as the white, the grey, and the red bine; the first are the earliest, the second the most estimable, the third, the coarser kind, which are chiefly planted high upon the hill, and consequently upon worse land; but these bear the blights best. We have wild hops growing in our hedges in parts of the kingdom, where they have never been cultivated: but it is generally allowed that those we have in our gardens were imported from Artois, in Flanders; they had been proscribed by parliament as a pernicious weed in 1428. Ground-ivy and other ingredients were used by our ancestors instead of hops; for beer is the liquor of the northern nations of Europe, and was the beverage of our Anglo-Saxon progenitors. The trade of a brewer was so consequential in the reign of Henry VI., that in 1438 he incorporated and made the brewers a company: they had been so in Paris so early as the year 1268. The English had a great trade in beer, and much was exported. In 1492 Henry VII. gave the Flemish a licence to export fifty tons of ale called beer.

It appears that if the replanting of hops in England was so late as 1525 or 1526, as many authors say, they must have rapidly increased; for we find frequent mention made of them in the reign of Henry VIII., which shows that many must have been grown; probably they were wholly confined to Kent: Farnham had no hops until the beginning of the last century. They had found their way into Scotland as a useful article in brewing; for at the taking of Hadington in that kingdom, by the English in 1548, there were found 3160 pounds. Henry VIII. used it to bitter his beer with, but commanded that it should not be injured by brimstone or sulphur. In Elizabeth's reign the trade in beer greatly increased, and consequently the growth of hops: this sovereign, in her thirty-ninth year, granted a licence to William Carr for nine years, to authorize and license any person to brew beer to be exported beyond sea. Its price was formerly more fixed; we shall, therefore, mention that in the reign of James I. a hundred weight of hops was sold for 1l. 3s. Great quantities have been yearly exported to the north of Europe by the English, whilst the Flemish have sent very little, owing to their inferiority in drying them. We even exported them to France before the war, though the neighbours of those people.

The northern nations, as well as Germany and Poland, grow hops, but neither in sufficient quantities for their own use, nor do they make beer enough for their consumption. As the growth of hops is become so beneficial, and of so great an importance to the kingdom, we flatter ourselves we shall be excused having dwelt

so much upon them.

We shall next speak of apples and cherries, but only to observe, that here they are in great profusion, and of the best sorts. Cyder is made in Kent, but of a harsh, unpleasant nature: we think the reason is because they take little care in what they use, generally putting all together, even such as are injured. In Herefordshire the choicest fruit is selected, and damaged apples are always rejected. In Kent they mix spirits with this beverage with sugar, which softens and corrects, but is very unwholesome. We know not when regular orchards of apples and cherries first were planted in this county, but we suspect it was begun by Harris, the gardener of Henry VIII.; there were many in Elizabeth's reign. Pears are also grown, but in a small degree: plums are cultivated for sale, but chiefly nearer London. There are walnuts more by far than can be wanted for the table; the surplus is sent to the London market.

But of all the fruits that Kent produces the filberts are what most raises the wonder of strangers. They are generally planted with hops, and frequently the farmer raises in the same ground hops, filberts, cherries, and apple-trees: the hops are first displanted, then the filberts, next the cherry-trees, leaving the apple-trees masters of the field; but this practice, which we think a bad one, is now seldom pursued; they are usually reared only with hops, and are in full bearing in seven years; they are raised from suckers. Those which have a white skin over the kernel are preferred; they are generally sold for the London market before they attain perfection, and this for three reasons – the gentry particularly wish them to furnish out their dessert when scarce, they then weigh heavier, and because they are so liable to be stolen; – they are usually watched day and night for some time before they are gathered. An acre takes about 400 trees; they must be carefully pruned every year, leaving nothing but the young wood, and about Midsummer all the upright shoots are broken off: they are never suffered to be higher than six feet, and all the inside is entirely taken out to give air: they must be dug in the winter when they are suckered, and again in the spring. They are much cultivated about Maidstone, but chiefly in Barming and the Peckhams.

The filbert is not a native of England; it originally came from Pontus, whence its name of nux Pontica. The Romans imported it to Avellino, in Naples, where it still flourishes in great abundance, and has from that circumstance been called nux Avellina: from thence it is presumed we have received, and now cultivate them in the same manner: there they grow upon the volcanic substances, here upon the shattery rock. In Avellino they yield a profit of 11,250l., which probably arises chiefly from exportation; perhaps some come to England: it is certain filberts are imported, but it is believed principally from Gijon, a small port in Spain; from whence chesnuts are also procured, which articles there give maintenance to about eight hundred families.

This part of Kent is also very well supplied with small woods, usually called shaws; many of them are planted ones: they are no less beautiful, than profitable for hop-poles. The plantation grounds are often supplied from the hills that run through the centre of the county, or from the Weald. The poles cut from the hills are preferred, because they are wiry and tough; for, growing flower, the wood is less porous, and consequently, as more compact, will last the longer, and, generally speaking, the pole will remain as long as it has been years in growing. Holinshed, a Kentish man, says in his Chronicle, or Harrison who wrote the preface, "Hops, in time past, were plentiful in this land, after also their maintenance did cease, and now being revived, where are anie better to be found? where any greater commoditie to be raised by them? onelie poles are accounted to be their greatest charge. But sith men have learned of late to sow ashen keies, in ash yards by themselves, that inconvenience in short time will be redressed." – Besides ash, willow and chesnut are also planted; and the gentlemen find this so profitable, that it is usual, when they fall their woods, to fill them up with one or other of these, or lay an ash or willow, which by having earth placed at two different parts, and the end also covered, will form of itself other stools or roots. The reader will, however, observe, that these three sorts of wood are not the only ones used for poles; any straight young sapling will answer the purpose, though not equally well. Maple, wild cherry, oak, elm, hazel, beech, birch, and alder are used; an elder one is a rarity; but if it can be obtained, it will last for a great number of

years. Plantation wood is usually fallen every ten years, and will yield 50l. an acre.

It will not be proper to omit ah account of the quarries which are found on each side of the Medway near Maidstone, and afford a great article of commerce.

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The stone they afford is very valuable; in the parish of Boughton Monchelsea it is taken up in great blocks, out of which are formed quoin-stones, troughs, and grave-stones: but in the parishes of Maidstone, East Farleigh, and Barming, where the quarries chiefly are, they use the best stone generally for headers, with which they build walls, or pave those parts of the street over which carriages and horses go, or squares for foot-paths or out-offices. The other purposes to which it is appropriated are lime to refine sugar, or for stucco work; this is called cork, is heavy, and of a fine blue colour, the grain fine, and smooth to the touch: it is taken and burnt near Westminster-bridge; much of it, put in small casks, placed in others of stacked lime, is sent to the West Indies. The other large stone is sold for the purpose of walling out the sea on the Kent and Essex coasts, or to shoot into the stirlings of London and Rochester bridges. The smallest is sent to turnpike roads, or conveyed in boats to Tunbridge to mend the roads in the lower part of Kent, where they have not any materials for that purpose. Formerly much of the land was enclosed by walls, but since the river has been made navigable the farmers have taken most of these away, and also cleared their lands of this incumbrance.

Quarries have been long used in Kent; probably both stone and chalk were dug by the Britons. It is well known that when the present cathedral church of St. Paul, in London, was built, Sir Christopher Wren discovered, at a great depth, the foundation of an edifice, supposed to be a church, which had been built by the Romans whilst they resided in this island; and upon examination that great architect found that the stone was Kentish ragge. In the year 1418 Henry V. commanded the clerk of the works of his ordnance to procure labourers for making 7000 stone balls for the cannons, to be of different sizes, out of the quarries of Maidstone, in Kent: and that quarries were worked about this town we learn from Leland, who tells us that stone had long been dug in East Farleigh, the next parish to it. Great quantities of land have been used for this purpose, and is more valuable than it was before the rock was removed: if on the plain ground where the plow went, by taking the stone out and levelling it a little, the crops are best; if planted with hops it becomes still more valuable. Should the sides of the banks be excavated, and the hassock, or what was the bed of the stone, planted with ash, the estate is much benefited; for the land is then greatly increased in

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value, and even in dimension. Some of the places where quarries once were, are now very rural, solitary woods. Leaving the other parishes which compose this hundred, Maidstone claims peculiar attention.

MAIDSTONE.

IT is generally allowed that Maidstone was the Caer Meguid, Medwag, or Megwad, of the Britons; probably the Vagniacae of the Romans, and certainly the Medweaggeston of the Anglo-Saxons, which implied that it was Medway's town, from Medwaege, middle river, and ton, a town. In Domesday-book it is called Meddestane, and now by contraction Maidstone.

It has for ages been a borough by prescription. It was particularly distinguished by Edward VI., who specified its rights; before his time a portreeve and twelve brethren governed it: but this sovereign, in his third year, incorporated it anew by the style of the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the town of Maidstone, in the county of Kent. Unfortunately the inhabitants declaring for Sir Thomas Wyat in his rebellion, the enfranchisement was lost. Queen Elizabeth, in her second year, restored the town to its former privileges, and confirmed their prescriptive right of returning two burgesses to parliament, which they had done in Edward VI.'s reign, and granted the mayor the power of acting as a justice of peace, freeing the townsmen from foreign sessions. James I. again confirmed all these privileges by his letters patent.

Difficulties, however, having arisen respecting the meaning of some of the clauses in these letters patent, they were explained, confirmed, and enlarged by a

third charter of incorporation, by other letters patent, in 1604, and again in 1619. Charles II. amplified these charters in 1682; but at the Revolution the corporation rejected this last, and resorted to the others, by which they were governed until the year 1748, when being dissolved by the judgment of ouster against the acting jurats upon informations of quo warranto, a new one was given by George II., confirming and enlarging their privileges.

By this charter the corporation are possessed of an exclusive jurisdiction within their town and parish, and on the river Medway from East Farleigh bridge to a place called Hawkwood, in Barham, with cognizance of actions and replevins as far as the towns and parishes of East Farleigh, Barming, Loose, Boxley, Linton,

and Otham, with the hamlets of Milhale, in Aylesford parish, and New Hythe, in that of East Malling. Not noticing other minuter circumstances, it is sufficient to observe that the town pays a farm rent of 3l. to the crown, and used to contribute to the fifth pier of Rochester bridge.

Maidstone has a weekly market on Thursdays; one for cattle and sheep on the first Tuesday of every month; and four fairs for horses, cattle, haberdashery, pedlary, &c., held on February 13th and 14th, May 12th and 13th, June 20th and 21st, and October 17th and 18th. The monthly markets are held by virtue of letters patent granted in 1751: the weekly ones were obtained by archbishop Boniface from Henry III. The resort to these is great, and much business is transacted, in which hops form a principal part. The fairs are chiefly held in the meadow containing sixteen acres, encircled with lofty trees, once belonging to Boxley priory; the fair for horned cattle has lately been removed to Pennenden-heath. The distance of this town from London is thirty-five miles, and nearly the same from Dover.

After passing a long narrow bridge, the entrance from the London road is very good. The High-street is spacious, and by taking down the Middle-row, would be one of the finest in the kingdom; opposite to this is East-lane, parted from the High-street by a long one running north and south, the first called Week-street, the other Gabriel's-hill, as far as the little bridge, when it takes the name of Stone-street: on the west of this last is Knight-rider's-street.

From the High-street to the north is the meadow, in front of which is a row of houses: a little farther towards the north is Union-street, both consisting chiefly of small houses; they lead to Earl-street, leading from the river to Week-street; and behind this is St. Faith's green, with its scattered houses in the same direction. On the south side of High-street is a small passage from the great bridge to the Cliff: higher up on the same side is Queen-street, both leading to the church. There is lately erected a row of houses to the east of Week-street, where others are intended to be built, called Union-place. On the western side of the bridge is the borough, consisting of many detached houses.

The town from west to east is nearly a mile, and from north to south almost three quarters of a mile. In the High-street stands the market-cross: its emblem, once on the top, has long been removed. It is an octagon building; was formerly called the Corn-cross, now used as a fish-market. A little below is another building, erected

in the year 1608 by an assessment upon the town; this has been rebuilt, and is at present the corn-market.

Still more to the west is the county-hall, a handsome, modern, brick building; the corporation and the justices of the western division defrayed the expenses of erecting it, for the use of the county and corporation. The law causes are tried in the upper court; and at the assizes another court is formed for the trial of criminals, by enclosing some of the spaces between the arches.

Below the court-hall is the Middle-row, and a railed enclosure, where, on market days, the butchers' stalls are placed, and below it a new octagon building, stuccoed, used as a butter market, and to supply the people in this part of the town with water; the principal reservoir is the conduit, formerly, from its vicinity to the prison, called the gaol-conduit, built about 1624, and enclosed with free-stone, and lined with lead in 1645; it stands at the upper end of the High-street, where water of the finest quality is conveyed by pipes coming under the Medway from an enclosed spring called Rocky-hill, in the West Borough: the expense is defrayed by the corporation. Another conduit, a lofty stone octagon building,

inconveniently standing in the middle of the High-street, was taken down in 1792.

The public gaol, for the use of the western division of Kent, is a modern stone building in East-lane, which, from its first erection, has been greatly enlarged and strengthened, and is now a suitable prison, under excellent regulations. The gaol was in the centre of the town until 1736, when the inhabitants petitioned to have it removed, as inconvenient from its situation, and having no room for the reception of debtors; this was so reasonable a request, that leave was given to take it down, and erect another in East-lane, large enough to contain both criminals and debtors. There is an inferior prison, significantly called the Brambles, which joins the court-hall.

The poor's-house, a brick building near the church, with an inscription on marble in the front, is three stories high, ninety-one feet in length, and twenty-one in breadth; built in 1720 at the expense of 700l. by Thomas Bliss, Esq., a native of Maidstone, and several times one of its representatives in parliament. Here the poor are usefully employed.

On St. Faith's green are alms-houses, founded and endowed for six poor persons of both sexes, in conformity to the will of Sir Joseph Banks, of Aylesford, Bart.,

a native and representative in parliament of this place, who died in 1697, and left 60l. per annum for the maintenance of this charity, and appointed that the building should be kept in repair by his heirs. In the road leading to the Mote are six alms-houses for three men and three women, built and endowed by Mr. Edward Hunter, the first mayor after the new charter in 1748, who, in his lifetime, placed persons in them rent-free, and at his death left towards their support 8l. The nominees and trustees are lord Romney, the perpetual curate, and the recorder of Maidstone.

The late benevolent Mr. Brenchley, brewer, left a sum sufficient for four alms-houses, where each person receives 12l. yearly.

A great addition to the beauty of this town is the extensive barracks, erected a little beyond Week-street, in the road to Rochester, with every accommodation for the soldiers. The apartments for officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, are spacious, affording room for 600 men, and 180 horses, all kept with great neatness: the building is low, the materials, boards painted white, which form a hollow square, having at a distance the appearance of an Asiatic palace. It is to be lamented that the riding-school is built in a direction to intercept the view towards the river. The greatest regularity, order, and propriety of behaviour, has manifested itself amongst the military resident in the barracks.

This town is computed to contain more than 1500 houses, and between 7 and 8000 inhabitants, a great increase since queen Elizabeth's reign, when in her eighth year there were only 294 houses, four landing-places, five ships and hoys; one of thirty tons, one of thirty-two, one of forty, and one of fifty, and only twenty-two persons occupied in merchandise. – The barge-owners are numerous, and several of them men of very considerable wealth. The trade of Maidstone exceeds its appearance. The people live elegantly, and many of the families are opulent. The character of the inhabitants until these late ferments was very amiable; but that violence, however, which political contest had called forth, is gradually subsiding. At the beginning of this century, and for some years afterwards, many gentry resided amongst them; it now wholly consists of professional persons. and tradesmen.

In the year 1792 the town was new paved, lighted, and many obstructions removed; since that time it has rapidly improved, several handsome houses having been built, or others new fronted; most of them are white, kept remarkably clean, forming altogether one of the most cheerful, pleasing towns in England.

There are manufactories carried on for linen and packing-thread; of the former, two: of the latter, only one. The Walloons established this trade, and the people now call it Dutch-work. The distillery of English spirits, or Maidstone geneva, of very great magnitude, was established by the late Mr. George Bishop, and is now carried on by Sir William Bishop his brother, and Mr. Bishop their nephew; not less than 700 hogs are fed from it. Here are two very considerable beer and porter breweries, the very liberal Mr. Stacy's and Mr. Seager's: they not only supply the town, but the neighbourhood, and export to a great extent. At

Sandling is a large brick-kiln, and another near Half-yoke. Great quantities of the finest white sand are sent from this parish, which is used in making flint and plate-glass.

Within the town is a corn-mill, on the little river; in the parish are several. From these and Mr. Chamber's great granary wheat and flour are sent in large quantities to Rochester, Chatham, and London. The parish contains several paper mills, an oil and a fulling-mill. The product of these, and many others in the adjoining ones, are sent to London by water, which greatly increases the carrying or barge trade.

Timber is brought to Maidstone from the Weald of Kent and its vicinity, chiefly by water, and sent from thence to Chatham dock, and other places more distant. Large hoys, of fifty tons burden, are constantly going to, and returning from London, exchanging for other goods, at that great mart, the various articles of produce already mentioned. Warehouses and stowage-rooms are provided for hops, and large wharfs for English and foreign timber, giving this place and its environs a very busy appearance. The number of barges and all kind of craft upon the Medway, in and near the town, is extremely great; and if the projected union between that river and the Thames should take effect, it probably will be much augmented. Maidstone is also benefited by its free grammar and boarding schools.

There are few occurrences that have happened in Maidstone deserving particular notice. The first is the rebellion of Sir Thomas Wyat, in the reign of queen Mary, who at the "bear ringle" in this place set forth his proclamation, and being the principal person in the parish, had influence enough to involve the inhabitants in his treason. To punish them, the queen took away their charter; their leader was executed in London; Sir Henry and Thomas Isley, with Walter

Mantle, Esq., were put to death at Sevenoke; Brett, at Rochester; and Mr. Maplesden and some others, at this place. Mary, lighting the fires of religious intolerance, burnt several respectable protestants, inhabitants of this town, in the King's Mead, now the Meadow. On the contrary, her wise sister, queen Elizabeth, gave an asylum to the Walloons, persecuted and expatriated from the cruelties inflicted upon them by Alva, the ferocious, sanguinary governor of the Low Countries, in 1568. Here they lived in credit, enriching the nation which succoured them, by establishing the thread trade: that princess permitted them to enjoy their own religion, and they were chiefly governed by themselves. They had so mixed with the people around them before 1634, that not more than fifty families remained distinct; these were much troubled by having their conformity to the national church insisted upon; by anglicizing or entirely changing their names, few families descended from them can now be identified. In the reign of James I. the Middle-row was set on fire by lightning, during a great tempest, the account of which was taken to the mayor and brethren, then at Milhale in their barges, at their annual "fishing."

This place, notwithstanding its healthy situation, has greatly suffered by the plague. In 1593 there died of it sixty-five persons; in 1594, one hundred and nineteen; in the following year eighty-seven. In 1603 it again appeared in March, and from that month to March 1604 eighty-eight persons fell victims to it. The complaint was most fatal during the winter, and did not cease until 1605. It broke out in 1608, but was very slight; in 1609 it carried off sixty-three persons. In the fatal 1666, when the pestilence was great at Ostend, and other parts of the Netherlands, it was brought into England by the soldiers who returned home: in 1665 multitudes fled into the country from London. Many merchants, owners of ships, &c., shut themselves up on board their own vessels, and were supplied with food from Greenwich, Woolwich, and farm-houses on the Kentish bank of the river. Here they remained safe: it did not reach further than Deptford, and these persons were often permitted to go on shore and obtain fresh provisions in the towns, villages, and farm-houses. These vessels, when the plague greatly increased in 1666, went fairly out to sea, and put into such harbours as they thought safest. It was perhaps some of the persons who had left London in these dreadful times, secretly getting into Maidstone, that brought this evil amongst them. The first person dying of it was buried July 4, 1666; three hundred and forty-seven died in

that year ending in March. In 1668 there were one hundred and fifty-three;

it greatly abated in October; there were only two died of it in November; three in December; two in February 1668-9, and one in March, when it totally disappeared. Maidstone lost by this severe visitation exactly 500 persons; and yet probably many who died of it were never registered: the pest-house, still so called, is standing at Tovel: some were buried there. Happily this evil did not spread, not a single item being found in the surrounding parish registers. Until very lately a supplicatory sentence remained upon a house near the river, as was usual in times when this dreadful scourge threatened to sweep away the affrighted inhabitants.

Maidstone underwent an evil of another nature in 1648. The inhabitants, distinguished for loyalty, judged it proper to make one effort to restore Charles I. to his lost crown. Sir John Mayney came hither with 1000 horse and foot of the king's friends; the people every way assisted the undertaking. The republican junto feeling alarmed, sent general Fairfax to suppress them: though he was then suffering much from the gout, he marched with 10,000 troops, and forced his way over East Farleigh bridge. The town, undismayed, resisted all solicitations to submit, and made every exertion to repel an attack: 2000 men lined every street, and guarded every avenue: the loyal Sir William Brockman brought 800 men to aid them. Fairfax surrounded the town, and did all that so gallant a general could; but he found every where an obstinate valour, and each street was disputed with the greatest courage, not an inch being gained without great loss. An attack of five hours obliged them to give way to a decided superiority, new troops arriving to aid the parliament general. At twelve at night these true subjects sought retreat in the church, where they were obliged to surrender upon the best terms they could obtain. There was no action better maintained during the whole of the unhappy contest; and lord Clarendon acquaints us, "It was a sharp encounter, very bravely fought with the general's whole strength; and the veteran soldiers confessed that they had never met with the like desperate service during the war."

The slaughter was great. Maidstone must have lost many of her townsmen, because, for years after, the number of widows who married greatly exceeded the spinsters. The dead were buried where they fell in the neighbourhood; and if any were interred in the church-yard of this place, they are not registered.

The third misfortune experienced by Maidstone, was in common with many parishes in this fertile valley, by the great hail-storm which happened August 19, 1763, the most tremendous upon record in this kingdom. The reader will be more gratified with the account, when he learns that part is taken from an intelligent person who made minutes of it whilst fresh in his memory, and who was one of the sufferers.

On Friday, August 19, 1763, a storm arose at sea off the Sussex coast: the morning was still, with scarcely a breeze of air, and so excessively hot, that it was suffocating. About ten o'clock in the forenoon a black cloud arose towards the west; soon after which the wind blew an hurricane; the clouds came on with amazing velocity, throwing out in their course dreadful flames of lightning, and the thunder was almost one continued roar. About half past eleven the rain poured in torrents, and in a few minutes was intermixed with some detached hailstones, which were very large, as introductory of what were to follow: the hail, wind, lightning, and thunder, soon came on so furiously, that all was one dreadful scene of horror. The boughs, branches, and leaves of trees broken and stript off, flying in the wind, still more darkened the air; the tiles and windows rattling, and dashing to pieces; trees torn up and falling, struck all with a terror not easily to be expressed: some running distractedly about, wringing their hands, whilst others stood like inanimate beings.

The storm lasted about half an hour. What a scene ensued! – an universal desolation every where presented itself; some houses filled with water, others, with their barns blown down, roofs and walls shattered, the windows quite destroyed, the waters roaring in torrents down the streets, plowing up the stones in their course, and leaving deep chasms; the surface of the earth covered with the prodigious hailstones and water; corn, fruit, and hops destroyed; the fields and hop-gardens every where disfigured; trenches formed by the rushing water; the roots of the hops bared, the poles thrown down in all directions; heaps of stones and sand driven through the hedges; boughs and branches scattered; the fruit-trees stripped of their bark. The smaller animals, such as hares, pheasants, and other game, lay dead in the field; and

a large hog was killed by the hail upon Barming-heath. The larger quadrupeds, endowed with superior instinct, saw their danger; horses, bullocks, and sheep, ran and sheltered themselves from the coming storm.

In Maidstone, on one side of the High-street, not only the glass, but the lead and frames of the windows were forced in and destroyed, particularly by the hail. It

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was like fragments of ice, and of very irregular shapes; at Barming one piece was taken up formed like an oyster; Sir Philip Boteler measured and found it nine inches round at the extremity, and even ten days after some hailstones were taken up four inches and an half in circumference. One of the largest struck the stile of an horizontal post-dial of brass, and bent it near thirty degrees towards the east. Posts, bars, and gates had deep impressions from them; they were of different shapes; some flat, irregular, and very much jagged; others an assemblage of pieces of ice; whilst a few were globular, with a small cavity in the centre, and if they were held together they immediately froze, and were not easily separated.

The storm commenced in this county at Tunbridge-wells, whilst the people were at prayers in the chapel, and passed quite across to Sheerness, a distance of forty miles, its breadth not exceeding four miles: the direction of it was from south-west by west, to north-east by east; and it was severely felt in the parishes of Tunbridge, Speldhurst, Penshurst, Tudeley, Capel, Pembury, part of Hadlow, Yalding, Hunton, Brenchley, Mereworth, East and West Peckham, Watringbury, Nettlested, East Malling, Teston, East and West Farleigh, Barming, Loose, Maidstone, Boxley, and Detling; after which its violence was spent, and only little injury was occasioned. So great devastation had never been known; numbers from all parts came to witness the melancholy scene. The inhabitants of the vicinity humanely raised 3000l. in a few months, which in some measure relieved the unhappy sufferers: but the cruel effects long remained; most of the hop-hills died, the filbert and apple trees swelled in knots where they had been bruised, and some were so injured, that the branches and shoots long after continued to die; the cherry-trees bore it the best, owing perhaps to the strength of their outward bark.

The last memorable circumstance to be noticed, is the sudden thaw of the Medway, in January 1795, when that river rose to an astonishing height from the melting of the preceding snows. The ice above Teston coming down in large sheets with the current, choked up the arches of that bridge, and destroyed Bow bridge; the furious current with its loaded surface carried away the wooden bridges of Barnjett and St. Helen's, at Barming; resisted by that of East Farleigh, until its parapet walls gave way, the whole contents floated with rapidity down the river, damaging the locks, and threatening Maidstone bridge; but at length the loaded water, increased by the back river, rising higher than the walls, the whole of the ice and water passed on: fortunately the frost of the ensuing night arrested the water in its

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way, and a more gradual thaw removed it without further mischief; those who lived in the houses near the river were compelled to use boats in the street, and take to their upper rooms, as their houses were three or four feet deep in water. The fields had a very extraordinary appearance from the vast sheets of ice which lay upon them, and had bent and kept down trees of considerable thickness. It was justly compared to the breaking up of the great frosts in North America.

Maidstone was the estate of the archbishops of Canterbury, and in the reign of king John they had a house here, which Ufford, about the year 1348, began to rebuild; and Islip, who followed him, after the government of Bradwardine, who sat only a few weeks, proceeded with the work, bringing materials from Wrotham, as has been mentioned; and Courtney, his successor, carried on the design. Most of the future primates occasionally residing here, Henry VI. honoured it with his presence in the archiepiscopate of Chichele. The palace was much improved and beautified by cardinal archbishop Morton; but Cranmer exchanged the building with Henry VIII. Sir Thomas Wyat received it from Edward VI.: vesting in the crown by his attainture, Elizabeth gave it to Sir John Astley, a family ennobled by Charles I. It remained with them until the year 1729, and then passed to the ancestor of the present possessor, lord Romney. The manor remained in the crown until Charles I. gave it to the trustees in fee of lady Elizabeth Finch viscountess Maidstone, soon after created also countess of Winchilsea, to be held in soccage: her descendant Heneage,

fourth earl of Winchilsea, sold it to the Marsham family in 1720; and it is now, with the palace, inherited by lord Romney. The manor is very extensive, its jurisdiction including the whole hundred and manor of Maidstone. At the annual court leet and court baron a constable for the hundred is chosen, and a borsholder for each of the parishes or boroughs of Barming, Boxley, Detling, Linton, the borough of Crockhurst, and one jointly for the parishes of East Farleigh and Loose.

The Mote, situated a mile from the town in a park finely wooded, has long been a place of great consequence. It was castellated in the reign of Henry III. by the Leybornes, who obtained from that sovereign a Tuesday's market, and a yearly fair for three days at the feast of St. Cross. After the Leybornes the Shoffords inherited it, who assumed also the name le Mote; the de Dittons, de Burghersh's; thence it came to the Woodviles, afterwards earls of Rivers, who likewise bore amongst their other titles that of baron de la Mote. In this family it remained until seized by Richard III. after he had illegally and inhumanly destroyed Anthony earl

of Rivers, at Pontefract; he gave the seat to his infamous favourite Sir Robert Brakenbury. Henry VII. restored it to Thomas earl of Rivers, who left it to Thomas Grey marquis of Dorset. He passed the Mote to Sir Henry Wyat, of Allington-castle, who disgavelled it; his grandson, the vain Sir Thomas Wyat, lost it and his life. Queen Mary gave it to archbishop cardinal Pole, for a term of years; and Elizabeth in fee to Nicholas and Dixon, of whom probably Sir William Rither, lord mayor of London, purchased it. Susan his daughter and coheir took it to Sir Thomas Delmarii or Caesar, and after his death to Thomas Philipott, Esq., who, with the eldest son of her first marriage, joined in alienating it to the Tuftons, one of whom bequeathed it to a lady of the name of Wray; she disposed of it to the ancestor of the Right Hon. Charles lord Romney, lord lieutenant of Kent, the present owner of this seat and manor. Perhaps few families are more deservedly honoured and beloved than that of Marsham. The present nobleman is building a very superb seat at some distance from the old one; the situation is very elevated, commanding a view of the circumjacent country, and is a grand object for several miles. The rooms are very spacious; a fine piece of water has been obtained near the house.

The manor of Goulds is somewhat south of the Mote, which, with the estate of Shepway-court, was the property of the Vinters, one of whom endowed his chantry with them. Henry VIII. granted Goulds to Deuntley, to hold in capite by knight's service: from him it came to the Blagnes, who disposed of it to the Hendsleys or Hendleberys, which family had purchased Shepway-court of Sir Thomas Wyat: the whole came to the Tuftons, and from them to the Marshams, and is now possefled by lord Romney.

Bigons or Digons, in Knight-rider-street, was long the seat of the Maplesdens, a family more numerous than any in Kent; the widow of Gervase Maplesden, gent., who died in 1603, saw ninety of her descendants. The Maplesdens were for a number of years amongst the principal inhabitants of Maidstone. The unfortunate Mr. George Maplesden, joining the rebel standard, lost Bigons. Queen Mary granted it to the Barhams: one of them considerably improved and enlarged the house. After many transfers it is now the property of James Hatley, of Ipswich, in Suffolk, Esq. The arms of Edward VI., when prince of Wales, in painted glass, appear in one of the windows.

Shales-court, a manor in the south part of the parish, was once possessed by the

Freminghams, then by the Pimpes; one of them disposed of it to the Wyats, who exchanged it with the crown. Edward VI. granted it to Sir Walter Hendley, sergeant at law, whose daughter and coheir took it to the Wallers, and they reconveyed it to another branch of the Hendleys, who in the reign of Charles II. disposed of it to Sir John Banks, Bart.: with a daughter and coheir of his it went to the earl of Aylesford's family. Its handsome manor-house in Stone-street was the residence of the late general Kingsley, and now of Thomas Pope, Esq., senior jurate and justice of the corporation.

Chillingstone was anciently a manor belonging to the Cobhams, afterwards the Maplesdens, who lost it by attainture, and was then granted to the Hendleys: it has had a variety of owners, and is now the property of William Stacy, of Canter-

bury, Esq. The large ancient mansion is near St. Faith's green.

East-lane manor is so denominated from its situation. By the dissolution of Leeds priory it came to Henry VIII., who gave it to the church of Rochester. The dean and chapter hold a court baron, to which quit-rents are paid for twenty-five tenements standing in East-lane and the Middle-row.

The Park-house is a seat, with an estate possessed by the see of Canterbury, until Cranmer exchanged it with Henry VIII., who leased the seat and Le Park to William Smith; but the unfortunate Sir Anthony Knevet appears to have occupied it. In the reign of Charles II. it had been granted away, for it was then the property of Sir Thomas Taylor, Bart., whose son leaving no issue, his heirs sold it to the Calders. The late Sir Henry Calder, Bart., a general in the army, and deputy-governor of Gibraltar, took down the old house, and built another at a small distance. It is a very handsome, large edifice, with a commanding prospect, in the parish of Boxley, though not half a mile from Maidstone, on the east side of the road leading to Rochester.

Great Buckland manor is on the summit of the hill to the west of Maidstone; the original name was Bocland, from its tenure. The de Boclands held it under the see of Canterbury, first in gavel-kind, afterwards in frank fee, until Henry IV.'s reign, when it was given to the college of St. Mary and All Saints, in Maidstone. At the dissolution it remained in the crown until Edward VI. gave it to lord Cobham. Upon the misfortunes of that family, by stipulations it came to the Cecils earls of Salisbury; they disposed of it to the Horsepooles, and they to the family of English, who in Charles II.'s reign conveyed it to Sir John Banks. One of

his coheirs took it, in the partition of his estates, to the ennobled family of Finch; and it is now the property of the earl of Aylesford.

A second part of Buckland, called Little Buckland, was in the reign of James I. the property of Elizabeth viscountess of Maidstone and countess of Winchilsea, whose descendants sold it to the Marshams; and it is now lord Romney's.

A third part of Buckland, also called Little Buckland, which John Fletcher, in Charles II.'s reign, conveyed to Christopher Vane lord Barnard, has descended from that family to David Papillon, of Acrise, Esq.

Halfway Oke, now Half Yoke, once a manor, is near East Farleigh bridge. It has been vested in the different families of Fremingham, Pimpe, Isley, and Videon. It has lost its manerial rights, and one part was sold to the French's, and of them bought by Mr. Fowle, of Frant; the other part by the Rev. Arthur Harris, vicar of East Farleigh, several of whose children possessed it: the last of them, Thomas Harris, of Barming, Esq., dying unmarried, left it for life to Mrs. Mary Dorman, who now enjoys it. The remainder is vested in the family of Mumford, of Sutton at Hone.

The hamlet of Luddington, anciently Lodingford, from a ford so called over the river, is accounted in Maidstone parish, though the parishes of Linton and Loose intervene. It is situated near Style bridge, in the road leading to Marden and Staplehurst. The Rev. Dr. William Forster, by marriage, inherits this manor.

The college of priests, or hospital of St. Peter and St. Paul, founded by archbishop Boniface in 1260, patronized by several succeeding metropolitans, and confirmed by the English and papal courts, was surrendered in 1546, by its last master, into the royal hands, when its annual revenue was 212l. 5s. 31/2d., and its clear yearly income 159l. 7s. 10d. Edward VI. granted it to the Cobhams. The Marshams have long possessed the building with the college lands; the former stands on the south side the cemetery of the church, and is of stone, now converted into a handsome residence: the fine gateway is used for offices, and the other parts of this ancient fabric are converted into hoasts, stowage rooms for hops, and such other purposes.

John Wotton, rector of Staplehurst, and canon of Chichester, was the first master, and by his own desire was buried on the south side of the chancel of the church, where many of his successors were also laid; the most celebrated of them, the learned William Grocyn, tutor and friend of the still more illustrious Erasmus,

dying at the age of eighty, in 1522, was buried at the end of the stalls in the high choir, or great chancel in this church.

The fraternity of Corpus Christi, founded by some townsmen, is now the free grammar-school, standing at the end of Earl-street, near the river. The institution enrolled both natives and the most eminent knights, parochial clergy, and ladies, in the neighbourhood; the annual subscription of whom, with obiit money, formed the principal part of their revenues: their feasts upon Corpus Christi day were very profuse. The brothers professed the rule of St. Benedict.

At its suppression by Edward VI. the fixed income was 40l. The corporation purchased the scite for 9l. 6s. 8d. To allay the intemperate heats of some of the townsmen respecting what use it should be appropriated to, the duke of Somerset, the protector, wrote a conciliatory letter, exhorting all of them to unite in using what had been consecrated to religious purposes for the public good; the letter had the wished-for effect. Elizabeth gave the school several excellent statutes for its government. Mr. Thomas Cole was its first master. The present one is the Rev. Thomas Evans. William Lamb, a gentleman of the chapel to Henry VIII., gave 10l. yearly to it; and the Rev. Robert Gunsley, rector of Titsey, in Surry, an exhibition to two out of his four scholars, which are sent to University college, in Oxford. The corporation gives 20l. a year. John Davy, M. D., who died in 1649, gave an estate for the better maintenance of the master and usher: some of its lands have been lost for want of care. The income is but small. The school-room and some other parts are what were the chapel, and three sides of the cloister. The late master, the Rev. Thomas Cherry, who now worthily presides over Merchant Taylors' school, in London, was a very liberal and munificent benefactor, by improving the old part, and adding many conveniences to it. He will be long lamented at Maidstone and its neighbourhood.

Ancient foundation. At the corner of East-lane, fronting to the High-street, is a house which has its lower or ground floor vaulted with stone, with a Gothic door-case, evidently once some religious building. It is called the priory, or friery, in old deeds, and is generally supposed to have been a convent of Franciscan or Grey friars, founded here in 1331 by Edward III., and John earl of Cornwall, his brother, but removed to Walsingham, in Norfolk. Maidstone is very greatly raised since the fourteenth century; the entrance into the ancient part of this house being so much beneath the surface of the street, that the top of the arched door-way is

parallel to the pavement, and a flight of steps leads into the apartment, now a vaulted warehouse.

Another ancient religious edifice is on the west side of the river in the borough, finely seated upon the bank: it was the property of the late Mr. Addison. The chapel, used for the stowage of bark, is quite entire, and having no pillars, is one of the finest rooms that can well be imagined; the architecture in the inside is so simply elegant, that the lovers of the true Gothic must lament with the pious that it is not converted to the use for which it was originally designed. Many other buildings are scattered about or adjoin it. In what is now a garden was the cemetery, where many human bones were some years ago taken up, and buried close to the banks of the river. It is singular that none of the Kentish historians mention this ancient religious foundation, though it forms a prominent feature from the bridge, and many other parts of the town and neighbourhood.

Maidstone is in the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton, but exempt from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon. The church is one of the finest parochial ones in the kingdom; the body is much the oldest. The chancel, before it was rebuilt by archbishop Courtney, extended some yards farther to the east. The foundations of the ancient chancel were within these last ten years taken up at a great expense; but as the cemetery is far too small for so populous a place, it made more room to inter the dead, and was in some measure become necessary. There was a spire which was covered with lead, but this was burnt down by lightning on November 2, 1730. The church is extremely neat within, and kept in the most exact and commendable manner; both church and chancel have been thoroughly repaired and greatly improved; the roof is lofty, and covered with copper. It was anciently dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary, but by Courtney, when made collegiate, to All Saints.

There are a great number of ancient and modern monuments; archbishop Courtney's is the most remarkable of the old ones: it has been lately discovered that his bones rest in the middle of the choir, under a stone which had his effigies in brass.

On one side the altar is a tomb erected over the great grandfather of Edward IV.'s queen. Several of the ennobled families of Astley and Marsham lie in vaults within the communion rails.

The stalls for the master and fellows of the college still remain in the chancel:

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until the burial of the late lord Romney, some of the painted tiles, with coats of arms upon them, were upon the pavement.

This fine edifice would have been destroyed at the Reformation, if Edward VI. had not permitted, and James I. confirmed it to the parish. The former sovereign gave the rectory to Sir Thomas Wyat; since then it has been accounted only as a perpetual curacy. At his attainture queen Mary gave the patronage to cardinal archbishop Pole, but the great tithes to Christopher Roper, Esq., for a term of years. Queen Elizabeth granted the reversion to Parker and his successors, archbishops of Canterbury; but the emolument to the incumbent was become so very small, that Whitgift augmented it 10l. per annum, Juxon 37l. 6s. 8d., and Sancroft gave the small tithes of the borough of Week and Stone, the commodities of the church-yard, and one moiety of the small tithes within the town and borough of Maidstone: the present curate is the Rev. John Denne, A. M. It is singular that no house belongs to the preferment, which is still a scanty provision. The rectory makes a part of the archiepiscopal revenue. In this church were two chantries suppressed with the college: the one founded by Robert Viner in the reign of Edward III., the other by archbishop Arundel in that of Henry IV.

St. Faith's church or chapel was not parochial, but independent of the mother church, standing on the green, to which it gave name, and once served as a place of divine worship to the people who resided on the north side of the town. Like the other religious foundations in this place, its history is little known. It came into the hands of Edward VI., perhaps by the general words of the act to suppress all religious places not parochial; yet the parish continued to use it for some time, and to bury their dead in the cemetery till the reign of James I., though the Maplesdens owned it as their estate until their attainture, and after them the Barhams: a part at least of it was used by the Walloons for a place of public worship until 1634, when archbishop Laud obliged them to conform to the national church. The presbyterians hired it afterwards for the same purpose until 1735, when they erected a meeting-house elsewhere. Much of the chancel is still standing, and is now divided; one part is a boarding-school for young ladies, the other some time ago was converted into an assembly-room; a strange change from its original use! The cemetery, which was large, has lately become a nursery-ground; many of the remains of mortality were taken up, which the gardener decently re-interred a little

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lower than the spade had occasion to go. The whole was the property of Sir Thomas Taylor, Bart., of whose heirs Mr. Samuel Fullager purchased the estate; and it is now the property of his son, Mr. Christopher Fullager.

The town and parish of Maidstone have given some remarkable characters. Dr. Lee, archbishop of York, was born here; and in distant ages many great ecclesiastics, from its having been the place of their nativity, their having been beneficed, or resided here, took the name of de Maidstone. The surname of Maidstone is often found in our histories and elsewhere. In the last century Andrew Broughton, gent., the most active of the clerks of that infamous tribunal, the pretended high court of justice, which sentenced their sovereign Charles I. to the block, was an attorney in, and recorder of Maidstone. Attending the public worship, Wilson, a zealous monarchical presbyterian, who then was perpetual curate, inveighing against the king's murder, saying, "That David's heart smote him when he only cut off the skirt of Saul's garment, but men dared now to cut off the head of a king without remorse;" he rose from his seat, and left the church; observing which, the preacher remarked, that "when the word of God comes home to a man, it makes him fly for it." Broughton, highly incensed, obtained the school-room for the use of Joseph Whiston, an independent preacher, where he regularly attended. This man governed Maidstone during the Usurpation; in 1648, at the expense of 50l. a new mace was procured by him without the royal arms. In 1659 he was mayor a second time, but removed, as he became obnoxious from his horrid crime. At the Restoration, coming down privately from London,

he, as recorder, proclaimed Charles II.; but immediately went to the Star inn, where his servant waited with a fleet horse; he rode off full speed to a sea-port, and escaped to the continent. By proclaiming the son of his murdered master, he hoped to escape punishment; but the parliament excepted him in the act of indemnity, and being proscribed, Charles II. gave the very handsome house which he had built in Earl-street, now divided, to the duke of York his brother, who soon disposed of it: until within these three or four years the arms of Broughton were over the door; they were the same as those of the baronet family of that name. This infamous man died at Vevay, in Switzerland, where is this epitaph upon his monument given us by Mr. Addison, in his Travels:

"Depositum
"Andreae Broughton, armigeri Anglicani Maydstonensis in comitatu Cantii, ubi bis praetor urbanus; dignatusque etiam fuit sententiam regis regum profari. Quam ob causum expulsus patriae suae, peregrinatione ejus finita, solo senectutis morbo affectus requiescens a laboribus suis in Domino obdormivit, 23 die Feb. A. D. 1687, aetatis suae 84."

Nearly equal in infamy was Thomas Trapham, son of a father of both his names, of Maidstone, admitted a bachelor of physic, at Oxford, in 1648, who, as surgeon to general Fairfax, being employed to prepare the body of Charles I. for interment, brutishly said, when he had fixed the head to the trunk, "I have sewed on the head of a goose." He became surgeon to Cromwell, and died at Abingdon, December 29, 1683, in favour with, and employed by such who were, like him, bigotted republicans.

Thomas Read, of Maidstone, gent., was one of the witnesses brought by the high court of justice against the unhappy monarch; his evidence was, that, "Presently after the laying down of arms in Cornwall, between Lestithiel and Foy, i. e. Lestwithiel and Fowey, in or about the latter end of the month of August, or the beginning of September 1644, he, this deponent, did see the king in the head of a guard of horse." – Many of the witnesses against the king were compelled loyalists; we may charitably hope this gentleman was one. It is singular that Maidstone, then so much smaller than now, should have three such characters at one time.

John Jenkyns, a famous musician and composer, well known in the courts of Charles I. and II., whose fame extended even to Italy, was a native of Maidstone: as was the late fine engraver, Mr. Woollett. Mr. Jeffery, jun., of this town, who died some years ago, would have been amongst the most able painters that Britain has known, had he lived, as the specimens we have of his pencil evince. A collection of drawings, which would be appropriate to an edition of Chaucer, are incomparable, equally pleasing to the artist and the antiquary. There are two instances of longevity in the parish registers: July 30, 1616, Avis Sommerhurst, widow, was buried "aet. ut dicunt 102;" and Ann Nash, buried June 25, 1625, aged 106 years.

BOXLEY.

TO the north-east of Maidstone is Boxley, written Boseleu in Domesday-book, and Boxele and Boxle in the Textus Roffensis; on the south, it nearly joins the town of Maidstone, stretching itself almost four miles in length, though not exceeding three in breadth, and generally much less. On Boxley-hill is one of the most extensive and pleasing prospects in this part of Kent.

The land is very various; to the north, chalk; the middle, chiefly sand; to the south, more fertile; but a heavy, swampy soil. There are two streams, one rising near the chalk hills, the other below the church; uniting near the abbey, they fall into the Medway opposite Allington-castle. It is greatly intersected by roads. Several paper-mills form principal features: the upper ones are the property of lord Aylesford, the lower ones of Messrs. Hollingsworth, called the Old Turkey mills. They are very extensive buildings, and their mechanism is no less observable than the regularity of the persons employed, and the commodiousness of every part of the whole for various branches of the manufactory, which exceeds every other in the kingdom; especially the wire-wove, universally admired.

The mills were erected by Mr. James Whatman, who, in 1739, pulled down the preceding ones used for fulling, and in their room built these; his son James Whatman, Esq., brought them to their present perfection. In 1794 he disposed of them to the gentlemen who now carry on the business.

The manor of Boxley was held by Alnod Cilt prior to, and by Robert Latin under Odo bishop of Bayeux, after the Norman conquest. It remained in the crown after his disgrace, until Richard I. gave it to the abbey of Boxley, founded in 1146 by William d'Ipre earl of Kent, who died a monk at Laon, in Flanders. The order of Cistertians, or white monks, were under the protection of the blessed Virgin, the patroness of all their monasteries. They became a society first at Cisteaux, in Burgundy, in the year 1098, and were so popular in England, that at their dissolution they had eighty-five houses.

The abbot of this monastery was twice in the reign of Edward I. summoned to sit in the house of peers. Edward II. honoured Boxley-abbey with a visit. Edward III. granted free warren to the abbot in the manor. The last abbot surrendered the house to Henry VIII.; the clear revenue was 204l. 4s. 11d. according

to Dugdale; Speed gives its income at 218l. 9s. 10d. A chapel, dedicated to St. Andrew the apostle, was near the gate of the abbey.

This monastery was remarkable for two pieces of Romish quackery; a crucifix, called the rood of grace, which by mechanism moving its eyes, imposed upon the credulity of the ignorant vulgar. It was taken to London, publicly broken to pieces and burnt, at St. Paul's cross, on Sunday, February 24, 1538, before Dr. Hilsey bishop of Rochester, and a prodigious multitude. The other was a statue of St. Rumbald, called by the common people St. Gumbald, and held by them in the utmost reverence from its supposed power of working miracles. By such low tricks the monks disgraced themselves, and injured the best of interests.

The scite and manor was exchanged by Henry VIII. with Sir Thomas Wyat; when all the estates of that unfortunate criminal were lost to his family, queen Mary restored the manor to his widow. Queen Elizabeth granted the abbey to John Astley, Esq., for a term of years; at its expiration the Wyats appear to have succeeded to it by a reversionary grant from that sovereign. The lineal descendant left this manor to the ennobled family of Marsham, and it is now the property of lord Romney; whose sisters, the Hon. Miss Marshams, and his lordship's brother-in-law, John Cooker, Esq., reside here, universally beloved and respected. Courts leet and baron are regularly held for this manor, whose tenants are freeholders in free soccage tenure.

Boxley-abbey went to the heirs of George Wyat, Esq. until it came to Sir Francis Wyat, governor of Virginia, who had two sons, Henry and Edwin; the former leaving an only daughter, married to Sir Thomas Seyliard, Bart., she took the abbey into that family; but the manor being proved to have been settled upon male issue, with the estates appendant upon it, went to Mr. Ewin Wyat, the younger brother. Sir Thomas Seyliard's two daughters and coheirs sold the abbey to the Austens. The last baronet of that family devised it to the relations of his lady, and in virtue of that will it came to John Amhurst, Esq., and since his death without issue, to captain John-Thomas Amhurst, and the representatives of the late Mr. James Allen, in equal shares.

Newnham-court, a manor belonging anciently to Boxley-abbey, came to the crown by Sir Thomas Wyat's attainture. Queen Elizabeth, in her eleventh year, gave it to the Astley family; they to their relation Sir Norton Knatchbull, Bart., and he to Sir John Banks, Bart., one of whose daughters and coheirs took it to the

Finch's, earls of Aylesford: the present nobleman obtained an act of parliament to empower him to exchange some premises which were a part of it, especially Poll mill, with Mr. Whatman.

Wavering, a hamlet, was, at an early period, possessed by the Houghams, near Dover. After being divided into lots, it wholly vested in the Wyat family; and thence, by Sir Thomas's attainture, in the crown, but was restored by queen Elizabeth for three lives, the remainder being granted by Charles I. to Stephen Alcock, of Rochester, Esq.; he conveyed it to the Wyats, the last of whom devised it to the ancestor of lord Romney, the present possessor, who also enjoys the fee-farm

of the manor, purchased from the crown in the reign of Charles II., and confirmed by parliament. The manor is now merged in the paramount one of Boxley.

Vinters, anciently Vintners, on the south part of the parish, gave name and residence to the Vinters; they sold it in Henry IV.'s reign to the Freminghams, who left it to the Isleys; upon their attainture queen Mary granted it to the Cutts; and after many transfers the seat and estate was alienated to the Whytes, who resided here, and afterwards to the baronial family of Onley: lord Onley in 1783 was enabled by parliament to dispose of the premises, which were purchased by the late James Whatman, Esq. The family of Champneis had usually occupied the seat, which Mr. Whatman rebuilt, and his widow Mrs. Whatman makes it her residence: the remainder is vested in James Whatman, Esq., his only son. The tithes of this estate, once belonging to Leeds-abbey, are now by the gift of Henry VIII., part of the possessions of the dean and chapter of Rochester.

Ovenhelle, now Overhill-farm, lying on the chalk-hills, was formerly a manor, and, with others near it, obliged to contribute to the repair of the fourth pier of Rochester bridge. The Longchamps held it; after them the Pencestres; then the Cobhams; and now lord Romney, from the will of the last Mr. Wyat. Sir Osbert de Longo Campo, or Longchamp, held the manor of Edward I. by sergeantry, the service of which was singular, attending the king in his army into Wales forty days at his own expense, with a horse valued at five shillings, and a wallet worth sixpence, having a broche to it.

The Grange, or Nether Grange, part of the estate belonging to the abbey, was by queen Mary retained upon Wyat's execution. Queen Elizabeth gave it, consisting of a messuage and 340 acres of meadow and pasture land, to George Clarke, Esq., whose son disposed of it to the Brewers, and they in the reign of Charles I. to the

Calders, who now possess it, the seat of which has been mentioned in Maidstone parish.

Court-lodge, a large farm, is the property of Sir William Geary, Bart., by the limitation of his relation Leonard Bartholomew, of Oxonhoath, Esq.

The Grove, on the south side of the parish, from the Waverings passed in Henry IV.'s reign to the Burbiges; the last heir male leaving it to his sister, she conveyed it, in 1702, to Mr. John Watts, so well known for his working the very fine vein of fuller's earth in this parish. His heirs alienated the Grove to general Belford, who left it to his two sons, colonel Gustavus Belford, and William Belford, Esq. The property is shared by the former of those gentlemen, and the two daughters and coheirs of the latter.

The seats in this parish not noticed, are those of the Rev. George Berville, which he inherits from the will of his maternal uncle, John Charlton, Esq.; and Parkhouse, once the residence of the St. John family, now of Thomas Best, Esq.

Boxley is within the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton. Its church, dedicated to All Saints, is a fine, large Gothic structure: there are some handsome monuments within it of the Wyats, Champneys, and Charltons; and in the cemetery the Bests have elegant tombs. After much contention between the monks of Boxley and those of Rochester, the great tithes were awarded to the former. At the dissolution Henry VIII. gave them to the dean and chapter of Rochester.

The vicarage, one of the best in Kent, is valued in the king's books 12l. 19s. 2d. The vicar has a pension of 8l. per annum from the exchequer as an augmentation; out of which he pays 12s. if he receives it himself, and 20s. if by another. The vicarage-house is elegant, but unfortunately without any glebe. There are living three former vicars: Dr. Markham archbishop of York, who built much to the house; Dr. North bishop of Winchester, who also resided here; the Rev. William Nance, A. M., who spent 500l. in building to, and improving the vicarage; the present incumbent is the Rev. John Benson, D. D., prebendary of Canterbury. The learned North Briton, Dr. John Balcanquall, successively dean of Rochester and Durham, who represented the church of Scotland in the synod of Dort, was vicar of Boxley, which he resigned in 1640, and sunk under the church's and his own misfortunes in 1645. His son, Walter Balcanquall, A. M., succeeded him, but resigned in 1646.

In Boxley parish is far the greater part of Penenden-heath, generally called Pick-

enden-heath, at the conquest Pinnedenna-heath; the remainder of it is in Maidstone parish. Here on the north side, in a very humble shed, is held the county court, monthly; and at elections for the county here the sheriff assembles the meeting, as he does for the election of coroners, but generally adjourns them to Maidstone, unless the former are contested, as unhappily has been frequently the case. A more brilliant assembly can scarce be supposed; large capacious booths are at such times built near for the accommodation of the candidates, and those employed by them. Opposite to this in Maidstone parish, on a very rising ground, is a gallows for the execution of criminals.

As a central place Penenden-heath is convenient and commodious for county meetings. The most celebrated assemblage was in 1076, when William the Conqueror commanded his nobles, and other persons of consequence, to hear the allegations brought against his turbulent, avaricious half-brother, Odo bishop of Bayeux, and earl of Kent, so often mentioned. Goisfrid bishop of Constance represented the sovereign; Lanfranc archbishop of Canterbury pleaded the cause of the oppressed church, as well against the rapacity of Odo as the encroachments of Hugh Montfort, and Ralph de Curva Spina, or Crookthorne: the matter was solemnly pleaded by the head of the Anglican church, and as boldly defended by the imperious Odo: many of the greatest and wisest men in the kingdom attended, both Anglo-Saxons and Normans; especially such who were barons of the sovereign and the archbishop, or tenants of the latter; at the head of whom, under the bishop of Constance, were Richard de Tonebridge, Hugh de Montfort, though complained of, William de Arsic, and Hamo, the vicecomes or sheriff of Kent; as persons who could give the best intelligence, and whose disinterestedness was equally known. Ernest and Agelric, bishops of Rochester and Chester, assisted at the tribunal; the latter was a very wise man, and extremely well versed in the English laws; on account of his great age he was brought in a waggon! After a trial of three days the archbishop obtained the most ample justice.

Some Roman antiquities have been discovered in this parish. At Grove an urn was found in 1711, near the vein of fuller's earth; and several other of these funeral remains, with coins and other relics, have been dug up near Vintners and Goddard's hill; at the latter there are vast stones set up like those at Horsted. February 17, 1790, was buried Ann Pilcher, aged 100 years and eight months: an antiquity of another kind.

In this parish. are these plants, which are rarely seen – borago minor silvestris, small white bugloss, or German madwort; – scopyllum angusti folium glabrum, smooth, narrow-leaved thyme; – buxus, the box-tree, which flourishes abundantly in the woods; – stellaria sanicula major, ladies' mantle.

DETLING.

THE parish of Detling, anciently written Detlinges, to the east of Boxley, is a sequestered spot, in the road from Maidstone to Sittingborne. There is little here to please, being upon the barren chalk, and embosomed in its own brushwood, affording many native yews, and a profusion of columbines. The want of rural beauties is amply compensated by health, the first of blessings.

This was also a part of the immense possessions of Odo, but regained by the legal owners, the metropolitans of Canterbury. A family residing here were called de Detling, until they changed their name to Brampton, an heiress of whom took it to the At Townes, and their heir general to the Lewknors, who alienated the manor to the Woodvilles, one of whom being attainted by Richard III. Brakenbury obtained it of him; Richard Lewknor, Esq., received it from Henry VII., probably because his family had retained some estates here after they had disposed of the manor; his sole daughter and heir took the whole to George Hills, whose two daughters and coheirs conveyed it to the families of Martin and Vincent: since then the manor has been divided, one part being called East, the other West court.

East-court, after various transfers, was purchased by Francis Foote, of Veryan, in Cornwall, Esq., whose descendant, George-Talbot-Hatley Foote, Esq., now owns both this and West-court; his father, Benjamin-Hatley Foote, Esq., having purchased the latter of the heirs of Thomas Borrett, of Shoreham, in Kent, Esq., one of the prothonotaries of the common pleas. Mr. Foote holds a court baron for the manor of Detling, which is paramount to that of Henkhurst, in

Staplehurst.

Detling, in the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton, has a small church, once a chapel of ease to Maidstone, standing on the south-west end of the village, anciently Polley-street, from the Polley or Polhill family, who still have lands here called Polley Fields. The church is exempt from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon of Canterbury. The vicarage is a discharged living of the certified clear

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yearly value of 30l.; it has been thrice augmented, which makes an addition of 16l. The incumbent is the Rev. Denny-Martin Fairfax, D. D., who resides in Leeds-castle.

This parish is remarkable for the women bringing twin children; but the following is a very singular increase – Ann, the wife of Thomas Smith, clerk of this parish, had three children; a daughter born alive at four o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday, June 20, 1661; on the following Sunday at five o'clock in the morning a still-born daughter, and at four o'clock in the afternoon a son: the first and last, with the mother, lived. It is observable that this parish and Thurnham should have so many more double births than the neighbouring ones, in proportion to their population.

LOOSE.

TO the south of Maidstone is Loose, anciently Hlose, or Lose, from the Anglo-Saxon hlosan, to lose, from its stream losing itself at Brishing, and running from thence subterraneously for near half a mile, rising again at the quarries in the eastern extremity of the parish. Loose is the most romantic spot in this part of the kingdom, and from its resemblance has the name of the English Spa. It is every way a most agreeable place; its mills for making paper, grinding of corn, and fulling, with its tan-yards, make what seems formed for retirement a busy scene. The parish is finely wooded, and the river and springs give it a profusion of water. Agriculture is no where better understood, nor practised to more advantage; its pasturage adds much to the general diversity of its scenery.

There are few places whose history can be traced so high as Loose. Ethelwulf, the Anglo-Saxon monarch, in 832 gave it to Sueta, then a widow: she and her daughter presented it to the priory of Christ-church, in Canterbury, which allotted its income to purchase clothing for their fraternity. It had free warren, courts leet and baron, which latter are still retained, and where borsholders are elected for Wanshurst, Falksheath, and Pattenden, in the Weald. At the Reformation Henry VIII. gave it to the dean and chapter of Rochester. John Penfold, Esq., is lessee, as have been his wife's relations the Crispes or Cripps, for a considerable time. Mr. Penfold resides here, having a most highly cultivated farm, elegantly arranged, uniting taste with utility.

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A late very elaborate writer thinks there was another manor, which once belonged to the Freminghams, who left it to the Pimpes; but of this little is satisfactory.

The seat of Salt's-place, once the Bufkins, is now possessed by the Rev. Dr. Denny-Martin Fairfax, whose ancestors the Martins obtained it by their descent from them; at present the house is unoccupied. William Post, Esq., resides at Hale-place in this parish, once called le Hayle. It is of considerable antiquity, as its gateway evinces; but the house has been new-fronted.

This parish, in the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton, has an ancient church, dedicated to All Saints, once a chapel of ease to Maidstone. The great tithes belong to the see of Canterbury, by a grant from Elizabeth, to whom they came as part of the possessions of the college of priests in Maidstone. The living is discharged: archbishop Juxon, and Mr. Beale, a rich Hamburgh merchant, a native of Loose, augmented it; but still the stipend is far inadequate to the duty. The present curate is the Rev. Denny-Martin Fairfax, D. D. In the church-yard is perhaps the oldest and the largest yew-tree in England.

LINTON.

LINTON, to the south of Loose, on the opposite side of Cock's-heath, was anciently Lyllynton; in Latin, Lilintuna, i. e. lytlan, small, and stane, a stone, from its quarries of stone. It is chiefly in the Weald; the view from hence towards

that district is most picturesque, and inferior in richness to no woodland view in the island. The extensive common called Cock's-heath, part within this parish, is elevated, dry, and open, consequently well selected for encampments; there have been several: – that of 1778 was the largest; 15,000 men were stationed here, yet only two-thirds of the whole was covered with tents: the remains of these encampments are yet very discernible, but gradually wear out. Linton is famous for its hops, which resist the periodical blights better than most other situations. The road crosses the river at Style bridge.

This place is not mentioned in the Domesday survey, owing, it may be supposed, to its manor being within that of East Farleigh, except a small part which Loose claims over it. The tenants in fee of the former hold in free soccage.

Linton's-place, once Capel's-court, so called from the at-Capells, or de Capella family, who resided at Capel's-court, in Ivechurch, in the Marsh; they disposed

of it in Henry's IV.'s reign to Richard Baysden, whose descendants in that of Elizabeth sold it to the Maneys, deservedly for their loyalty created baronets; from them by purchase it went in Charles II.'s reign to Sir Francis Withens: Catherine his sole daughter and heir took it successively to her husbands Sir Thomas Twisden, Bart., and brigadier-general George Jocelyn; he disposed of it to the Mann family, one of whom took down the old mansion of Capel's-court, and built a small neat seat, which is very peculiarly situated, its lower stories being not seen from Cock's-heath, but to the Weald exhibits a good front. It is now possessed by Sir Horace Mann, Bart., but inhabited by Edward Mann, Esq.

The Welldishs's had for many years an estate here, several of whom are buried in the church, descended from one who had been huntsman to William the Norman, distinguished alike for his exploits in the chase and in arms; their estate, purchased by the Maney family, went with their other estates in this parish.

Linton has an alms-house for four families, built and endowed by the Maneys, but rebuilt and augmented in 1749 by Robert Mann, Esq.

This parish, in the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton, has a church dedicated to St. Nicholas, a small, but very neat edifice, rich in monuments, especially of the Maneys and Manns, with their alliances: also of the Tokes, Richs's, and others. In the church-yard are several tombs, one of which is very ancient; at each end is a large cross; it has no inscription. The monument against the south wall in the body of the church of various marbles, with an urn in an arched recess, adorned with fine Gothic ornaments, is worthy the taste of the late lord Orford, who erected it. The inscription is,

> "GALFREDO MANN,
> Amicissimo optimo,
> Qui obiit Dec. XX. MDCCLVI.
> Aetatis suae L.
> Horatius Walpole
> P."

Here also was buried Sir Horatio Mann, Bart., knight of the Bath, who had for forty-six years resided at Florence as his majesty's envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the grand ducal court of Tuscany, and where he died November 6, 1786; his body being brought to England, was conveyed to this place with vast pomp.

The vicarage, in the gift of Sir Horace Mann, who is lay-impropriator, is valued at 7l. 13s. 4d.; the Rev. Robert Foote, A. M., is the present incumbent.

Lunaria, or small moon-wort, grows on Cock's-heath in this parish.

EAST FARLEIGH.

EAST, or Great Farleigh, as Leland calls it, to the north-west of Linton, is two miles from Maidstone, and rich in plantations of hops, apples, cherries, and filberts. Great part of Cock's-heath lies in this parish; the Medway is the opposite boundary; the best bridge upon the river, except Rochester, is here.

Edgiva, the third and last queen of Edward the elder, whom she survived forty years, and mother of Edmund and Edred, two other of our Anglo-Saxon

monarchs, in 961 gave this place to the monastery of Christ-church, in Canterbury, free of every secular service, except repairing bridges and building castles. At the dissolution Henry VIII. gave the manor to Sir Thomas Wyat, whose attainture restored it to the crown, where it still remains, and the duke of Leeds holds it under a fee-farm rent of 10s. During the Usurpation colonel Gibbon possessed it.

Court-lodge, the chief manor, with all the demesne lands, containing about 200 acres, was granted to Sir John Baker, after Wyat's attainture, to hold in capite by knight's service; being left to his second son, he devised the estate to the far-famed Sir Richard Baker, who has chronicled such extraordinary tales, and published other works, long consigned to oblivion: this unhappy knight died in the Fleet-prison, February 18, 1644-5, having disposed of this estate to Sir Francis Fane, of Burston, in Hunton, one of which family sold it to Mr. John Amhurst, the occupier of the land; the descendant of his brother, Stephen Amhurst, of West Farleigh, gent., is the owner of this estate: the ruinous mansion has long been inhabited only by cottagers.

Gallants, a manor, once belonging to a branch of the Colepepers, who held it of the prior of Christ-church, in Canterbury; went from them to the Ropers, afterwards ennobled. Catherine, the daughter of Christopher lord Teynham, took it to the Sheldons: the widow of the last of them conveyed it in marriage to her second husband, William Jones, M. D.; their daughters and coheirs, Mary and Ann, with their husbands Lock Rollinson, of Oxfordshire, Esq., and Thomas Russel, have united to dispose of it to Mr. Israel Lewis, of Hackney. The

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manor-house has long been let to the cultivators of the land: some remains of its ancient state appear in the Gothic door-cases and windows, cased with ashlar stone: the walls are chiefly of flint.

Pimpe's-court, anciently the seat of the Pimpes, who held under the Clares earls of Gloucester, an heiress of these Pimpes took it to Sir John Rainsford, who alienated it to Sir Henry Isley; he disgavelled it in Edward VI.'s reign, but lost both the estate and his life by attainture. Queen Mary gave it to Sir John Baker, whose descendant sold it in the end of Charles II.'s reign to Thomas Floyd, of Gore-court, in Otham, Esq., whose descendant sold it to the Brownes: their heir general carried it to the Holdens, the last of whom devised it to his widow, with remainder to his nephew Vechell, a minor, residing in Cambridgeshire.

There is a seat here which has about twenty acres of land belonging to it, long possessed by the Goddens; the sole heir of one of them in the reign of Charles II. took it to the Darbys; the last of whom, Mr. John Darby, leaving no issue, devised this estate to Mary his widow, daughter and one of the two coheirs of captain Elmstone, of Egerton; she remarrying to Mr. James Drury, he came, resided, and died here; his widow makes it her seat: their sole daughter and heir Elizabeth is now the widow of the late John Corrall, of Maidstone, gent., in whom the remainder vests. It is worthy remark, that except a younger branch of the Clerkes, of Wrotham, Mrs. Drury is the only person above the station of a farmer that has been known to reside in this parish for two centuries.

The parish is a peculiar of Canterbury, though in the see of Rochester and deanry of Shoreham. The church is a large, handsome, Gothic building, neatly pewed, through the care of the late vicar, the Rev. Ezekiel Paul de la Douespe, who also was a great benefactor to the living, by expending at least 500l. in building to the vicarage-house. There are two monuments, one to the memory of a Colepeper, in the north wall of the great chancel, where the arms of that family are visible; and another in Pimpe's chancel to that of Margaret de Cobham, wife of Sir William de Pimpe, who died in 1337, but no inscription is visible upon either of them: some grave-stones are in this chancel which have had brass plates, and in the east window of it three shields of arms and E. P.: this was formerly the chapel of the blessed Mary. There are two very ancient grave-stones, with a cross, one also with a chalice upon it, probably laid over former vicars: the arch of the church leading from the tower or belfry is round and of zigzag work, which shows its antiquity.

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In the church-yard is a very small grave-stone, much defaced, inscribed – "Here lieth the body of Margaret Coomber, a maid; she was barbarously murdered by William Godden, March 14th, 1671, aged sixty years." This unfortunate

woman was killed in a wood since called Gibbet wood; the malefactor was executed, and his body hung in Dane-street.

The great tithes and glebe, consisting of forty acres of land, were given to the college at Maidstone, and at its dissolution were granted by the crown to the Fanes, and are, by the entailure of John earl of Westmorland, now the property of lord Le Despenser. The patronage of this vicarage, valued in the king's books at 6l. 16s. 8d., is in the crown; the late vicar let it for 160l.: the tithe of wheat and other grain growing upon what is called garden spots, is due to the vicar; but there is no glebe. The present incumbent is the Rev. Henry Freind, who has much improved the vicarage-house.

EAST BARMING.

THE parish of East Barming is next to Maidstone, and exactly opposite to a part of East and West Farleigh, the river dividing them. Its ancient name was Barmelinge, from its moist situation, having many springs, which forming rills, descend into the river, one so considerable, at the conquest, and for some ages afterwards, as to turn a mill. It gradually rises from the Medway, and to the west ends in wood. The spring tides came up to St. Helen's before the river was made navigable.

Every writer speaks with enthusiasm of the delightfully cultivated scenery that presents itself: here is nothing rude; nothing to excite awe; no terrific, craggy mountain; no cataract to stun the wondering passenger; all is gentleness, serenity, and pleasure. In the valley, the Medway winds its silent, deep, and silvery stream; the trickling rills, bursting from their rocky beds, glide into and swell the river as it passes; the luxuriant meadows, bespangled with many a beautiful flower fringing its banks; the fine hanging woods of spreading oaks or lofty elms, terminating in the whitened church, and elegantly tapered spire, are conspicuous to a great extent, owing to the curve of the valley; and these, added to the picturesque wooden bridge of St. Helen, the beautiful village, the handsome residences of its gentry, the good houses of the farmers, and the neat dwellings of the cottagers, render it the most charming spot in this enchanting valley; no wonder

then that they boast that as Kent is the garden of England, so Barming is that of Kent. Other parts of the county are healthy or wealthy, but this envious spot happily unites both; for the air is excellent, its waters extremely pure, and the cultivation is more varied and richer than any other spot in the kingdom of the same dimensions. This parish has most rapidly increased in improvement and population within the present century.

The turnpike road from Maidstone to Tunbridge runs through this district over what is called Barming, a century ago Longsole heath, and where, when the last encampment was upon Cock's-heath, there was "a flying" one. The road formerly went up North-street.

There was for a great many centuries a ferry at St. Helen's, at the bottom of the declivity of the hill.

The manor of East Barming was held by Alret in the reign of the Confessor; the Norman conqueror gave it to Richard de Tonebrige, whose descendants, the earls of Clare, Gloucester, and Hertford, had the lordship. It was afterwards divided between the Peyforers and Kents, each holding of the manor of Clare. The heirs of the former appear to have possessed a manor in East Barming now known by the name of St. Helen's, because given to the Benedictine nunnery of St. Helen, which stood in Bishopsgate-street, in London. It certainly did not comprise the whole parish: that once manor has long ceased to be one, from there having never been any court held for at least a century and an half, nor probably long before.

The monastery of St. Helen's at the dissolution was given by Henry VIII. to Sir Richard Williams alias Cromwell, great grandfather of the protector Oliver; but this estate was granted in 1541 by that monarch to Richard Callohill to hold in capite by knight's service: after many alienations it settled in the Botelers of Teston. At the death of Sir Philip Boteler, Bart., this manor, in the division of his estates, fell to the share of lady dowager Folkstone, who dying in 1782, it came to her only son, the Hon. Philip Bouverie, who has taken the name of Pusey: this gentleman, so well known for his distinguished virtues, now owns it.

Court barons are regularly held here, and the rolls are perfect since the year

1609-10. The court lodge near St. Helen's bridge, with its dove-cote, were standing a few years ago; a small cottage formed out of a part of one of the offices, only remains of the whole.

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The other moiety of the estate was held by Roger de Kent; which family, after some descents, sold it to the Freminghams, who by will gave it to the Pimpes; and from thence it went to the unfortunate Sir Henry Isley, who disgavelled, and afterwards lost it by attainture; when queen Mary granted it in capite by knight's service, to Sir John Baker, her attorney-general, one of whose descendants in Charles II.'s reign alienated it to Henry Golding, gent., who dying in 1674 devised it to Henry his eldest son and heir, who disposed of this estate between the years 1696 and 1698 to Thomas Stringer, Esq., who before 1699 sold them to —— Spencer; he passed them away to the ancestor of their present possessor John Amhurst, gent. There is no mansion-house belonging to this estate; but there evidently has been one on the east side of the cemetery. Before this estate came into queen Mary's hands, it was successively held of the Clares earls of Clare, Gloucester, and Hertford; the Staffords dukes of Buckingham, and the Rainsfords.

Hall-place, a reputed manor; the mansion, now little more than a cottage, was anciently of consequence sufficient to give name to the family of at-Halls, who before the end of Edward III.'s reign had disposed of the greatest part of the estate to the Colepepers, of Preston, in Aylesford, and the remainder to the Clives, one of whom in the reign of Henry IV. alienated his share to the Colepepers also, and the whole was soon after conveyed to Sampson Mascall, descended from those of Mascall, in Brenchley, in Sussex. In the year 1656 the Rev. Richard Webbe, rector of the parish, purchased it, and built near the manor-house a handsome seat: his descendant in 1726 conveyed it to Peter Smart, gent., father of the poet, who died here; his widow and their children alienated it to the elegant and refined John Cale, Esq. This gentleman left to Hertford college, Oxford, his fine library; 60l. to remove the books, and the interest of 1000l. East India annuities to a librarian; 200l., the interest of which was to be laid out in bread and clothes for the poor of Barming: to the protestant schools in Ireland, 200l.: to the discharge of prisoners confined for small debts, 200l.: to the society for the relief of hurt and wounded seamen in the merchants' service, 200l. – This learned and valuable man died in 1777, and left this estate to the heirs of the late Thomas Prowse, of Axbridge, in Somersetshire, Esq., who were the lady of Sir John Mordaunt, of Walton, in Warwickshire, Bart., and her sister: they united to convey these premises to John Amhurst, gent., who immediately despoliated the fine plantations and gardens of

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all the exotic trees, shrubs, and flowers, and the seat has for some time been occupied by persons one degree above cottagers; the consequences may easily be judged.

Home-stall, a handsome modern seat, with about forty acres of land, was conveyed to captain Nicholas Amhurst, in 1709, by —— Daves, Esq. Mr. Amhurst left it to his two sons, Nicholas and Edward; they united to dispose of it to James Allen, gent., the husband of their sister Jane; he built this seat about 1730, but sold it soon after to Arthur Harris, Esq., who devised it to Mrs. Alicia Harris, and at her death it came to their youngest brother Thomas Harris, Esq.; he dying unmarried in 1769 left it to Mrs. Mary Dorman, a lady of most estimable character, who now resides here. The remainder is limited by Mr. Harris's will to the family of Mumford, of Sutton-at-Hone.

There is another handsome seat, to which is annexed about the same quantity of land. It was in the preceding century the property of the Fletchers, the last of whom, after disgracing himself by every worthless action, quitted this place, having sold this estate to Thomas Whitacre, gent.; he devised it to his second son John Whitacre, Esq., who rebuilt the seat unfortunately upon the ancient scite; it should have been set a little north, and fronting the beautiful valley below; at his death the reversion vested in his nephew, Thomas Whitacre, of Trottescliffe, Esq. It is now occupied by William Roffe, gent.

In the village is a neat white house, built by the Rev. James Mashborne, a former rector of this parish. The conveyance not having been executed by Mr. Fletcher, who had sold the land, he took advantage of an act of Charles II., and obliged the unfortunate clergyman to repurchase the estate, and pay for the house he had

built, which necessitated him to sell the whole to Mr. Whitacre, whose tenant he continued until his death. His successor, the Rev. Thomas Pickering, also resided in this house during the whole of his incumbency.

There is another house upon Barming heath; the ground, with a considerable portion of land, chiefly in Maidstone parish, was sold by Mr. Fletcher to Mr. Samuel Steed, upon which the latter erected this house; but Fletcher having previously and clandestinely mortgaged it, Mr. Steed was obliged to pay off the incumbrance. He left it to his widow for life, the remainder to his niece Miss Catherine Higgins; she and her husband alienated the estate to Mr. James Ferguson, of the borough of Southwark, who has much improved, and now makes it his country residence.

Barming is in the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling. Its church,

dedicated to St. Margaret, is a small Gothic structure, extremely neat without; its elegant spire is the leading object around. The church-yard is embosomed in fine elms, and the road from the street is peculiarly striking and pleasing. “The present rector, about twelve years ago, at his own expense, entirely repaired and ornamented the chancel; he gave also a new altar, pulpit-cloth, and cushion.” There are no monuments within the church, but many in the cemetery: that erected over the remains of Thomas Harris, Esq., of various coloured marbles, cost near 300l.

This rectory, anciently in the patronage of the priory of Leeds, is now in the crown, and is valued in the king’s books at 12l. 7s. 1d., and charged with an yearly pension of 2s. to the church of Rochester, once payable to Leeds priory. The glebe contains eighty-three acres. The parsonage-house, close to the boundary of Maidstone parish, and nearly one mile from the church, is delightfully situated upon the declivity of the hill, commanding an extensive prospect, and the land beautifully disposed by the hand of nature. Mr. Webbe, rector of Barming, having been robbed, deserted the house, and for nearly a century and an half it was occupied by farmers or cottagers. The present rector, the Rev. Mark Noble, F. A. S., well known for his various publications, resides in, and has lately almost rebuilt it – “And by his judicious management and improvements,” says Mr. Hasted, “he has made this benefice, perhaps, one of the most desirable in the diocese.” Not much less than 20,000 trees and shrubs have been planted by him upon the glebe.

There were formerly two crosses in this parish; probably one erected by the priory of Leeds, the other by the nunnery of St. Helen’s; the places where they stood still retain the names of the upper cross, and lower cross; they were no doubt taken down at the Reformation. It is singular that the stones in which each of them were set remain near the places where they originally had been.

In the spring of 1797, in grubbing up an hedge in the lane, at a small distance from the parsonage, were found seven Roman urns, buried near each other, and entire when found; but the workmen broke them, in hopes of finding something valuable within; they contained a great quantity of human ashes, which bore evident marks of fire. Some of the urns were black, like Wedgwood’s ware, with rims, and of elegant workmanship; others were of a dull red earth: both had evidently been turned in a lathe. The workmen said, that when entire they were

near two feet high, and, from the quantity of ashes, they must have been large. There was part of a man’s skull found near them, and a little farther off a great quantity of bones placed together, but without any urn; these immediately went to dust when exposed to the air. We agree with a gentleman who supposes that these remains point out that this was the Roman highway, which led to Oldborough, in Ightham.

About five or six years ago, in the next piece of ground to that part where these urns were discovered, vast numbers of the bones of men and horses were disturbed in digging for the quarry stone; they were laid in regular rows, and probably there are many more, as they still continued to be seen as far as the earth was removed. Some of these carcases had been laid upon the bare rock; pieces of decayed leather were taken up, but nothing else; so that it cannot with certainty be adduced at what period the bodies of these persons were laid here; yet as the leather was found with them, we cannot suppose it to have been so far back as the Roman period, and

consequently that they had no reference to the urns, though it is singular that they should be so near to each other. It is evident the unfortunate fell in battle, by the horses having been buried near them. As the Kentish men defended East Farleigh bridge in 1648 against general Fairfax, and many fell before they forced the passage in their way to Maidstone, it is reasonable to suppose that these unhappy men were victims to our domestic wars; this field being close to a lane leading from the village of Barming to East Farleigh bridge confirms the conjecture: a gold ring of ancient make was found at no great distance. Part of a human skeleton was taken up in 1789 in altering the road at the west end of Barming-street, leading to Teston, and nine bodies were discovered in East Farleigh, probably of fugitives after the skirmish at the bridge; a human skull was found, part of the skeleton of one of these fugitives.

Barming-heath is famed for its common camomile; and the great mullein grows higher there, and in all the east part of the parish, than is known elsewhere; by cultivation it becomes a very beautiful plant. The wild honey suckle there twines round every bush in a profusion not to be imagined.

We shall quit this delightful and interesting parish with observing, that the Rev. John Harris, afterward D. D., the author of a history of Kent, was some little time rector of Barming, but never resided in, and soon resigned it.

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WEST BARMING, or BARNJETT.

THIS diminutive district is variously written in ancient deeds, West Barming, Baringjet alias Parinjet, an evident corruption for Barmingjet, as the Registrum Roffense gives it; the Textus Roffensis, Bearmlingetes. It seems a continuation of Barming, containing only the court-lodge and a cottage.

Ranulf de Columbels held “Bermelie” at the conquest under Odo bishop of Bayeux; at his disgrace it was given to the Crevequers, of whom the de Barmelinges held it; they passed it to the Freminghams, who devised it to the Pimpes; from whom coming to Sir Henry Isley, he disgavelled and lost it by attainture; since it has been invariably united to the estate lying at the west part of Barming. John Amhurst, gent., has altered, and resides in the court-lodge. The place is capable of great improvement, and might, in the hands of taste, add greatly to the surrounding scenery, the sweep down to the Medway being fine.

Here was anciently an house of prayer; in the Textus Roffensis it was called a chapel, and as such paid chrism rent to the mother church of the diocese, afterwards esteemed a parish of itself; but incapable of supporting a rector in Henry VII.’s reign, it was annexed to Nettlested, then also in the patronage of the Pimpes.

The rectors of Nettlested are presented, inducted, and instituted to Nettlested, with the chapel of Barmingjett annexed, yet receive no emolument from the latter. The Hon. Philip-Bouverie Pusey has a small estate in this now almost extra-parochial place, still called the parsonage farm; he also claims a part of the manor.

The chapel of Barnjett stood near the court-lodge; a hay barn now marks the place. In the time of Lambarde it was desecrated: after serving successively as a dwelling, a carpenter’s workshop, and a kennel for dogs, it was taken down, and the stones conveyed to the end of Teston bridge to raise the road. Its cemetery was excavated for quarry stone, until the labourers desisted from a sense of decency, a commendable trait of character.

Larkfield Hundred.

THIS hundred lies to the north of Maidstone. Its orthography is entirely changed. In Domesday-book it is written Laurochesfel, since Laverkefeld. It contains the parishes of Allington, Ditton, Snodland, Padlesworth, Birling,

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Ryarsh, Leyborne, East Malling, West Malling, Ofham, Addington, and Trottescliffe, on the west side the Medway; and Aylesford, Burham, and Woldham, on the east of that river. Aylesford and West Malling are exempt from the constables of Larkfield hundred; the former being ancient demesne, the other a separate liberty, has its own constable. Aylesford has a small part within the hundred of Maidstone. Hunton and Horsmonden have some parts of their parishes within this hundred.

ALLINGTON.

TO the north-west of Maidstone, on the opposite bank of the Medway, is Allington, the Elentun of Domesday-book. It is a very small parish, and, except its castle, uninteresting.

It is most probable that the Anglo-Saxons, at an early period of their government, had a castle here; the original one was destroyed by the all-desolating Danes. It became part of the domain of Ulnoth or Alnoth, fourth son of earl Godwin, and brother of Harold II., called in Domesday-book, Cilt or illustrious. The Conqueror gave the castle to Odo bishop of Bayeux; at his fall it was transferred to another relation, William earl of Warren, in Normandy, whom William II. created earl of Surry; he rebuilt the castle according to the improved taste of the Normans.

This nobleman afterwards passed it to lord Fitz Hugh; his daughter married Sir Giles Allington, whose posterity possessed it until the latter end of Henry III.'s reign, when Sir Stephen de Penchester, constable of Dover-castle, and warden of the cinque-ports, obtained it. Much attached to Allington, he sued for, and obtained Edward I.'s grant of a weekly market, and an yearly fair for three days, on the vigil, the feast of St. Lawrence, and the day after; also free warren, and leave to embattle the castle. The additions he made were so great, that he is often called the founder, and from him it was frequently named Allington-Penchester.

At his death the castle was apportioned to Joan, the eldest of his two daughters and coheirs, who took it to the second branch of the Cobhams, whence it acquired the name of Allington-Cobham. In Edward IV.'s reign it went to the Brents; they alienated it to the Wyats, famed for their abilities, power, and wealth.

They were originally of Yorkshire. Sir Henry, who obtained Allington-castle, lost seventeen manors and his liberty, for attempting to dethrone Richard III. in

favour of Henry earl of Richmond; tradition says he was fed by a cat whilst in the Tower: the improbable tale is vouched for because puss is painted beside her master, and sometimes with a pigeon in her mouth: – had Richard wished his death, a cat would not have saved him. Is it not meant as an allegory? Richard's minister, Catesby, was called "the cat," in the well-known distich,

> "The rat, the cat, and Lovel the dog,
> Rule all England under an hog."

At the accession of Henry VII. he was knighted, made a banneret, a knight of the Bath, and a privy counsellor; he continued in favour with Henry VIII. He left at his death an only son, Sir Thomas Wyat, whom Leland calls, "incomparabilis;" Wood, "the delight of the muses:" as an accomplished scholar, gentleman, soldier, and statesman, he had not his equal; no wonder he was admired by the fascinating Ann Boleyn. Henry VIII. regarded him with jealousy. Appointed again ambassador to Spain, he died when only thirty-eight, of a fever occasioned by fatigue, at Falmouth, where he intended to embark. Allington owed much to his love, and the remains of his munificence still appear.

His eldest son, Sir Thomas Wyat the younger, distinguished as an ambassador, was learned and elegant, but rash, vain, and imprudent, which led him into a rebellion that ruined him, and involved his family, friends, and dependants, in great misfortunes. At his attainture this castle came to the crown: Elizabeth gave a lease of the whole to John Astley, Esq., master of her jewels; she afterwards granted the castle, manor, and advowson of the church to his son Sir John Astley, at an annual rent of 100l. 2s. 7d. Sir John making Maidstone palace his residence, deserted and disparked Allington, leaving it to moulder away. The Astleys disposed of it in 1720 to the ancestor of its present possessor, lord Romney.

This ruin, so near the river, which would make a fine object in the landscape, is hidden by trees; the remains are extensive; one of the round towers is very large; some parts are in good repair, and inhabited by an opulent farmer.

There are only two dwellings besides the castle in the parish, and those cottages.

Allington, in the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling, has a church dedicated to St. Laurence, one of the meanest in the county. This place, from its privacy, was celebrated for the number of its weddings, until the elder protector deprived the clergy of the celebration of that ceremony. In this neglected, seques-

tered church rest the remains of Sir Gyfford Thornhurst, Bart., who died December 16, 1627; Sir George Choute, Bart., whose death happened in 1721-2; and Sir Edward Austen, Bart., who died December 16, 1760. There are two of the rectors also buried here; and “Rodolphus Mabbe, generosus magister artium in academia Cantab. clericus et vicarius ecclesiae de Graine Sepultus fuit 28vo Augusti, 1649;” he was married here September 28, 1647, to Ann Barham, of Canterbury. In the church-yard is a memorial inscribed, “Here lieth James Drayton, apothecary, who died 9th September 1769, aged sixty-eight. Pray disturb not the dead.” Mr. Drayton was “a most ingenious person, and an excellent botanist.” The rectory, always in the patronage of the owners of the castle, is of the clear certified value of 35l.; divine service is performed only once a month. The present rector is the Hon. and Rev. Jacob Marsham, D. D., deservedly beloved by a most extensive circle of friends.

DITTON.

TO the west of Allington is Ditton, anciently Dictune, i. e. dic, a dyke, and ton, the usual termination of places. The London road to Maidstone passes through this small parish, chiefly consisting of woodland and hops; as does a stream, which finds its course to the Medway. There are only fourteen houses in Ditton.

The manors of Ditton, Brampton, and Siftlington, after being held by different possessors, at length settled in the family of Aldon, and were never again disjointed. Henry VIII. obtaining them by exchange they came to Sir Thomas Wrythe, or Wriothesley, earl of Southampton, and by sale to Sir Robert Southwell and Sir Thomas Pope, all conspicuous characters. In James I.’s reign they settled in the Boteler family, from whom they came to lady Folkstone, who left them to her only son, the Hon. Philip Bouverie, now Pusey.

Borough, more properly Brooke court, at the north extremity of the parish, has belonged to the Colepepers, Shakerleys, and other families, and since the reign of Charles II. to the ancestor of the present possessor, Sir John-Papillon Twisden, of Bradborne, Bart., who holds a court baron for this manor.

Ditton-place, a mansion where the Brewer family resided from early in James I.’s reign, until the beginning of this century, when it passed to the Goldings, the

present owners. The large old seat of brick betrays symptoms of approaching ruin: the situation is very ill chosen.

This parish, in Rochester diocese, and Malling deanry, has a small church dedicated to St. Peter. Upon a brass plate in the chancel is, “Orate p. ai’a magist. Richardi legatte qui obiit Anno D’ni Moccccolxxx io die men. Junij.” Beneath the effigies of a man in armour, upon another grave-stone near it, on a brass plate is, “Heare lyethe the boodye of Rowland Shakerley, gent., sonne and heire of Franncys Shakerley, of Brooke-courte, within the paryshe of Ditton, Esquyer, whiche Rowland beynge fellowe of Grayes Inne, deceased, the xxii of June, in the year of our Lord 1576, and had this memoryall of his deathe made by a yon’g gentlewoman as an argument of her inseparable good meaning towards him.” Another plate is lost; probably it contained poetry. There are many memorials of the Brewer family in the church.

The patronage, anciently in the priory of Leeds, is now vested in the earl of Aylesford. The rectory, valued in the king’s books at 11l. 15s., pays 2s. to the dean and chapter of Rochester. The ruins of the parsonage-house are still visible; it was burnt some years ago. The late incumbent was the Rev. Samuel Bishop, the poetic head-master of Merchant Taylors’ school; the present one is the Rev. Richard Warde, vicar of Yalding.

This parish, as well as the three next described, anciently contributed towards the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge. The beautiful mountain-ash is found in great profusion in Ditton woods.

SNODLAND.

TO the north of Ditton is Snodland; in Domesday-book written Esnoiland; in the Textus Roffensis, Snoddingland and Snodiland. It is little known, and less valued as a residence, being low, retired, and gloomy; unwholesome, from its salt marshes, and sterile, from its chalk-flinty hills. The great road from Stroud to Larkfield passes through the village. On the south is a stream, which coming from

Berling turns a paper-mill; at the Conquest there were three mills. Another brook rises near Mr. May's house, and running half a mile, glides into the Medway.

The manor of Snodland was given by Birtrick, an Anglo-Saxon gentleman, to

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the priory of St. Andrew, in Rochester. The quantity and value of the land specified in a taxation made in the prelacy of Gundulph, who sat from 1077 to 1107, when it became the property of the see of Rochester, is stated thus: – Holeberge, now Hollorow, dependent upon the manor of Halling, contained 197 acres of arable land, valued at 4d. per acre at most, having no marle; fourteen acres of meadow, six of salt pasture, three lately made fresh, each at 8d. per acre; and the mill at 20s. Hamo Noble, called de Hythe, the munificent bishop of Rochester, in 1323 rebuilt the mill at Holbergh, with timber brought from Perstede at the expense of 10l. The bishops of Rochester, we may suppose, resided here, having then a park at Snodland.

The court-lodge was long the residence of the Palmers, one of whom married the daughter of Fitzsimond, whose epitaph was –

"Palmers al our faders were
I, a Palmer, livyd here,
And travylled till worne wythe age,
I endyd this worlds pylgramage;
On the blyst Assention day.
In the cherful month of May,
A thousand wyth foure hundryd seven,
And took my jorney hense to Heven."

The Palmers bore in their arms palmers' or pilgrims' scrips. Mr. John May, the present owner, resides in a handsome new-built house.

Veles alias Snodland, in the reign of Edward I. was held as half a knight's fee of the see of Rochester, by several families as coparceners; at length it became united, and passing through many families settled in that of May.

Holloway-court gave name and residence to a family, many of whom are buried in this church. The Tilghams were in possession of it in Henry IV.'s reign, and a part of the estate remained with them until 1680, when the ancestor of lord Romney purchased it: the other division belongs to Mr. May.

This parish is in the diocese and deanry of Rochester. Its small mean church, dedicated to All Saints, as an appendant to the manor, is in the gift of the see of Rochester, and valued in the king's books at 20l. The Rev. Henry Wollaston is rector.

Notwithstanding the present appearance of Snodland, in ancient times it was very important. The hamlet of Holborow or Holborough, in the north part of the

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parish, receives its name from having been the passage of the Romans to Scarborough on the opposite bank. An urn filled with ashes was found in digging chalk.

Sir John Marsham, Bart., and Sir Charles Bickerstaff, in the reign of James II., intending to supply the towns of Stroud, Rochester, and Chatham, with fresh water from Holborough-hill and its vicinity, cut a channel through Halling and Cuxton: difficulties arising after having taken it two miles, an act was procured, enabling them to pursue their scheme; but soon after it was abandoned, though promising much advantage to them, and those for whose use the waters were intended.

PADLESWORTH, near SNODLAND.

THIS small district, usually denominated Paulsford, to the west of Snodland, is written Pellesorde in Domesday-book, and Paedleswrtha in the Textus Roffensis. It has nothing to arrest the traveller's attention, the chalky soil being barren.

Godric held it before Hugo de Port; after the Conquest the manor was in Henry III.'s reign divided into shares, in which situation it long remained. Lord Romney holds it of the manor of Swanscombe, owing guard rent to the castle of Rochester. The court-lodge stands near the church.

Padlesworth, in Rochester diocese, and deanry of Malling, once esteemed a chapel of ease to Birling, is valued in the king's books at 3l. 6s. 8d.; the patronage always attended the manor. The remains of the church, built with flint and

ashler quoin-stones, are now used as a barn.

BIRLING.

TO the south-west of Padlesworth is Birling, about three miles square, having chalk and flints towards the hills, sandy but fertile in the south, which lies low. The parish, detached and sequestered, was long the residence of those great barons the Nevils, lords Abergavenny.

In Edward the Confessor's time Sbernbiga held it: in the reign of William I. Ralph de Curva Spina, corruptly Curbespine, who building a seat in the north part of the parish, made it his residence, anciently Comport, now Comfort park. This family, in Henry II.'s reign, was succeeded by Walkelin de Magminot, whose sister Alice took it to the de Says, afterwards barons; from them it came, with the

title, to the Herons, and the Clintons, afterwards styled lord Clinton and Say; by other females to that branch of the great Nevil family, who have been long barons, and are now earls of Abergavenny. Sir George Nevil lord Abergavenny, by his will dated June 4, 1535, expressing a desire to be buried here, the chancel of Birling became the dormitory of these noblemen. The last of them buried here was George lord Abergavenny, who died in 1666. The title then going to another branch, who retaining their partiality to their seat of Kidbrooke, near East Grinstead, in Sussex, Birling was deserted by its lords. Yet in remembrance of this seat of their ancestors, the late nobleman chose the title of viscount Nevil, of Birling, in Kent, making it second only to that of Abergavenny, now an earldom. In the parish, register is one item of this branch of the family – "1727 the Right Honourable George Nevill lord Abergavenny, was born June 24, 1727; his majesty king George the Second, his grace Lionel duke of Dorset, and her grace the dutchess of Newcastle, being sponsors." The old seat of Comfort, long neglected, is disparked, and reduced to a farm-house.

Birling, in the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Malling, has a very spacious, fine, Gothic church, dedicated to All Saints. Though so many of the illustrious Nevils lie in the chancel, there is not a single memorial of them, except one or two old helmets, and the irons upon which were placed guidons, and other funereal appendages. The very spacious chancel, larger than many churches, is well adapted for the reception of the superb monuments of the great. There is a fine brass effigy of one of their servants in the south aisle, inscribed, "Of your charite pray for the soule of Water Mylys, sum tyme Reseyvor vnto my lord of Burgvenniey the whyche decesyd the xv day of Marche." Many gentry are mentioned in the registers, who probably were visitants at Comfort. The only monument is a mural one in the church, "To the memory of the Rev. Edward Holme, late vicar of this parish, and founder of the two free schools of Leybourne and East Malling in this county, who departed this life on the 7th day of January 1782, aged seventy-one years. Nanny Holme, daughter of the above Edward Holme: she died the 1st of January 1789, aged twenty-one years." The widow of this clergyman still resides in the vicarage-house.

This church, given to the priory of Bermondsey, at the dissolution of monastic institutions, was granted to the Nevils, ancestors of the earl of Abergavenny, who possesses the rectorial glebe and great tithes, with the patronage of the vicarage,

valued in the king's books at 6l. 9s. 41/2d. The present incumbent is the Rev. William Humphry, who also holds Kempsing and Seal, both in Kent. The people here and in the vicinity still remember the prodigious strength of Mr. Hugh Pugh, a native of Wales, the preceding vicar to Mr. Holme.

In Oxfield, adjoining to the cemetery, in plowing, many foundations have, and still continue to be discovered; but no conjecture is hazarded of what buildings they are the scite.

RYARSH.

RYARSH, pronounced Rash, is south of Birling; Domesday-book calls it Riesce, the Textus Roffensis, Reiersce. No place in Kent is less known or frequented; it is a sandy, sterile soil, but not unhealthy. The parish is long and narrow, without a single object to attract attention, though it has two villages, each

bearing the same name.

Ryarsh was the estate of Alured in Edward the Confessor's reign; William the Norman gave it to his half-brother bishop Odo, of whom Hugh de Port held it; after the disgrace of that turbulent prelate it was granted to the family of Crescie. In Henry III.'s reign it went from them to the de Mowbrays: though the first of them was executed for treason, yet his descendants were restored in blood, enriched and ennobled, successively rising from barons Mowbray to earls of Nottingham and dukes of Norfolk, and hereditary earls marshal: at the failure of heirs male Ryarsh was conveyed to the ancestor of the earl of Abergavenny, who holds it of the manor of Swanscombe, by the tenure of contributing towards the guard of Rochester castle.

Carew's-court, now Callis-court, was the manor of the Carews of Beddington, in Surrey, until Nicholas Carew sold it to the Wattons, and they to the Walsinghams; from which family it passed by marriage to Sir Edward Austen, Bart., who devised it to John Amhurst, late of Boxley-abbey; and at his disease, by virtue of the entail, it is become the property of captain John-Thomas Amhurst, and the family of Allen.

The manor of Halling, belonging to the see of Rochester, extended into this parish, where the bishops had a grange or farm-house.

Ryarsh, in the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling, has a small, mean

church, originally dedicated to St. Lambert; in 1448 St. Martin was made the patron. The patronage is in the Bartholomews of Addington. This discharged vicarage is of the clear yearly certified value of 40l. The Rev. James Thurston, A. M., is the incumbent.

LEYBORNE.

THE next parish to the north of Ryash is Leyborne, anciently Leleburne and Lilleborn, derived from lytlan, small; borne, brook; the stream which gives it name running along the south and east sides of it, and turning Leyborne mill. Though low, it is pleasanter than the neighbouring parishes, and fertile to a proverb, yet has only a few detached houses.

Turgis under earl Godwin was proprietor of Leyborne; at the Conquest Adam held it under bishop Odo; from him passing to the crown it was given to the de Arsicks. A family next possessed the manor, who making this their seat, called themselves de Leyborne, and became of importance in this county. William de Leyborne, admiral, and constable of Pavensey-castle, entertained Edward I. at this his castellated mansion. Thomas his son and heir died before him, leaving Juliana, an only daughter, heiress also to her grandfather; the estates she inherited were so great, that she was styled Infanta of Kent. The whole of those rich possessions went to her three husbands – John de Hastings, Thomas le Blount, and Sir William de Clinton, a younger son of the Clintons, of Maxtoke-castle, in Warwickshire; he rose to the greatest honours and employments, Edward III. creating him a baron by writ, earl of Huntingdon by patent, governor of Dover castle, warden of the cinque ports, and admiral of the seas from the entrance of the Thames westward; he was buried in the priory of Maxtoke, his foundation. Juliana surviving him, became a fourth time possessed of this manor, castle, and its demesnes, which she held until her death: her remains were buried, by her own request, in the church of St. Augustine, in Canterbury.

It is remarkable that a lady so greatly descended should have her estates escheat to the crown, no one being able to claim them either by direct descent, or. by collateral alliance. The manor, castle, and advowson of Leyborne, by the piety of Edward III. and Richard II., became the property of the Cistertian monastery of St. Mary Graces, near the Tower. At the dissolution the two former were granted, for other estates to the see of Canterbury: soon after Henry VIII. again obtained,

and exchanged them with the advowson, to Sir Edward North, a privy counsellor: since that time they have been possessed by several families. The Whitworths sold them to the father of their present owner, Sir Henry Hawley, Bart.

Leyborne castle is in part remaining: a modern house, once the residence of the Goldings, now a farm-house, is built within the castle walls, making a very sin-

gular appearance. The stone work at the chief entrance, with much of the circular towers on each side, and some detached parts of arches and walls, are visible: above the gate appears a machicolation, a contrivance to throw stones, boiling water, or melted lead, upon the heads of the besiegers. The writer has more than once traced its circumference, and from its remains, especially its ditch, decides, with Mr. Hasted, that it never could have been of the great extent another writer thinks. Mr. Ireland has made a very elegant and picturesque engraving of it – a difficult circumstance, where modern and antique unite: nothing can be more disgustful than to see a new-built house situated amidst the ruins of former ages, where the ancient makes so great a contrast: nothing is more opposite than the snug box, and the huge, massive, fortified residences of our warlike ancestors: it is like attempting to unite the elegantly slight ornament with the rich cumbrous dress of distant ages. The manor of Leyborne pays to the crown a fee-farm rent of 1l. 19s. 8d., and still has its courts leet and baron.

The Grange, a mansion of the family of Quintin, who so early as the former part of the sixteenth century took the name of Oliver, which alone distinguishes them in the parish register; probably in deeds it was written Oliver alias Quintin. The first who settled here was William Oliver, Esq.; he died in 1561: this seat went to his son William, his grandson Robert, and great grandson Robert Oliver, Esq., who was buried in the chancel of Leyborne with his ancestors: by Julian his wife he had ten children – Robert, who died an infant; another Robert, buried here November 4, 1656, called in the register, “the eldest and most accomplished son of Mr. Robert Oliver;” Thomas Oliver, Esq., died in 1678; Barnham Oliver, in 1670: Mary, Elizabeth, Judith, and Jane; the first died single, the second a child; of the other two no notice is taken: two others married, Julian to Edward Covert, gent.; and Frances to Mr. John Stoell, of Rochester; Julian, or, as Mr. Hasted calls her, Juliana, became, he says, sole heiress of the Grange. As the circumstance is curious, we shall transcribe the copy of the register of her marriage, performed by the civil magistrate – “An intention of marriage betwixt Mr. Edward

Covert, and Mrs. Julian Oliver, both of this parish, was published three lords dayes, vid. the first day of November, the 8 of the same month, and the 15th of the same, after divine service, and no exception made thereunto: in witnesse whereof I have subscribed, John Cood, register of the parish of Leybourne. The aforesayd marriage was solemnized before me, in the presence of Robert Olyver, Esq., father of the said Julian, and John Covert, brother unto the sayd Edward, and Barnha’ Oliver, brother of the sayd Julian, uppon the 16th day of December, 1656. William James.” The issue of this marriage was an only daughter, who in like manner took the Grange to Henry Saxby; their son, captain William Saxby, made it his residence; but in 1734 sold it, with the manor and castle, to Francis Whitworth, Esq., who rebuilt the Grange in a very elegant manner, and laid out the grounds in the modern taste: he died in 1742, and was succeeded by his only son and heir, Sir Charles Whitworth, lieutenant-governor of Gravesend and Tilbury fort, father of Sir Charles Whitworth, knight of the Bath, envoy extraordinary and plenipotentiary at the court of Russia, who joining in the sale of the whole family estates in this parish, under sanction of an act of parliament, conveyed them in 1776 to James Hawley, Esq., M. D. and F. R. S.: he died in 1777, leaving this seat, manor, castle, and advowson, to his only son, now Sir Henry Hawley, Bart., having been so created by his present majesty. Few unite greater good sense, elegance of manners, and urbanity, than Sir Henry: he is maternal nephew to the learned and scientific Sir Joseph Banks, Bart., knight of the Bath.

Leyborne is within the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling. Its small church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is a very neat structure, both within and without; the place of sepulture of the Olivers, Saxbys, Whitworths, and Hawleys. It once belonged to the abbey of St. Mary Grace, near the Tower; but since the Reformation has gone with the manor and castle. It is a rectory, valued in the king’s books at 17l. 13s. 4d., and possessing, besides its proper glebe, an estate of 130 acres of land, lying at Comp, in Wrotham parish, where the ruins of a chapel still remain. The value of the rectory is 300l. The present incumbent is the Rev. George Barvill, A. M., who has placed elegant painted glass in some of the windows; they came from a chapel belonging to lord Petre. The parsonage-house is

in a very low, unwholesome situation, near the church.

The free-school, erected and endowed by the Rev. Edward Holme, of Birling,

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educates ten poor boys, and an equal number of girls, natives of this parish and Ryarsh, and five from each of those of West and East Malling; they remain here until they are fourteen years of age. A salary of 30l. is paid to the master.

This parish was one of those which formerly contributed to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge.

No place is better adapted than this for the growth of hops, as may be evinced from this extraordinary circumstance – one of Sir Henry Hawley's cottagers, in 1784, from half an acre of land grew forty-five hundred of hops, which he sold for 145l.

EAST MALLING.

THE parish of East Malling joins Leyborne; it is written in Domesday-book, Metlinges; in the Textus Roffensis, Meallinges. Few places are more delightful than East Malling; rich in all the productions of the best part of Kent, and finely diversified in its scenery. The Medway glides through it, the banks of which are richly clothed with young oaks. It is so extensive and populous, that, were the houses formed into streets, it would make a larger place than West or Town Malling. Besides its own particular village there are several hamlets; Larkfield-street, one of them, from whence the hundred has its name, has a fair held on St. James's day; New Hythe, lying close to the Medway, where much business is done, and stone and other articles, brought from the lower parts of the river, are reloaded in larger vessels. The jurisdiction of the corporation of Maidstone extends to New Hythe, where a chapel once stood. At the suppression it was given to Hugh Cartwright, of East Malling, gent. Prayers were daily performed; now religious worship is greatly neglected. Had the pious young monarch, Edward VI., known of how much use a chapel would have been to these poor people, who reside so far from their mother church, where from the badness of the roads in the winter time it is impossible to attend, he would not have left the inhabitants without the means of instruction. And Mill-street, another hamlet, so denominated from a corn-mill. The London road goes through this parish. On the heath are kilns, where many of the bricks and tiles used in the neighbourhood are burnt.

The manor of East Malling was in the Anglo-Saxon times vested in the primates of Canterbury, until Anselm, one of them, gave it to the nunnery of West Malling. Henry VIII., at its dissolution, exchanged it with archbishop Cranmer;

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queen Elizabeth having obtained, granted it for a term of years to Sir Henry Brooke alias Cobham, knt., a younger son of George lord Cobham; he passed it to Pierpoint; Hugh Cartwright, Esq., next possessed the manor, and left it to Jane his widow, "one of the seventeen daughters of Sir John Newton." Her second husband, Sir James Fitzjames, sold it to Humphry Delind, and he to Sir Robert Brett. The term expiring, James I. granted, and Charles I. confirmed this manor in fee to Sir John Rayney, of Wrotham, created in 1641 a baronet of Nova Scotia; Sir John his son about 1657 alienated the manor to sergeant, afterwards judge Twisden, whose descendant, Sir John-Papillon Twisden, Bart., still owns, and holds courts leet and baron for the manor.

Bradbourn, an ancient seat, and once a manor, belonged to the Isley family, until Sir Henry Isley exchanged it with Henry VIII. The Marminghams disposed of it in 1656 to Thomas Twisden, Esq., sergeant, afterwards judge Twisden, created by Charles II. a knight and baronet, who sat with the greatest credit to himself and advantage to the state, upon the bench for eighteen years, and during the most troublesome and trying times, both during the usurpation of the commonwealth, the protectorates, and the important period of the restoration. This venerable judge changed the orthography of his name from Twysden to Twisden, to distinguish his branch from the elder one. Extremely partial to this spot, he improved the seat, and obtained leave to impark the surrounding lands: he died here in 1666, aged eighty-one years. There are some fine portraits remaining of him, taken at a very advanced age, in his robes. He married Jane, daughter of John Tomlinson, of Whitby, in Yorkshire, Esq., and sister, and one of the three coheirs of Mat-

thew Tomlinson, knighted by Henry Cromwell, when governor of Ireland, whose life was with difficulty saved at the Restoration, being one of Charles I.'s pretended judges, and who guarded him during his trial. Sir Roger Twisden, Bart., his great grandson, so highly improved Bradbourn, that it is become one of the most charming residences in this part of Kent. Sir Roger died in 1772, greatly lamented both in his public and private character, leaving Sir Roger Twisden, Bart., who dying without issue male, the title came to his brother Sir John-Papillon Twisden, Bart.

This parish, a peculiar of Canterbury, is in the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Shoreham. Its church, dedicated to St. James, is a very large Gothic building, with much painted glass in the windows; the great tithes belonged to the priory of

the other Malling. The vicarage, in the gift of Sir John-Papillon Twisden, Bart., is valued in the king's books at 10l. 8s. 4d. The present incumbent is the venerable and Rev. Daniel Hill, A. M., and rector of Addington.

At the entrance of East Malling heath is a tumulus, supposed to be Roman, the only thing memorable of that kind within the parish.

WEST, or TOWN MALLING.

THE situation of this parish is evident from its name; though now usually called Town Malling. It was some time after the Norman conquest denominated Malling Parva; but so greatly is it changed, that the village has become a handsome, considerable, and pleasant town, where many gentry reside. The water here, remarkably good, is in such profusion as to form a rivulet at the end of the place. The town and parish is governed by its two constables chosen annually, except the borough of St. Leonard, which is under the jurisdiction of Larkfield hundred. They have a Saturday's market, and three fairs, held on August 12, October 2, and Nov. 17, for horses, cattle, toys, &c.

Malling was raised to consequence by its once famous nunnery. The Anglo-Saxon monarch Edmund, in the year 945, gave to Burhic bishop of Rochester three plough lands, to augment the revenues of the monastery of St. Andrew, for which they were to pray for the soul of the royal donor. The grant signed by Edmund was witnessed by Edred his successor, Edgiva their mother, the archbishops, bishops, and AElgifu the king's concubine, followed by dukes, and other great laymen. The circumstance of AElgifu's signature is remarkable. Elfgine his queen, whose piety, prudence, and discretion procured her a place in the Roman calendar, seemed a far more suitable witness to such a transaction.

This estate, during the ravages of the Danes, was lost to the see of Rochester. William I. gave it to Odo, the powerful bishop of Bayeux; but it was reclaimed from that rapacious prelate by archbishop Lanfranc, who restored it and the church of Malling to Gundulph bishop of Rochester. Gundulph, with more zeal than prudence, deprived his see of the manor and church of East Malling, giving them to the endowment of an abbey of Benedictine nuns, which he founded in 1090 to the honour of the Virgin Mary. The monastery soon grew into great power. Henry III. gave the nuns a weekly market on Saturdays and Wednesdays, and free

warren, with fairs on the eve, day, and morrow of St. Matthew the apostle; on the eve and festival of St. Leonard; and on the eve and festival of St. Peter ad vincula.

These advantages were given to restore the nunnery from the devastation of a fire, which, in the preceding reign, destroyed it and the village. The surrounding country flocked thither; from a desolated waste it became a village, from these a town, from Malling Parva, Town Malling, a place of considerable trade.

This religious community was peculiarly unfortunate in their abbesses often bringing it into disgrace. A pestilential fever in 1348 threatened the lives of all the professed. Margaret Vernon, lady abbess, surrendering it to Henry VIII., she received an annuity of 40l., and to her eleven nuns, from 3l. 6s. 8d. to 2l. 13s. 4d., very slender stipends, considering the annual value of the nunnery was 245l. 10s. 21/2d., and the clear rental 218l. 4s. 21/2d. Women, instead of vows of chastity, ought to marry, being never so respectable as matrons; but these nuns ought not to have been dispossessed; but if they chose, to remain

professed, to have retained their possessions until their deaths. Had this wise and humane method been adopted towards the religious of both sexes, we should never have had all those dreadful inhuman executions that disgrace Henry VIII.'s latter days, and stain his name so deep as a cruel, sanguinary sovereign. The abbess paid a singular acknowledgment of subjection to the see of Rochester; sending the prelates of that diocese annually ten pounds of wax and a boar.

Henry VIII. by grant and exchange passed the abbey to archbishop Cranmer; it went from the metropolitans again to the crown. Elizabeth gave a lease of it for a long term to Sir Henry Brooke lord Cobham, and it followed the same descents as have been mentioned in speaking of the manor of East Malling, until the younger Sir John Rayney, Bart., conveyed these premises about the time of the Restoration to Isaac Honeywood, of Hampsted, Middlesex, gent.

His grandson, Frazer Honeywood, Esq., rebuilt the abbey-house of Malling in the Gothic style, making it, at a very great expense, a suitable residence; dying in 1764 without issue, he devised this seat to the baronets of his name and family. The late Mr. Foote died here, and it is now occupied by his son, George-Talbot-Hatley Foote, Esq., in whom benevolence, learning, and taste unite.

This abbey has been traced, by its foundations, to have consisted of two quadrangles, with cloisters, and a spacious hall. The church had two towers; there is

a fine one remaining. To the south was the cemetery, where stone coffins, ornamented with crosses, have been found, with rings and trinkets. The grand gateway, standing at the west end of the precinct of the abbey, has upon it a heart guttee, and a shield ermine, a crozier in bend sinister, on a chief three annulets; this latter might have been the arms of the nunnery: the fish-ponds may be very plainly traced. There runs a fine clear stream through an opening in the wall near the modern house, forming a cascade; passing the road, it finds a way to the gardens of the Rev. Mr. Brooke.

St. Clement's, in Ewell, was once a manor, held as half a knight's fee, under the see of Rochester, by the de Say and the at-Forde families, in ancient times, and the Coveneys in the reign of Henry VIII.: it now belongs to Mr. William Fowle, but the scite of the mansion is unknown.

Here are several handsome houses – that of the Rev. John-Kenward Shaw, who has taken the surname of Brooke, is by the abbey-gate: Thomas-Augustus Douce, Esq., resides in one near the church; the Hon. admiral John Forbes had another in St. Leonard's-street, since purchased by Mr. Douce, but the residence of the widow of the late governor Wynch: New Barne, the seat of Mr. Graham, occupied by Mr. Taylor, is in the vicinity of the town.

Town Malling is in the same ecclesiastical jurisdiction as East Malling.

The body of the church is a modern, neat building, dedicated to St. Mary. The patronage of the vicarage, once in the abbess and convent, now in the Twisdens, of Bradbourn, is valued in the king's books at 10l. The present incumbent is the Rev. Richard Husband.

Before the Reformation a cell belonged to the abbey with a chapel. The tower still standing is now a stowage for hops.

It is supposed the military way of the Romans passed through this parish.

OFHAM.

TO the west of Town Malling is Ofham, the Offaham of the Anglo-Saxons, a name taken from having once belonged to the royal Mercian Offa; and lying upon the Roman military way, it might have been more ancient. It is now mean, lonely, gloomy, little known even to the surrounding peasantry. The village, scattered upon an high broad green, is surrounded with woods, which seem to enclose it.

On this green is a quintin, a machine at which youths used to mow their dexterity on horseback. The quintin, borrowed from the Romans, is composed of an upright with a cross, one bar of which has holes, to the other is fastened a bag of sand; the former being struck, the other gave the person who struck it a violent blow, unless he used the greatest expedition; the unhappy wight who received a blow from the sand-bag was derided: he who broke the board had as much honour as the other scorn.

The church of Canterbury, at the solicitation of archbishop Ceolnoth, obtained in 832 from Ethelwulf, son of the monarch Egbert, Ofnehamme, but lost it in the subsequent devastations of the Danes. It was given to Odo bishop of Bayeux at the Conquest, afterwards to the de Ofhams. After a variety of transitions, it was purchased by the ancestors of its present right honourable possessor, the earl of Thanet, who holds a court for this manor, but pays a fee-farm rent of 2l. 6s. 8d. to the crown. The court-lodge is on the north of the village.

Godwell, once a part of the manor of Ofham, but long separated from it, has in like manner parted through a variety of owners, until it has now settled in the person of Mrs. Elizabeth Knell, and she likewise holds a court for the manor.

This parish is in the same diocese and deanry as the former. Its church, a Gothic structure, is dedicated to St. Michael. This discharged living is in the gift of the crown, and of the certified value of 40l. The Rev. John Liptrott is rector. Ofham anciently contributed to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge.

Tradition says that Jack Straw, the principal partisan of the more infamous Wat Tyler, was a native of Pepingstraw, in this parish, and from thence obtained his name. Places often contend for the honour of giving birth to sages; few will strive to deprive Pepingstraw of all the credit to be gained by Straw's nativity.

ADDINGTON.

TO the north of Ofham is Addington, the Eddingtune of Domesday-book, from Edda the Saxon owner. It is poor in soil, but the church being placed on an eminence, a little distance from the London road, makes, with the large mansion near it, a pleasing object. A stream passes through the parish, which, though rising at Nepecker, in Wrotham, is called Addington brook. Here is an Eelbourn or Nailbourn, a water breaking out every seven or eight years with so great

rapidity as to have a trench dug to conduct it into the Leyborne rivulet; the trout are changed by it from a white to a red colour.

After the Conquest this small parish was possessed by Odo bishop of Bayeux: through females of the Charles's, Snayths, and Wattons, it has come to the present owner Leonard Bartholomew, Esq., whose only child, married to the hon. captain John Wingfield, brother to lord viscount Powerscourt, will probably take the estate into that family. Courts leet and baron are held for this manor, which is subordinate to that of Swanscombe, and as such guard duty was due to Rochester castle.

The small church, with a lofty tower, dedicated to St. Margaret, is in the same diocese and deanry as the preceding parishes. The age of our Gothic edifices can seldom be accurately ascertained: an inscription upon one of its walls precisely determines the date of this church –

> "In fourteen hundred and none,
> Here was neither stick nor stone;
> In fourteen hundred and three,
> The goodly building which you see."

There is a handsome marble pyramidical monument near a yew-tree, in the cemetery, which has a very good effect from the London road.

The rectory, an appendant upon the manor, is valued in the king's books at 6l. 6s. 8d., with a pension of 5s. to the priory of Rochester, now paid to the dean and chapter of that see; the vicar of Hadlow paid to the rector 1s. 6d. The present incumbent is the Rev. Daniel Hill, vicar of East Malling.

At the Warrens, a little north-east of the church, has been a Druid temple in an oval form; some of the stones have been carried away by the inhabitants, and many are covered by the sandy soil. To the north-west of these are other massy stones, now heaped in confusion upon each other; they were originally six in number, and thirty-three paces in circuit. As these last are only thirty-six paces from the other, there can be little doubt but this was the altar belonging to the temple.

TROTTESCLIFFE.

THE parish of Trottescliffe, to the north-west of Addington, has the upper part upon the barren chalk hill covered with coppice wood; the low ground is

sandy: though every way bleak and unpleasant, it is yet a healthy spot. The parish contains only thirty-two separate dwellings, yet the great road to Dartford goes through it. The name is written Trottescliffe, but pronounced Trosley.

The manor was given by Offa king of Mercia, in 788, to the church of St. Andrew's, in Rochester. In the Danish spoliations it was lost, but afterwards regained. The prelates of Rochester erected a palace, which becoming ruinous, was rebuilt in 1185. The munificent Hamo Noble, called de Hethe, whilst he sat in the chair of Rochester, repaired, and made great additions and improvements to it. Soon after the Reformation, it was deserted by the bishops, and has ever since been leased out for lives: the family of Goddens in the last, and the Whitacres in this century, have held it; the latter have acquired larger fortunes by agriculture than, perhaps, any other family in the kingdom.

An estate also called Trottescliffe manor, subordinate to that belonging to the bishops of Rochester, had a park called Cressy, from the ancient possessors, afterwards le West park; coming to the Crevequers, one of them, in Edward I.'s reign, released all his right in the manor of Trottescliffe to the see of Rochester: the purchase was fifty marcs, and a palfry as a fine. This, now called West court or Wrotham water, lies in Trottescliffe and Wrotham; the lessee, Thomas Whitacre, Esq., resides in this parish.

Trottescliffe, in the same jurisdiction as Addington, has a church dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. The rectory, an appendant upon the manor, is valued in the king's books at 10l. 2s. 11d. The Rev. William Crawford, chaplain to the bishop of Rochester, is rector. This parish was anciently obliged to contribute towards the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge.

The Rev. Paul Bariston and Mrs. Mary Godden gave lands, now of the annual rent of 9l., to support a charity school.

In this parish resided Anthony de Sancta Cilia, a nobleman of the kingdom of Majorca, and a captain of Brabant: in July 1576 he had a son baptized here; the father was buried at Maidstone January 8, 1592. Perhaps this gentleman came into England whilst Philip II. wore the matrimonial crown of this realm.

AYLESFORD.

AYLESFORD parish is divided from Maidstone by the Medway. The orthography of the name has been very various; in the Saxon Chronicle it is AEgelesford; Nenius in 620 wrote it Episford; Asserius and AEthelward, AEgelsthrep; Domesday-book, Elesford. It is a place of great antiquity; pleasant, fertile, and healthy; diversified with hill and valley, and beautifully varied with wood and water. The white houses of its gentry form a fine contrast to the green verdure of the lawns and meadows. There is such a sudden rise in the land, that a person standing on the south side of the church-yard may look down the chimnies of the houses, the tops being lower than the ground upon which he stands; this has a singular and novel effect. The prospect is beautiful, exhibiting the fertile vale watered by the Medway.

This place, too large for a village, is too small for a town: the carrying trade upon the river chiefly occupies the inhabitants. They have a fair held on July 29. The main street is very spacious; the houses on the water side are mean dwellings. A handsome stone bridge of six arches, built many years ago at the expense of an individual, gives a communication to the opposite sides of the river, and is now kept in repair by the county.

Aylesford manor, part of the demesne lands of the crown, was held by Ostiert Gibford, in king John's reign; after various transfers it came to the Wyats, who lost it by attainture; and queen Mary, to reward Sir Robert Southwell for his services in quelling Sir Thomas Wyat's rebellion, gave him a grant of the manor, but reserved the priory. The gift was limited to Sir Robert, his lady, and their issue male; no such being left, it again went to the crown: devolving to Elizabeth, her majesty, in the fortieth year of her reign, gave it to Edward Randolph and Richard Argall, who in the beginning of James I.'s reign sold the fee to the Colepepers, of Preston-hall, the owner of which has ever since possessed the manor.

The Priory, now called the Friary, standing on the north-east side, and close to the Medway, was founded by Richard lord Grey, of Codnor, in 1240, for friars

Carmelites, being the first monastery of that order erected in England. At the dissolution it was granted to the elder Wyat, to hold by knight's service at 10s. 3d. yearly rent. Queen Mary, intending to re-establish the monastic orders, retained,

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but queen Elizabeth gave it to the Sedley family, who converted the priory to a seat, and resided here.

Sir Charles Sedley, justly thinking himself dishonoured by having Catharine, his only child, raised by James II. to the rank of countess of Doncaster, which made her criminality with the king only the more conspicuous, being accused of deserting his royal master, replied, "His majesty having created my daughter a countess, I could do no less than make his a queen." Sir William Sedley, his father, in Charles II.'s reign, alienated the Friars to Sir Peter Rycaut. The following extract from the parish register is equally honourable to Sir Peter and the parochial clergyman: – "Henry Grimstone, Esquire, and vicar of the parish, was buried the 20th of September, 1654, in the chancel, near to Sir Peter Rychaut, and was laid in his grave upon his right side, as he desired." The two succeeding vicars were Joseph Jackson, who held it for a year, and "Daniel Aldorne, gent., minister of this parish, and one of the Sorogatts of the diocese of Rochester, and brother to Dr. Edward Alderne, chancellor of saide diocese, who was buried the 1st day of September, 1666." Sir Peter Rycaut had ten sons; the youngest, an eminent merchant, confidential servant to the crown during three reigns, traversed great part of Europe, and went also into Asia and Africa, yet found time to write books, and voluminous ones, upon various subjects; dying in 1700, aged seventy-two, he was buried near his parents, in the south chancel of this church. The heir of Sir Paul disposed of this estate to Caleb Banks, of Maidstone, Esq.: his son, Sir John Banks, created a baronet, made the Priory his residence, and greatly improved it. Heneage, created earl of Aylesford, having married Elizabeth, the eldest of the two daughters and coheirs of Sir John, obtained this in the partition of the estates. It is now the residence of the countess dowager of Aylesford, Charlotte, younger daughter and coheir of Charles duke of Somerset, who dispenses her bounty to the needy with a very liberal hand.

This seat is the most perfect of any religious house in this part of the kingdom, and neither within nor without appears older than the reign of James I., until the parts are particularly scrutinized. The hall, chapel, cloisters, and other remains of this conventual edifice, were formed into a suite of apartments by Sir John Banks, who laid the cloisters with white and black marble: the high stone walls enclosing the garden, and the ponds belonging to the mill, are as they were in the monastic times; but the park is converted into more useful lands, though much of the paling

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still remains. Lord Aylesford also owns Rowe's place, the seat of the Rowes: it came by the Banks's to his lordship's ancestor.

The manor of Tottington, or Tottenden, once belonging to the bishop of Bayeux, was afterwards owned by the Rockesles, who exchanged the tithe of the manor with St. Andrew's monastery, in Rochester, for the prayers of that community. The Poynings owned this manor with its free chapel of St. Stephen, whose female heir took them to the Palmers, of Snodland; the one held them of the castle of Leeds, and barony of Crevequer, the other of the sovereign's honour of Lisle: being sold in Henry VIII.'s reign to the Warcups, after various alienations the manor is now the property of Mrs. Frances Golding, of Ryarsh, who holds it of the crown at a fee-farm rent of 3l. 16s. 4d.

Eccles, the Aiglessa of the Domesday-book, was also Odo's. Part is owned by the Finch family; the rest, separated into several lots, is held by Mrs. F. Golding, Mr. Corrall, and George Best, of Chilston, Esq.; the last gentleman is supposed liable to a fine due for the manor, instead of guard rent to Rochester castle. It was assessed towards the repairs of the fourth pier of Rochester bridge. The mansion has so long disappeared, that its scite is unknown, but supposed to have lain near Boxley-hill.

Cosenton or Cosington, near Boxley parish, but in the jurisdiction of Maidstone hundred, was the property of the Cosingtons, from the reign of king John to that of Henry VIII., when by a coheir it went to the Dukes; at the death of the heir general of whom, in 1750, it went to Stacey, who in 1797 sold the manor to

Mr. John Spong, of Milhale: the manorial rights have long been lost. It was liable to be assessed for the repair of the fourth pier of Rochester bridge. The old mansion is used as a farm-house; but the relics of ancient respectability are sufficiently apparent.

Preston-hall, the head of the manor of Preston and Allington, was the ancient residence of the Colepeper family, which have spread very wide in this county; one branch of them was ennobled, and there have been two creations of baronets. Here they were, from an early period, until the death of Sir Thomas Colepeper, the last baronet of those of Preston, in 1723, when it went to Alicia his sister, the issueless wife of four husbands, all of whom she survived: at her death in 1734, by virtue of a settlement, her estates vested in Charles Milner, of Yorkshire, Esq., M. D., brother of her last husband; he dying unmarried in 1771, devised the

whole to his nephew, the Rev. Joseph Butler, D. D., who took the name of Milner; his widow now resides here: the remainder is vested in Charles Milner, of Farningham, Esq. Preston-hall, by the improvement of its late owner, is a very elegant mansion; a lawn, gained by turning the road, seems united to a small paddock, each having a sunk fence; the lands are laid out with great taste.

The church of Aylesford is a large, fine, Gothic structure, dedicated to St. Peter, containing many costly monuments to departed grandeur. The vicarage, in the gift of the dean and chapter, is valued in the king's books at 10l. The vicar has "the manor of the parsonage," though the great tithes are vested in the church of Rochester, as they had been before in the hospital of Stroud: the present lessee is lord le Despenser. The parsonage-house, on the north side the cemetery, is an old, ruinous, mean habitation. The present vicar is the Rev. —— Eveleigh.

Near Barming-heath, in one of the most retired, gloomy spots, is the ancient free chapel of Longsole, called the Hermitage; and no place was ever more adapted to seclusion and mortification, being hid in woods; and, unless a road had been near it, might never have been discovered by the prying eye of curiosity. After great contentions between the ecclesiastics of Aylesford and Allington, it was decided by the Roman court to belong to the former. The Hermitage was founded in Edward III.'s reign, and dedicated to St. Lawrence; the sanctity of its sequestered tenants was in great estimation. The chapel, still remaining, is used as a barn; the cemetery is an orchard.

The hospital of the Holy Trinity was founded by Sir William Sedley, and endowed with 184 acres of land in Frittenden, valued at 76l., in conformity to the will of his brother, John Sedley, Esq.; the number to be maintained were seven men and two women. The house still remains, but, shame to the patron and trustee, no nomination has taken place for a number of years: the laudable institution, if kept up, would be an inducement to the poor to be honest, industrious, and sober.

There is also settled 20l. by the Rev. Joseph Milner, in pursuance of Dr. Charles Milner's will, to support a charity-school.

In Aylesford is Kits'-Coyty-house, a rude cluster of large stones, supporting still larger. Near it is another, now in "ruins;" avarice having undermined this in hopes of discovering wealth. Much has been written relative to these rude remains; the one is supposed the monument of Catigern, brother of Vortimer, the British

king, who fighting with Horsa, brother of Hengist, the Saxon chieftain, fell with his antagonist, each having mortally wounded the other; and Horsted, about three miles distant, is thought to be the burial-place of Horsa. Such an action no doubt happened; but as none of the nations who came here erected such memorials over their dead, it is most reasonable to suppose that they are only druidical altars, resembling so many others in this and other northern kingdoms, belonging to temples, the remains of which are visible near them.

There is a remarkable spring issuing out of the coppice woods of Cosenton, which though clear, and coming from a deep, loose, chalky soil, yet changes wood, and even flints and pebbles, to a most beautiful carmine colour, which become of a more brilliant hue after having been taken out of the water some time. No reason is assigned for this extraordinary alteration, the water not being chalybeate, nor having any other distinguishing quality, except being very

chilly, and rough to the taste.

BURHAM.

THIS parish, to the north of Aylesford, the Boreham of Domesday-book, has been written Burgham in later ages. It is washed by the Medway, from whose banks gradually ascending, the land terminates in hills of considerable height. Burham has little to recommend it, either as to health, beauty, richness of soil, or produce. The only peculiarity is pits of potter's clay in the hamlet of Great Culing. The corporation of Maidstone has jurisdiction upon the river to a piece of land called Hawkeswood.

Leofwine, the brother of Harold II., with whom he fell at Hastings, owned the manor of Burham; after the Conquest it was given to the Curva Spina, or Crookthorne family, to whom followed the Magmanots, whose heiress took it to the de Says, afterwards barons; they obtained of Edward III. a view of frank-pledge, with other liberties, and to hold in capite by the service of contributing to the repair of part of Rochester bridge, and of Dover castle. The manor came into the Fienes' family, and went with the title of Dacre, until it was given to a younger son in James I.'s reign, whose heir disposed of it to trustees; they conveyed it to Sir John Banks, Bart. By his eldest daughter and coheir it settled in the Finch

family, and is now possessed by the earl of Aylesford; his lordship holds courts leet and baron for this manor.

The vicarage of Burham, a discharged living of the clear yearly value of 46l., is in the diocese and deanry of Rochester. The church, dedicated to the blessed Virgin, though small, has a large tower, with some painted glass in the windows. The knights of St. John of Jerusalem were patrons. It belongs now to Mrs. Milner, of Preston-hall. The incumbent is the Rev. Robert Parsons.

Haly-garden, a spring, the object of superstitious devotion, in this parish, was the resort of pilgrims: the Carmelite friars obtaining leave from Richard II., by an aqueduct brought the water to their priory of Aylesford.

WOLDHAM.

WOLDHAM, more north than the last, adjoins St. Margaret's parish, and the liberty of Rochester. It was written Wuldaham by the Anglo-Saxons, and Oldeham by the Normans: the derivation is from wolde, a plain open down or hill, in opposition to weald, a low, woody tract, and ham, a village. Though only two miles from Rochester, it is yet obscure and disagreeable, the hills being sterile, uninclosed downs; the valleys stagnate, unhealthy marshes, forming a striking contrast to the charming districts last described. The village, with its church, is upon the banks of the Medway.

This poor parish has been contended for as much as if it had been the richest, by the monks of St. Andrew, in Rochester, the Anglo-Saxon monarchs, and afterwards between the former and the bishops of Rochester. At the dissolution of monastic institutions, the priory held the manor, the bishop the church. Henry VIII. gave the former to the dean and chapter of Rochester, who now hold courts leet and baron: their lessee is Mr. Iden Henham.

The two manors called Rings and Starkeys, were the property of different families until united in the Marshams: lord Romney holds both. The Starkeys, who owned the latter, built a good mansion and chapel there: some remains of this place of divine worship are still standing; and the house, used by a farmer, retains an appearance of better days, being of stone, with Gothic windows and door-cases.

Sellers, anciently Hall, was originally the property of the at-Halls, who wrote

themselves in Latin, de Aula; the atte Celars, or de Celario family, who purchased it, changed the name to Celars, by corruption Sellers: going by a female to the Beuleys, the manor was called Beuley-court, but the mansion retained the appellation of Hall-place, or Woldham-hall. The Rev. John-Kenward Shaw, who has taken the name of Brooke, now owns this seat, being devised to him by his maternal uncle, Joseph Brooke, Esq.

Woldham, in the same jurisdiction as the last parish, has a large, irregular, dis-

agreeable looking church, dedicated to All Saints. The rectory is discharged, and of the clearly yearly value, in the king's books, of 30l., but has received queen Ann's bounty: the patronage is in the bishop of Rochester. The Rev. Samuel Browne, A. M., is the incumbent.

This parish was once assessed to the repairs of the fourth pier of Rochester bridge. Some years ago, in digging a trench from Woldham-house to the open downs, several celts, chiefly of brass, were found.

Hundred of Sharnel.

THIS hundred, on the west side the Medway, extends to the Thames. The name in Domesday-book is Essamele, in some writings Scamele. It once belonged to the Knights Templars, afterwards to the noble family of Cobham. James I., upon their attainture, gave the hundred to the earl of Salisbury, with the manor of Shorne; the former was passed away to the Levisons, of Staffordshire, and they in Charles I.'s reign alienated it to the Woodyers; since then Sharnel has gone with, and is now possessed by the owner of Shorne. This hundred contains the parishes of Halling, Cookstone, part of Cobham, Shorne, Chalk, Denton, Merston, Higham, Cliff, Cowling, Frindsbury, and Stroud, and a part of Stoke; but as its church is in another hundred, that parish is not noticed in this work.

HALLING.

THE parish of Halling, to the north of Snodland, is the Haling of the Saxons, and the Hallinges of Domesday-book; its name means low pasture. It is every way unpleasant, consisting of chalk hills, and unwholesome salt or fresh marshes.

There are two villages, called the Upper and Lower Halling; the road from Stroud to Maidstone passes through the latter.

At an early period Halling became part of the revenues of the see of Rochester. It was lost during the Danish invasions, seized by Odo bishop of Bayeux, recovered in 1076, and became, in the division between the bishop and convent, confirmed to the former for the support of the prelate's table. On this now disagreeable, unhealthy spot, the bishops erected a palace, which becoming ruinous, Gilbert de Glanville, in the twelfth century, rebuilt it. The next great patron of this place was the pious, learned, munificent Hamo Noble bishop of Rochester, confessor to Edward II., to whom he behaved with all dutiful fidelity in his greatest misfortunes. There is no character in that age more highly or more deservedly praised, than this prelate's: William de Dene has written his life, which is given in the Anglia Sacra. His family descended from a Norman gentleman, surnamed le Noble: they were first seated in the north of England: a branch of them affecting commerce, settled in Exeter, where they, in the fourteenth century, executed the highest offices of magistracy, or represented that city in parliament. A third branch established themselves in the eastern parts of the kingdom, and were remarkably fond of the clerical profession: the bishop was a native of Hythe, in Kent, and thence called de Hethe – he was elected in 1316, consecrated at Avignon 1319, and died in 1352, having restored this, and the other residences of the bishops of Rochester, from a state of almost dilapidation to more than pristine grandeur. A statue of him in his episcopal robes was placed in a niche over the outside of Halling, carved in stone, about two feet high, and elegantly finished. It was blown down in a great storm, but not being broken, was presented to Dr. Atterbury bishop of Rochester – the subsequent misfortunes of that prelate prevented its being placed in some other more secure and public situation. Probably bishop Noble was nearly related to Stephen le Noble, prior of Dunmow, in Essex, who died in 1312. The palace stood near the church, and almost upon the banks of the Medway. Here was a vineyard so early as 1255. The manor and estate still remain with the see of Rochester; but the palace and its vineyards have totally disappeared.

Langridge manor has gone through a variety of possessions until it settled in the Goldings, whose heir general took it to a Wood, upon whose death it went to Mr. W. Baker, a second husband: he resides here. Some of the ruins of the ancient

mansion of the Bavents, once owners of the manor, are now, or lately were,

remaining.

This parish, in the diocese and deanry of Rochester, is valued in the king's books at 7l. 13s. 4d. The church, dedicated to St. John Baptist, is in the patronage of the dean and chapter of Rochester. The vicar is John Price, A. M. Subordinate to the church was the free chapel or chantry of St. Laurence, suppressed by Edward VI. Halling anciently contributed to the repair of the third pier of Rochester bridge.

COOKSTONE.

THIS parish, farther to the north than the last, is written Coclestane in Domesday-book, now usually pronounced Cuxton. It is not more than a mile each way, exceeding Halling in healthiness and fertility. The Medway forms the northern boundary; the land does not rise gently from that river, but instantly becomes hilly.

The history of this manor is much the same as the last. From an early date it was the property of the see of Rochester, without any other intermission than from the Danish wars, and the Usurpation in the last century, when, with Middleton Cheney, it was purchased by Robert Fenwick, Esq., for 627l. 12s.; the Restoration conveyed it to the legal owner. Lord Romney is the present lessee. The manor of Beresse or Beresh, after much contention, was confirmed ecclesiastical property, and has ever since Hamo Noble's episcopate been blended with the manor of Cookstone.

Worne's-place, generally called Horne's-place, close to the west bank of the Medway, was the seat of Sir William Worn, lord mayor of London in 1487. It has long been possessed by the Marshams: the learned, loyal, accomplished Sir John Marsham, created a baronet, so well known by his excellent literary works, first resided here; it is still owned by his descendant lord Romney: but the family having quitted it for the Mote, the whole was taken down in 1783, except what was sufficient to be converted into a farm-house. Lord Romney also owns the manor of Wickham, lying in this and Stroud parish, once belonging to Rochester priory.

This rectory, in the same jurisdiction as the preceding parish, valued in the king's books at 14l. 15s. 5d., is in the gift of the bishop of Rochester. The church

is dedicated to St. Michael; in the chancel are many monuments of the Marshams. The Rev. Charles Moore, A. M. is rector.

The fifth pier of Rochester bridge was kept in repair by contributions raised from this and other parishes.

There are found here the larger never-dying buglosse, and the lesser flowered broom rape, both near Whorne's-place; and what is singularly odious, as well as dangerous, dwale, or deadly night-shade, grows in vast profusion throughout the parish.

COBHAM.

COBHAM lies to the north of Cookstone; it is extremely retired, though the soil is rich, and the parish is of larger extent than the former one. The Roman Watling-street road passed through it, and having been the residence of nobility, it has been for ages of great importance. The gloom from the profusion of oaks in the park is contrasted by the village, placed on so elevated a situation as to command an extensive prospect to the south. Cobham is about two miles and a half from east to west, and one and a half from north to south. It contains 2950 acres of land, seventy houses exclusive of the college, and about 760 souls.

Cobham gave residence and name to very rich, powerful, and wise barons, who became extinct in the person of Sir John de Cobham, lord Cobham, knight banneret. Joan, his grand-daughter and heir, had five husbands: the fourth of them was the unfortunate Sir John Oldcastle, in her right baron Cobham, put to death by Henry V. for embracing the tenets of the Lollards. This often married lady, by her second husband Sir Gerard Braybrooke, left an only surviving child, Joan, who took the title and estate of Cobham, in marriage, to the Brooke alias Cobham family, no less illustrious than the preceding. The weak and wicked Henry lord Cobham forfeited his life, honours, and estates, for conspiring against James I., but was permitted to spend the remainder of an ignominious and contemptible existence in obscurity: he died in the most abject wretchedness, in the house of a very poor man, once his menial servant, who had long given him an asylum. Such was the

end of the once gay, powerful Cobham, lord of the cinque ports, constable of Dover castle, lord lieutenant of this county, possessing an estate of 7000l. per annum, with a personalty of 30,000l.; and whose lady was a daughter of the earl of Nottingham, and widow of the earl of Kildare.

James I. gave this fine estate to his relation Lodowick duke of Richmond and

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Lenox; at the extinction of these titles in the Stuarts, the last duke being much in debt, it was sold; and after a variety of changes, Cobham settled in the ancestor of the earl of Darnley, who now possesses it.

Cobham-hall is the residence of its noble owner, and inferior to few houses in England, consisting of a centre and two wings; the former boasts Inigo Jones as its architect: the last nobleman judiciously made the latter uniform with it. The staircase is spacious, and the music-gallery is ornamented in a very superb style. In remembrance of Elizabeth's having been entertained at this seat, her majesty's arms still remain in one of the large apartments, and near them an inscription relative to the royal visit. It is generally said this magnificent pile cost 60,000l.

On an eminence called William's-hill in the park, about a mile from the house, is the famed mausoleum, built in the Doric order, of Portland stone, upon the scite of an ancient chapel; the form is octangular; the columns at the corners support a sarcophagus; the tops terminate in a quadrangular pyramid; the upper part forms an elegant chapel with windows of stained glass, ornamented with brocotello marble. Beneath is a vault, with recesses to receive the illustrious dead; there repose the late earl and his countess. That nobleman left 10,000l. to erect this receptacle for departed greatness, but even that sum was not sufficient to complete the design; the sum expended is said to have been 15,000l. Britain has nothing of the sepulchral kind equal in magnificence: architectural critics speak highly of the elegant chastity of Mr. Wyat's design, but think a cupola should be substituted instead of the pyramid. It forms a beautiful object to a great extent.

The park, though considerably lessened, now contains 800 acres surrounding the house, and finely varied. The lofty trees of enormous bulk, and venerable from age, attract particular attention: some oaks are more than twenty feet in circumference; the famed chesnut standing in the grove near the path leading to Knight's-place farm, is thirty feet in girth, and receives its name of the four sisters from dividing into four very large arms. The venison fed in the park, from the fineness of herbage, is peculiarly delicate.

The prebend or farm of Cobhambury, long the possession of the see of Rochester, was wrested from it in Henry VIII.'s rapacious reign, and given to the barons Cobham, after their attainture; but changing owners often, it settled by purchase in the present earl of Darnley. It still pays 12l. 16s. 21/2d. as yearly tenths to the crown. A court baron is held for this manor.

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Henhurst or Hennis, another manor, owned by earl Godwins before the Conquest, afterwards belonged to Ansgotus de Rochester. After having been often alienated, it was purchased by John Staples of the Temple, London, Esq., who devised it to the present owner, Percival-Hart Dyke, Esq., second son of Sir John-Dixon Dyke, Bart. Half of the tithes were given to the priory of Rochester, and at the dissolution granted by Henry VIII. to the dean and chapter.

Haydon or Hathdune, the Saxon AEdune, now the Mount, a manor of Odo bishop of Bayeux, of whom Ernulf de Hesding held, was some years since purchased by William-Salton Stall, Esq., whose widow owns it. This manor used to contribute towards the repair of the fourth pier of Rochester bridge.

Oulets or Owlie, an estate west of Cobham-street, long the residence of the ancient family of Hayes, was lately sold to Mr. Henry Edmeads, who has made it his residence.

Many persons in this parish pay suit and service at the manor of Dartford, held by Sir Charles Morgan, Bart.

Cobham, within the diocese and deanry of Rochester, is a vicarage. The church, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, is a large, handsome, Gothic building, where the monumental brasses are more ancient, and in greater number, than elsewhere. The preferment is a donative in the gift of lord Darnley, by Ecton accounted a discharged living, but is valued at 2l. in the king's books. The present vicar is the

Rev. James Jones. The dean and chapter of Rochester have part of the great tithes, and four-fifths belong to William Pemble, Esq. The vicar has neither house nor glebe.

The ancient college at Cobham, founded by John lord Cobham in Edward III.'s reign for five priests or chaplains, was so well endowed, that at the dissolution its value was 142l. 1s. 21/2d., and the clear revenue 128l. 1s. 9d. The college was quadrangular, nearly adjoining to the south-east part of the cemetery belonging to the church. Some ivy-crowned walls still remain, as does the door-way, through which these priests went to their appropriate stalls on each side the great chancel.

The New College was founded and endowed by Sir William lord Cobham, whose piety was directed to a charity of another nature, to support the living poor, instead of supplicating mercy for the dead. It maintains twenty persons, elected out of this and other parishes. To support this laudable charity, his lordship gave lands in Shorne and in the county of Essex, of the annual value of 111l. 10s.:

the wardens of Rochester bridge are presidents, and their clerk steward. The barons Cobham were visitors; the present one is the bishop of the diocese, and during a vacancy of the see the dean and chapter.

The college of stone is composed of some of the ancient parts of the old college, with additions, the whole forming a quadrangle. It has a neat appearance, containing twenty lodging-rooms, with a large hall, which has a screen at the entrance, and a raised floor at the upper end. The founder's arms in stone, and upon glass, with an inscription to his honour, are in the hall. The college, as well as the houses in Cobham-street, are supplied with water from works erected by the Brookes lords Cobham, and repaired lately at the expense of Mr. Bonham Hayes.

These choice plants grow in this parish – calanthian violet, blue and white Canterbury bells, ground pine of several sorts, goat's marjoram or organy, the yellow and the red archangel, the wayfaring tree, and the wild English daffodil.

SHORNE.

TO the north of Cobham is Shorne, in the Textus Roffensis, Scorene, and in other muniments Sores and Schornes; the derivation is not easy to ascertain. The parish is unhealthy and uninteresting. In 1796 a battery was erected, mounting four twenty-four pounders; lying close to the sea wall, it protects this part of the Medway. This place is conspicuous at a distance from the windmill. The parish has about 1000 acres of arable, 400 of woodland, and 350 of marsh land; and there are about sixty houses. The soil is either chalk, sand, or gravel. The heath or common ground is extensive. The London road to Rochester goes through the parish.

The manor for some centuries was in the North woods, who held it in capite, by carrying, with other of the royal tenants, a white standard forty days when the sovereign went in hostile array to Scotland. After lord Cobham's attainture, James I. granted it to the earl of Salisbury, and after various alienations it has settled in the Gordon family, who have courts leet and baron.

Randall, formerly Roundall and Rumdale, the most ancient seat of the Cobhams, has lately been reunited to the chief estate by the present earl of Darnley, who holds a court baron for this manor.

Two branches of the numerous family of Maplesden till lately resided here: by a

coheiress of Jarvis Maplesden, Esq., one of them, his estate has fallen to Mr. Thomas Pemble, but the seat is untenanted. The mansion of Mr. James Maplesden, of Shorne Ifield, came to Mr. Thomas Noakes, who had married his eldest coheir, and is now possessed by that gentleman's brother, Mr. Jarvis Noakes, who makes it his residence. The widow of Dr. William Ayerst, prebendary of Canterbury, built another seat in Shorne, now possessed by the Rev. Robert-Gunsley Ayerst, her only surviving son, but occupied by Mr. Comport. It is opposite to the church, and has a most extensive prospect over the surrounding country.

Shorne is in the same ecclesiastical jurisdiction as the last parish; they were both given to the monastery of St. Saviour, of Bermondsey. At the dissolution this was granted by Henry VIII. to the dean and chapter of Rochester. The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 13l. 1s. 8d. The church, dedicated to St. Peter and

St. Paul, contains many monuments; the most remarkable is that of Sir Henry de Cobham le Uncle, so called to distinguish him from a nephew of the same names.

The vicar is the Rev. Henry Jones, A. M., a minor canon of Rochester.

A very ancient chapel stood on the west side of the road opposite to Mr. Thomas Pemble's mansion; near the foundation a stone coffin and human bones have been found.

CHALK.

TO the north of Shorne is Chalk, the Celca of Domesday-book, from cealc, the Saxon word for chalk-stone. This parish is about two miles from north to south, and a mile and half from east to west. The London road goes through it. The southern part is hilly. It has two villages, West Chalk or Chalk-street, and East Chalk; the latter lies near an extensive exposed marsh, rendering it subject to severe autumnal agues. Two-thirds of the parish is marsh land, which comprises 117 acres, forty houses, and 230 souls. The fair is on Whit Monday. This inconsiderable place is not without an extensive trade: in Chalk-street reside several flint-knappers, who manufacture the "best gun-flints" that are known in Europe; great quantities are exported.

Chalk was part of the estate of the insatiable Odo bishop of Bayeux. In the reign of Henry III. being divided, it was distinguished by the names of East Chalk, and West Chalk or West-court; the former was given by the family of de Burgo to the monastery of Bermondsey, in Southwark. The other manor was purchased of

the Nevilles by the Cobhams, and settled upon their college at Cobham. At the Reformation the Cobham family obtained both. West Chalk was soon exchanged with the crown, and for six weeks was the estate of the lord protector Somerset, who again resigned it into the royal hands. Sir John Brooke, created baron Cobham by Charles I. for his loyalty, obtained both: they were conveyed by him to James duke of Richmond and Lenox, and at length purchased by the Blighs earls of Darnley, who also own Bekele or Beccles, an ancient manor, which is part of the Cobham estates, and supposed to have passed with the former manors, from the crown to the ducal family of Stuart.

There are two other inconsiderable manors, called Raynehurst and Tymberwood, with the estates of Felborow and Clam-lane, which were long the property of the same owner. In the last century the Crispes owned them; in this, they were sold by the Cottingtons to Mr. John Jenkinson, who disposed of the estates of Clam-lane and Felborough to Robert Maxwell earl of Farnham, whose only child and heir, lady Harriet, took them in marriage to Dennis Daly, Esq., of the kingdom of Ireland; but the manor of Raynehurst was sold to Mr. Brown, whose widow, Mrs. Sarah Brown, owns it. Tymberwood manor was alienated to the ancestor of Mr. David Day, the present possessor.

The church of Chalk is in the same spiritual jurisdiction as that of Shorne; it stands upon the brow of the hill, without any house near. There are very ludicrous grotesque figures on the outside of the porch, strange accompaniments to the statue of the blessed Virgin which stood between them. Hamo Noble bishop of Rochester gave Chalk church to the Benedictine priory of Norwich; it was exchanged in 1379 for the church of Martham, in Norfolk, by the college at Cobham; the crown is patron: but a portion of the tithe of Shorne, Chalk, and Cobham, was given by Henry VIII. to the dean and chapter of Rochester. This vicarage is a discharged living of the clear certified value of 40l. The Rev. William Crackelt, rector of Ifield and Nutsted, is the incumbent.

DENTON, near GRAVESEND.

DENTON lies still farther north, the Danetone of Domesday-book: the name shows it was once the residence of those piratical scourges the Danes. The addition, Lower Denton, is expressive of its situation, near the marshes, and as near Graves-

end, is to distinguish it from a place of the same name, near Eleham, in Kent. In extent it is nearly of the same size as Chalk; it resembles that parish in soil and unhealthiness. There is no church here, and but two dwellings, the court-lodge and the parsonage, a handsome house, lately rebuilt by Mr. Nicholas Gilbee, lessee

under Mrs. Bevans, in which he resides.

The bishops of Rochester long possessed the manor and lands, with liberty of having gallows, assize of bread and ale, tumbrel, pillory, chattels of fugitives and condemned persons, with other feodal appendages, which now appear so extraordinary. The priory of Rochester afterwards owned the parish; at the dissolution Henry VIII. granted it to the dean and chapter of Rochester.

The small church, dedicated to St. Mary, stood on a bank close to the side of the road, but has been desecrated since the middle of the last century; some of the outside walls still mark the spot: the cemetery is a farm-yard.

As all church dues and duties are paid at Chalk, it may be properly deemed an appendage to that parish. It anciently was assessed towards the repairs of the ninth pier of Rochester bridge.

MERSTON.

TO the east of the last place is Merston, written Merestune in the Textus Roffensis: the name is expressive of its low, marshy situation. There are only 150 acres of land in this district, which is now regarded in the assessments of the poor as a part of Shorne. Its boundaries are scarcely known; the land is good, but the situation unhealthy. There have been no inhabitants for some ages: anciently there appears to have been a castle or fortification, and a small church, dedicated to St. Giles; the scites of both are discernible in some woodlands, but not even a footpath leads to them. Meston or Green manor, purchased by the barons Cobham whilst Henry VIII. sat upon the throne, has gone very much in the same line of descent as the estates at Cobham, and, like them, is now lord Darnley's.

The parish, though once a chapelry to Shorne, is now a rectory, within the diocese of Rochester and a peculiar of Canterbury, in the deanry of Shoreham. Its valuation in the king's books appears to be 2l. 13s. 4d., and it is in the gift of the crown. This sinecure is held by the Rev. John Brett.

HIGHAM.

THE parish of Higham is more north than the preceding: the ancient names were Hecham, Hegham, and Heathham; from about the reign of Stephen to that of Edward III. it was frequently written Lillechurch alias Higham, from the priory which was here, a very unsuitable place for such an establishment, unless it was charitably intended to soon release the nuns confined there of their vows and lives together; for, like all the lands to the north of the London road as far as Canterbury, and thence to the isle of Thanet, it is subject to fatal intermittents.

It is about four miles from north-west to south-east, but little more than a mile wide. At the ford the defeated Britons were followed by Plautus, the victorious Roman general, in the year of Christ. 43; and as a proof that this was an accustomed passage over the Thames to the Essex side, there remains a raised causeway, nearly thirty feet wide, the work of that people, conducted through the marshes by Higham to Shorne. Two centuries ago ferry-boats went from this place to East Tilbury, in Essex, much traffic being carried on by lading and unlading shipping to and from London on each side the river.

Higham had a nunnery in former ages, and a fort built by Elizabeth to defend the Thames; but this too has long since been abandoned. It has now nothing worthy notice but its church and village, called Church-street, containing seven houses, whose unfortunate inhabitants are under the baneful influence of the marshes, which nearly comprise half the parish.

Odo bishop of Bayeux had Hecham; and before him, Godwin, son of Carli and Toli, held it as two manors, named Higham and Lillechurch, which vesting in the crown upon Odo's disgrace, remained there until Stephen, with Matilda his queen, conveyed them under the general name of Lillechurch to William de Ipre, the Flemish earl of Kent, in exchange for the manor of Feversham. Probably the estates remained with that monarch, who afterwards founded and endowed a nunnery for the Benedictine order at Lillechurch, in Higham; where his daughter Mary secluded herself until she removed to, and became abbess of Rumsay. The nuns procured a grant of the manor for 100l. from king John, after the earl of Kent with his countrymen were obliged to leave England; and Henry III. confirmed it, with the farther privilege of holding a fair on the feast of St. Michael,

and the two following days. From Hamo Noble, called de Hethe, bishop of

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Rochester, acting here as visitor, it is evident the nunnery was under the protection of the prelates of that see. It continued without any remarkable occurrence until the reign of Henry VIII., when from sixteen nuns it was reduced to a prioress, a sub-prioress, and two sisters; for which reason, and their unchaste lives, the learned Dr. Fisher, bishop of Rochester, obtained leave to dissolve this, and the abbey of Bromhall, in Berkshire, to augment the foundation of St. John's college, in Cambridge, the munificent work of Margaret countess of Derby, mother of Henry VII.

The original priory stood a mile from the church of Higham, near the road to Cliff; and in the garden behind what is called Lillechurch-house, is a field named Church-place, where human bones have been dug up. Afterwards this nunnery was deserted, and another edifice built near the church, called the Abbey. The farm-house, erected on its scite, has several walls and fragments remaining of this second religious foundation, some of which are covered with encircling ivy.

The manor of Great Okeley was anciently the St. Cleres', then the Sedleys', one of whom sold it Mr. Shales, of Portsmouth, who soon after alienated it to the ancestor of Peter lord Gwydir, the present possessor. Little Okeley, a manor belonging to the St. Cleres, at length also formed a part of the Sedley estates, of which family it was purchased by the Gates's: the three sisters and coheirs of the late Mr. Gates, town-clerk of Rochester, are now entitled to it. The Okeleys have so long lost all manerial rights, that no courts are held for either of them.

The Hermitage is a seat and estate long possessed by the Head family: the former fell to those claiming from their female heirs, the mansion went to the share of James Roper, Esq., who has taken the surname of Head. The house was rebuilt, and a park enclosed by Sir Francis Head, Bart., who also much improved the ground. This residence is on the south-east border of the parish, built on an eminence, having a most extensive and charming view of the Medway and Thames, the channel below the Nore, and a vast circuit in the counties of Kent and Essex. The park is now open ground.

Mr. Alderman Stevens, of Rochester, has also built a good house, to which he occasionally retires, on the knoll of the hill to the west of the village.

Shakespear has immortalized Gad's-hill, in this parish, by his truly comic scene between prince Hal and the fat knight. The appropriate sign of Sir John Falstaff is very injudiciously taken down; it must have recalled to the traveller a thousand

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pleasant thoughts; for who has not read the play of Henry IV., and having read, who has forgotten it?

Higham, within the diocese and deanry of Rochester, is now a vicarage; the great tithes having been formerly given to the Benedictine abbey of St. John, in Colchester, but afterwards, by exchange, to the nunnery of Lillechurch, in this parish, and thence granted to St. John's college, in Cambridge, now the patrons; the vicar, however, has some portion of the great tithe. It is valued in the king's books at 8l. 10s. The incumbent is the Rev. Richard Hargraves, A. M., master of Rivington school, in Lancashire.

Higham was contributary to the repair of the ninth, the manor of Okeley to the fourth pier of Rochester bridge.

CLIFF, near ROCHESTER.

THIS parish, to the north-east of Higham, was anciently Clive or Bishop's Clive: to distinguish this place from Cliff, near Dover, it is usually called Cliff, near Rochester; Cliff is significant of the cliff or rock upon which it stands. The parish is five miles from north to south; nearly three is marsh; for the Thames winding round the northern boundaries, entirely encloses the unwholesome level: the view is extremely fine from the high land, which is fertile and dry, but towards Cowling the soil is poor and sterile. There are two villages, Cliff or Church-street, on the northern extremity of the upland, on the chalk cliff, romantically hanging over the level marshes below: the large and stately church forming a fine object to those passing along the river and surrounding country. The village of Cliff was once very considerable; a fire in 1520 much reduced its size and consequence. It still retains a fair held on the festival of St. Pelagius, October 19; the

ruinated and deserted houses evince that it is going fast to still farther decay; perhaps in another century Cliff will not be the habitation of man. The other village is West-street, about half a mile distant.

This manor and large estate were given to Christ-church, in Canterbury, during the Anglo-Saxon heptarchy; in the division of the ecclesiastical property between the metropolitans and the priory, the manor and some estates were retained by the monks, whilst others were settled upon the see of Canterbury. At the dissolution Henry VIII. granted the manors of West Cliff and Bury-court, with some estates,

to lord Cobham; West Cliff came to Sir John Brooke, created lord Cobham by Charles I., though the great estates were forfeited by attainture in the preceding reign: this nobleman conveyed the estates to James duke of Richmond and Lenox, and the earl of Darnley now possesses them, who holds courts leet and baron for the manor.

Burye, now Berry-Court, after the Cobham attainture was given to the earl of Salisbury, who sold it to the ancestor of its present owner, Jacob Harvey, Esq.

Mallingden, now Molland, and Dean Fee, belonged to Christ-church priory, and was granted by queen Elizabeth to William Ewens; after several alienations it came to the Dykes; a coheiress of theirs took it to the Acland family; it is now the property of James-Roper Head, Esq., Elizabeth, widow of the Rev. Dr. Lill, of Ireland, and Frances-Mary Head, spinster. Having no court lodge, a court baron is held under a tree for this small manor.

Prior's-hall, a manor which belonged to the priory of Rochester, at its suppression was given by Henry VIII. to the dean and chapter of the see: dean Hardy having a lease, left the benefits of it to charitable uses, chiefly appropriate ones, to the lower officers in that cathedral. The dean and chapter have also the manor of Cardons, which they purchased in 1725.

Mortimer, another manor, vulgarly denominated Blue Gates, is at the southern boundary of Cliff, once the residence of the de Mortimer family; it was purchased in the latter part of the last century of the Polleys, by Robert Lee, of Chatham, gent., whose son, William Lee, Esq., surveyor of the navy under queen Anne, dying at an advanced age in 1757 without issue, left this manor to his relation, Mrs. Ward, of Chatham, with remainder to her brother, rear admiral Henry Ward, both of whom possessed it; the latter dying in 1768, his son Edward-Vernon Ward, Esq., is now the owner.

Courtsole, a large ancient house, near the church-yard, was for many descents the Ropers', who resided here occasionally, until Christopher Roper lord Teynham in 1645 disposed of it to Sir Edward Monins, of Waldershere, Bart., which family devised Courtsole to Mr. Short, a relation; he alienated it to Mr. Joseph Hasted, whose grandson, Edward Hasted, Esq., the Kentish historian, sold it to Thomas Williams, of Horton, gent.

This parish is a peculiar of Canterbury, and, as such, in the deanry of Shoreham, and diocese of Rochester. The church, dedicated to St. Helen, is one of the largest

and most handsome in the county; the chancel has its clerical stalls like a collegiate church. Archbishop Arundel's arms are on the roof, and some painted glass continues in the windows; the organ case remains, though the pipes are gone. It is valued in the king's books at 50l.: few livings are better in Kent: the rector has a clear 500l. without any outgoings. The parsonage-house, situate at West-street, is a large, commodious residence. The rectory is a peculiar jurisdiction, the incumbent having the power to do almost every thing within the parish, as the archbishop of Canterbury has in his diocese, and as such, he has an official seal appropriate to his ecclesiastical court of Cliff. The rector immemorially, until very lately, distributed on St. James's day a mutton pie and a loaf to all who demanded it; the expense was 15l. The patronage of the living is in the archbishops of Canterbury, who had great estates in Cliff, until exchanged for others by Henry VIII. The Rev. John Simkinson is the present rector, who holds a court for the manor appendant upon his living, called Parson's borough.

There was once a chapel at West Cliff, but no part of it is remaining.

Some have supposed this place the Clovesho, where so many councils were held in the Anglo-Saxon times, thinking the name Clovesho to have been a compound

of Cliff at Hoo; but the best antiquaries fix Cloversho at Abingdon, in Berkshire, which anciently had that name.

Towards that part of the Thames called the Lower Hope, in the marshes, was built in 1796 a battery, mounting four guns, as a farther security to the river.

COWLING.

THE unfrequented, unhealthy, and disagreeable Cowling, lying east of Cliff, was anciently Colinges or Culinges, descriptive of its cold, exposed situation. The extent is more than four miles from north to south, and about half that in breadth. The land is chiefly low marshes; but from Lodge-hill, an eminence, the prospect is extensive. Here are two villages, Cowling-street, and what may be judiciously called Church Cowling. The castle, long since dismantled, raised this parish to consequence.

The lordship of Culinges was earl Leofwyne's, sixth son of earl Godwin, who falling with Harold II., his brother, at Hastings, it went to the rapacious bishop of Bayeux; for many ages it belonged to the Cobhams lords Cobham, afterwards to

the Brookes alias Cobham, also barons Cobham. John de Cobham obtained leave of Richard II. to embattle and fortify his mansion here; on the eastern tower of the gate-house was a brass tablet in the form of a charter, with his seal appendant, inscribed,

> "Knoweth that beth and shall be
> That I am made in help of the contre,
> In knowledge of whiche thing
> This is chartre and witnessing."

This inscription was placed to prevent the jealousy of the court. The castle has only two memorable circumstances attending its history: Sir John Oldcastle retired hither to avoid his enemies; had he remained at Cowling he might, perhaps, have escaped his dreadful fate; but leaving this strong asylum, he was seized, tried, sentenced, and executed as an heretic in the presence of his illustrious sovereign, after repeated offers of pardon if he would recant.

Sir Thomas Wyat the younger, in 1553, coming to Cowling castle, demanded admittance; receiving a denial, he discharged his ordnance, broke the gate, and killed a few of the ill-fated attendants; a conference then took place between the rebel chief and lord Cobham, the noble owner, his relation, whose brothers had joined the former. There was something extraordinary in Wyat's going; it was still more so in his not being admitted, and most so in not securing it when he was able to gain admittance. Queen Mary was alarmed: she commanded lord Cobham to come to court, and for some time committed him to the Tower. As his behaviour, though mysterious, could not be proved traitorous, he was permitted to return to Cowling: he never, however, regained queen Mary's confidence. If lord Cobham disliked queen Mary's Spanish alliance, he was still more averse to queen Elizabeth's religion; this made him a warm partisan of Mary queen of Scotland – happily for himself and his sovereign, he died in the same year that Elizabeth began her most auspicious reign.

His lordship bequeathed his "household stuff" in Cowling castle to Ann his wife; the castle he devised to Sir William Brooke, his eldest son, who succeeded to his title of lord Cobham; he dying at the end of the sixteenth century, left this castle to his second son George Brooke, Esq., who being implicated in the treason of his eldest brother Henry lord Cobham, was put to death, and his estates confiscated; but James I., compassionating the family, restored the manor, castle, and advowson to his infant son, afterwards Sir William Brooke alias Cobham, knight

of the Bath, who died in 1668, leaving no issue by his first marriage with Penelope, daughter of Henry lord Dacre: by his second, Penelope, daughter of Sir Moses Hill, he had four daughters and coheirs; Pembroke, married to Matthew Tomlinson, Esq., so immediately concerned in the death of Charles I.; Hill, to Sir William Boothby, of Broadlow-Ash, in Derbyshire, Bart.; Margaret, to Sir John Denham, K. B.; and Frances, to Sir Thomas Whitmore, K. B., who became equally entitled to the estates of their father; but Sir John Denham and his lady

dying, and leaving no child, they were shared between the others. A partition took place in 1669: Cowling-lodge with lands adjoining went to Mr. Tomlinson; New-barn, and other lands near it, to Sir William Boothby; and the castle, with some estates, vested in Sir Thomas Whitmore: but the royalties, privileges, and liberties were had in common.

Cowling-lodge fell to the share of Mr. Tomlinson, who narrowly escaped with life at the Restoration, as one of Charles I.'s judges; being alive in 1681, probably he saw the Revolution. At his death his sisters, or their descendants, becoming his heirs, sold Cowling-lodge to Thomas Farrington, of Chesilhurst, Esq., a descendant of whom passed it to Mr. Jacob Harvey, of Islington; and Samuel-Clay Harvey, Esq., about 1760 erected a seat here, which he called Lodge-hill; though designed for his residence, the estate was sold to Mr. John Smith before the whole was completed; Mr. Smith devised it to his youngest son, who since disposed of it to his brother, Mr. Thomas Smith, of Stroud.

New-barn, with its allotted estate, was sold by Sir William Boothby and his lady to Mr. Samuel Clay, a merchant in London, from whom it went by marriage to the family of Jacob Harvey, Esq., the present possessor.

Cowling-castle, with the estate adjudged to Sir Thomas Whitmore, was conveyed by him to Frederic Herne, Esq., who alienated it to the ancestor of George Best, of Chilston, Esq.

The castle, evidently a place of considerable strength, was square, surrounded with a very deep mote, and lying so near the Thames, must always have been a place of consequence; it has long been in ruins: there still remain some of the walls; and to the south-east, far detached from the castle, the handsome machicollated gateway, with its portcullis; this was the grand entrance to the castle, it now leads to the farm-house. Instead of the courteous knight mounted upon his fiery steed, conducting the beauteous virgin riding upon her palfry, followed by a

long train of respectful attendants, only the rude rustic is seen driving along the lowing herd to the waiting milk-maid – strange transition!

Cowling, in the diocese and deanry of Rochester, valued in the king's books at 14l., is a rectory: the church is dedicated to St. James. The present incumbent is the Rev. Matthias Rutton, A. M., also vicar of Sheldwich, in Kent.

FRINDSBURY.

TO the south of Cowling is Frindsbury, anciently Freondesbyri, a parish skirted on the east, and much on the south, by the Thames; extending five miles from north to south, but not half that breadth in the contrary direction. There are few spots more diversified: its church stands picturesque; but the finest view from Frindsbury is at the Quarry-house, which being exactly opposite to Chatham dock, commands a most charming prospect of the river, town, yard, and the surrounding country. In the low part next the river are extensive salt marshes, covered by every high tide. The hills are chiefly chalk, the dales loam; towards Hoo, clay: the whole rich in corn. The great London road goes through the south part of the parish, which joins those of Higham and Cobham, at the hamlet of Three Crouches, a name significant of its having had three crosses erected there by the several districts.

The most consequential thing in Frindsbury is Upnor castle, built by queen Elizabeth for the security of the river, now used as a magazine for gunpowder to supply the navy: the establishment consists of a governor, store-keeper, clerk of the cheque, a master, and twelve other gunners, with inferior persons. Under the governor is always a guard or detachment of soldiers. The south tower of the castle was appropriated for his residence; but the governor, gunners, soldiers, and commanding officer have good apartments in the commodious barracks built near the castle, where there is a suitable house for the store-keeper, and gardens to supply the whole with vegetables. The governor has the command of all the forts on the Thames, Sheerness alone excepted. These forts, however, are rather nominal than real, except Cliff; the others are the Swamp, now the Bird's-nest, which has long lost its guns, and whose earthen embrasures, covered with bushes, are mouldering away. Cockham wood fort, a mile below, is also entirely ruinous; yet it has a master-gunner, usually an invalid, and a quarter-gunner, the former in the gift of the master-general of the ordnance. Hooness fort, usually

called the Folly, lying beyond the last, though it has not a gun mounted, yet is not deserted, having a master-gunner from Upnor castle, who having resided a week, is succeeded by another: a boat is allowed to transport provisions. Cliff fort has been, and Gillingham will be noticed. Frindsbury has now its dock, rope-yard, and other suitable accompaniments on the banks of the Medway, where large men of war have been built with great convenience; the land upon which the dock stands is part of what is the Quarry-house estate.

The manor of Frindsbury, with those dependent upon it, granted to the cathedral church of Rochester by the heptarchical kings, was lost during the Danish usurpations: having been the estate of Harold II., William I. gave it to Odo his half brother, from whom it was recovered by Gundulph bishop of Rochester, who allotted the manor of Frindsbury and its appendages to the monastery of St. Andrew's, except the advowson, which bishop Gilbert de Glanville regained. Henry VIII. gave the manor and that of Rede-court, in this parish, to the dean and chapter of Rochester: the lessee of the former is Philip Boghurst, Esq., whose father built a handsome court-lodge near the church; the lessee of Rede-court is Mr. John Boghurst, of Stroud.

Heslingham manor, anciently AEslingham, was once of so much consequence as to give name to the parish, which was formerly called AEslingham alias Frindsbury: bishop Gundulph gave it to Godfrey Talbot; it afterwards went to the St. Cleres, and was one of the few estates purchased by Cromwell earl of Essex, the wise minister and rapacious vicar-general of Henry VIII. Queen Elizabeth granted it to Sir William Drury; a descendant of his sold it to the Clerkes, of whom it was purchased by the ancestor of its present possessor, Thomas Best, of Boxley, Esq.

John bishop of Rochester built a chapel dedicated to St. Peter, and endowed it with the tithes, liberties, and customs arising within the manor; out of which was paid 10s. to the person who had the cure of Frindsbury manor, thirty sheaves of wheat, thirty of barley, and thirty of oats to the mother church, as a compensation for the fees due at the burial of the servants of the lords of the manor; it was further stipulated, that the lord of Heslingham, his wife, sons, and daughters, should be buried at the church of Frindsbury, because otherwise that church would lose the obiit money, with suitable bequests, which in those ages constituted a great part of the parochial income to the incumbent; these regulations settled, the lord of Heslingham was permitted to have the chaplain he chose reside in the house,

and sit at his table: this is a picture of ancient times. Now Heslingham has lost its chapel, the lord resides in another parish, and the seat is a farm-house.

Bromhey or Bromgeheg, given by Egbert king of Kent, and confirmed by the illustrious Offa king of Mercia, to the church of Rochester, was then in the limits of a castle called Hrofecaester. Afterwards the estate was divided: the prelates of Rochester had a share; Hamo Noble, called de Hethe, in 1337, at a great expense repaired his grange or farm-house here; the de Cobham family possessed the remainder, which descended with the estates of that family; it forms a part of the rich domains of the earl of Darnley. Bromhey had also a chapel in the beginning of the fourteenth century; all traces of it are now lost.

Chattenden, an estate containing 655 acres of land, was, as an appendage to Frindsbury manor, part of the possessions of the abbey of Rochester: at the dissolution Henry VIII. gave it to the ennobled family of Brooke or Cobham; James I. granted it to the Stuarts dukes of Richmond and Lenox; it is now owned by lord Darnley.

Goddington was the residence of the Goddingtons, and afterwards of the Waltons, who obtained this seat and manor by marrying the sole heiress of a Snaith; the Wattons alienated it in Charles II.'s reign to the Barrells; the niece of the last possessor of that name took it to her husband Josiah Marshall, Esq.; their son, the Rev. Edmund Marshall, late vicar of Charing, sold it in 1780 to Mr. Thomas Ayres, who rebuilt the seat, and dying in 1796 left it to his niece, Mrs. Mary-Ann Hopkins; she sold it to the present owner, George Gunning, Esq.

Wainscot, a manor, once called, from its owners, Parlabeins-yoke, came to the Colepepers, of Aylesford, and in this century has been alienated to the Goldings, the Brookes of Town Malling, the late Rev. Edward Holme, and the present

possessor, Mr. John Boghurst, who holds courts leet and baron for the manor.

Mr. David- Hermitage Day, of Rochester, brewer, has a handsome modern brick seat, called Little Hermitage, very near the great road, and some distance from the pond called St. Thomas's watering-place. Two or three years ago this house was struck by lightning in the upper story in an horizontal direction, going entirely through the longest way of the whole building.

Frindsbury, within the diocese and deanry of Rochester, is a vicarage, valued in the king's books at 10l. 3s. 111/2d.; the great tithes and advowson belong to the bishops of Rochester. The church, a neat structure, adorned with many monu-

ments, is dedicated to All Saints; the present incumbent is the Rev. W. P. Menzies, A. M., a minor canon of Rochester.

This parish anciently contributed to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge.

STROUD.

SOUTH of Frindsbury is Stroud, the Strodes of the Textus Roffensis, divided in its civil jurisdiction into Stroud infra, and Stroud extra; the one belonging to that of the county justices, the other to the corporation of Rochester. It is one of the "three towns," Stroud, Rochester, and Chatham; they appear but one place, consisting of a very long street. Stroud has its church at the west, and Rochester bridge at the east termination. The inhabitants are shopkeepers, publicans, sailors, fishermen, and oyster dredgers. They have had a three days fair commencing August 17th, given them in king John's reign, which is now become very considerable. Since the act passed in 1769 for new paving, lighting, and watching, this place has greatly improved, being now little inferior to Rochester.

The manor is called Stroud Temple, from its having been given by Henry II. to the Knights Templars, who had a mansion here, which is still remaining. Henry VIII. at the dissolution gave the estate to Edward Elrington in capite, who, with Grace his wife, passed it to the lords Cobham, and lately it was purchased of the Blagnes by the uncle of its present owner, Thomas Whitaker, of Trottescliffe, Esq.

Goddington gave name to a family, by whom it was granted to Rochester abbey; at the dissolution Henry VIII. settled it upon the dean and chapter of Rochester; this manor is held under the dutchy of Lancaster.

The Yoke or North Yoke is a small manor, now possessed by the Rev. Samuel Denne, as trustee to the late Mrs. Mary Thornton, daughter of the Rev. Stephen Thornton, of Luddesdon.

Newark or Stroud hospital, dedicated to the honour of God and the Virgin Mary, was erected by Gilbert de Glanville bishop of Rochester, in the beginning of Richard I.'s reign. It was raised for the purpose of praying for the souls of the bishop, his predecessor, successors, and benefactors, the restoration of Christianity in the Holy Land, the redemption of Richard I., to receive and relieve the poor, sick, and infirm of the neighbourhood, and travellers, and to supply them with beds, food, and liquor, until their departure: it seemed needless that the

remainder of the revenues should be directed to be given to the poor in general, when such an institution demanded the wealth of a province. The hospital was placed directly under the cognisance of the pope, the archbishop of Canterbury, and the bishop of Rochester: great contests arose between the confreers and the monks of Rochester; the former lived very little according to the intention of the founder, until bishop Hamo Noble ordained that they should live and dress according to the rule of St. Austin, and, to their mortification, obliged them to residence; and as an acknowledgment that their revenues were taken from Rochester abbey, to wear the white cross of St. Andrew upon their garments. At the dissolution their revenues amounted to 52l. 9s. 101/2d.; all which Henry VIII. judiciously gave, first to the priory, and a few months afterwards to the dean and chapter of Rochester. The manors of Boncakes or Newark, and Hawkins, were in this parish; a court baron is still held for the former. The hospital stood on the north side of the high-street in Stroud, near the church-yard; the scite, retaining its name, is so covered with subsequent buildings, as to exhibit little of the old structure: the almonry, now a stable, is the most perfect part.

The parish, in the diocese and deanry of Rochester, has a large Gothic church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, formerly a chapel to Frindsbury: the incumbent is only perpetual curate: the present one is the Rev. John-Ward Allen. The dean and chapter of Rochester, who are patrons, have the tithes, but liberally demise them, with all the other emoluments, for the annual acknowledgment of one penny rent. It is not valued in the king's books.

Stroud is the utmost extremity prescribed by this work; but as it will be a gratification, no doubt, to the reader, to know the present state of places of so much consequence as Rochester and Chatham, it is meant to give a sketch of them and their environs, including Sheerness.

ROCHESTER.

THE entrance from Stroud to Rochester is by a most elegant bridge, whose length is 560 feet: lately it has been considerably widened, new faced with stone, with balustrades of the same, substituted for old parapet walls or iron railing: the two central arches are to be thrown into one; the whole number will then be ten: the expense is estimated at 35,000l. This bridge has ever been of the greatest im-

portance; in ancient times there was a wooden one, in a more direct line from Rochester and Stroud; the date of the present one is not known. Our monarchs have given and enlarged the powers of the bridge company, consisting of two wardens and twelve assistants, annually chosen, who are a community with a common seal, and vested with great powers, and a revenue of 1000l. per annum arising chiefly from estates: no society has ever better performed the duties entrusted to it. The levies from the various parishes who anciently were assessed to repair the bridge have long ceased. A few years ago a row of houses stood on one side the lane, which rendered the road to it very confined; the company took them down, and finding that accidents often happened by the shortness of the turn, the corner houses have just been removed. When the ground is paved, the entrance to this noble bridge will be suitably spacious. The whole money for these necessary improvements is raised by the company, or borrowed of the neighbouring nobility, gentry, or barge owners, which are to be paid off in lots. At the east end Sir John de Cobham, one of its founders, built a chapel or chantry, once the usual accompaniment to great bridges. The bridge chamber on its scite, built by the wardens in 1735, is a neat stone edifice, having upon it the arms of the principal benefactors to the bridge: here are held weekly, quarterly, and annual meetings.

Rochester, the Durobrivae of the Romans, and Hroueceaster of the Saxons, contains little more than one street; in the Anglo-Saxon times it was rather a castle than a city: it was once enclosed within walls; the remains are visible at present. It forms, with Chatham, one long continued place. The jurisdiction of the city was formerly the hundred, now the city and liberty, of Rochester.

The first object that presents itself after passing the bridge is the castle, once a strong fortification, now a ruin; built, it is supposed, by William the Conqueror, upon the scite of a Roman one: it stands on a small eminence near the Medway; the form is almost quadrangular; the dimensions 300 feet square within the walls, which are seven feet thick, and twenty high: on one side, the Medway secured it, on the other a deep broad ditch, now nearly filled up. Some of the square towers on the angles and sides remain; that on the south-east angle is so lofty as to be seen at twenty miles distance; it has the same form as the castle. To avoid particulars of what is no longer useful, it will be sufficient to remark, that on the third floor were the state rooms, thirty-two feet in height, separated by columns, forming four

grand arches, curiously ornamented, and upon the whole give us a flattering specimen of the architecture of the age in which they were built.

This castle was always of importance; the Danes often annoyed, and in the reign of Alfred would have possessed themselves of it, had he not, with his usual expedition, flown to the spot, and obliged them to seek refuge in their vessels. Odo bishop of Bayeux made this his residence, and the scene of his violence; here his half-brother William the Conqueror having seized, sent him to Normandy, when just ready to sail to Rome with all his ill-acquired wealth, being desirous to employ it in purchasing the popedom. In Rufus's reign, unbroken by a long imprison-

ment, coming over, he acted the same turbulent part, and was again seized by his new sovereign: a treaty was agreed upon; he promised to deliver up this castle; but acting with that duplicity which so peculiarly marked his character, the king marched against, and took it by storm. Simon Montford earl of Leicester, and the other confederate barons, besieged this castle; but Henry III.'s chief constable, Roger de Leyborne, with the earls of Arundel and Warren, and Henry Delamaine, bravely withstood every attack, and the besiegers were obliged to quit the enterprise. Rochester castle, except in the reigns of Henry I. and John, who gave it to the see of Canterbury, was always in possession of the sovereign, until James I. granted the castle to Sir Anthony Weldon. It was lately the property of lady Ducie, upon whose death in 1793, the trustees under Mr. Child's will have the care of this, with his other great estates. At some distance the castle appears perfect; and so strong are the walls, that though all the timber, lead, and whatever else could be sold, has been long taken away; yet it may remain for ages in its present form, if not purposely destroyed. Many urns and lachrymatories, found on Bully or Boley hill, near the castle, mark out with precision the place of sepulture of the Romans while they remained at Rochester.

The cathedral is a very disagreeable looking edifice at a distance, from its large, cumbrous spire. The western entrance is very fine; the nave is small, and has nothing attractive; the choir is extremely elegant. The original church was built about the year of Christ 600; the present nave by bishop Gundulph, who sat from 1077 to 1107; the choir by William de Hoo, sacrist, who has been dead about 570 years. Amongst the contributors to its present grandeur, bishop Hamo Noble was conspicuous; in 1343 he raised the tower, covered it with lead, and placed in it four bells, which he named Dunstan, Paulinus, Ithamar,

and Lanfranc. The present steeple was built in 1749; it is 136 feet high, and has six bells. The church is curiously vaulted with stone; the columns are Petworth marble, of a greenish grey colour: the choir has been greatly improved, and laid with Bremen and Portland stone, and the altar paved with black and white marble, at the expense of a lady. The altar-piece, of Norway oak, is elegant; archbishop Herring, once dean of Rochester, gave 50l. towards the decorations. A painting by West, of the Angels appearing to the Shepherds, is in the centre: the episcopal throne was at the expense of bishop Wilcocks in 1743, when the present wainscot stalls and pews were set up; the old organ was replaced in 1791, with an excellent one built by Green. The neatness of every part of this very ancient structure does the dean and chapter great credit; and when we consider that during the Usurpation the nave was converted into a carpenter's shop and yard, with its accompaniments of saw-pits, &c., the wonder is, that the whole was not destroyed, especially the monuments of the ancient prelates. The pious and munificent Dr. Warner, who died in 1666, in his eighty-sixth year, was the last who was buried in this cathedral: his executors, in a single instance, acted contrary to the directions of his will, by erecting a monument to his memory. Rochester has been peculiarly fortunate in her prelates; the six preceding the present one never were translated from the see, and all died at very advanced ages. The learned and right rev. Samuel Horsley, S. T. P., now presides over the diocese, being the ninety-first in succession. In the king's books this see is valued at 358l. 4s. 91/2d.; the annual income is not more than 600l., but the deanry of Westminster is generally held with it. The deanry of Rochester is about 400l. per annum; the present dean is the Rev. Thomas Dampier, D. D. The archdeaconry is rated in the king's books at 34l. 14s. 91/4d.: little emolument accrues from it, but that is compensated by a presentation to some good parochial preferment: the present archdeacon is the Rev. John Law, S. T. P. There are six prebendaries: the income of each stall is near 300l. a year, with a good prebendal house. The six minor canons reside in pleasant ones, forming what is called Minor Canon row; and besides these are inferior officers. The prelates of Rochester anciently had a suitable palace near the cathedral: cardinal bishop Fisher, who fell beneath the axe in Henry VIII.'s reign, was the last who resided in it. The present building, erected upon its scite, is not older than the last century, and is leased out. Francis Head, Esq., left a good mansion at St. Margaret's Hill for the residence of the prelates, when they came

to the city; but this has never been used by them, and is also leased out. The deanry is handsome, and the prebendal houses are good. The bishops of Rochester, as chaplains to the primates of Canterbury, were formerly appointed by them, but they are now nominated by the sovereign, and elected by the chapter.

There is only one parish within the walls, which is St. Nicholas'. The church is only a few yards distant from the cathedral; over the entrance is, "Haec ecclesia Re-edificata dedicata xix die Septembr. anno 1624. Tempore majoratus Joh'is Declinge." There is nothing worthy notice in the inside. It is a vicarage, valued in the king's books at 20l. 8s. 9d.; the patronage is in the diocesan. The present incumbent is the Rev. William Wrighte, one of the secretaries to the Society of Antiquaries. There was once another church within the walls, St. Clement's, but it has long been desecrated; and by Edward VI. the rectory was given to St. Margaret's parish: some small remains of the church are visible; it was not more than forty feet wide, and of proportionable length, yet sufficiently capacious for the smallness of the parish in which it stood. Without the walls is St. Margaret's parish, in the street which bears its name, but better known as Rochester-street. It is a vicarage, in the patronage of the dean and chapter, charged in the king's books at 10l. The present incumbent is the Rev. Arnold Carter, A. M., a minor canon. There was another church called St. Mary's without the gates, but not even a relic of this remains.

Of the long-famed monastery of St. Andrew, little is standing except the tower leading to the cathedral. It was founded in the year 600 by St. Augustine for secular priests, who were displaced by bishop Gundulph in 1080 in favour of Benedictine monks. At the dissolution it was valued at 486l. 11s. 5d. per annum; the revenues were chiefly appropriated by Henry VIII. to the endowment of this deanry and chapter. In the street, some distance from the bridge, is the town-hall, a handsome brick building, supported with coupled columns of stone, in the Doric order; the ascent to which is by a spacious staircase. The room, large and elegant, has a ceiling curiously ornamented with military trophies, fruits, and flowers: the walls are adorned with fine portraits of William III. and queen Anne, by Kneller, Sir Cloudesley Shovel, Sir John Jennings, Sir Thomas Colby, Sir Joseph Williamson, Mr. Watts, Sir John Lake, Sir Thomas Palmer, and Sir Stafford Fairborne. Here the city business is transacted, and in it the judges have frequently also held the county assizes. On the outside is, "This building was

erected in the year 1687, John Bryan, Esq., then mayor." Some distance below is another marble tablet, inscribed, "These pavements were given by the Hon. Sir Stafford Fairborne, Anno Dom. 1706, John Burges, Esq., mayor;" alluding to the fine stone pavement before the town-hall, which is now used as a market-place for fish, vegetables, and fruit. The falcon at the top of the tablet is probably the crest of Fairborne. On the same side is another handsome structure called the clock-house, which has been newly repaired; it stands upon the scite of the ancient guildhall, and bears this inscription: "The present building was erected at the sole charge and expense of Sir Cloudesley Shovel, knight, A. D. MDCCVI. He represented this city in parliament in the reign of king William the Third, and in the parliament in the reign of queen Ann. Richard Thompson, mayor, 1795."

The royal grammar-school adjoining the priory gate was founded by Henry VIII. for the education of twenty boys called king's scholars: their dress of blue cloth is in the fashion of Henry's time. Here are four exhibitions of 5l. each paid by the church to as many scholars, until they obtain the degree of master of arts, if they remain so long in the university without having a fellowship: two of the scholars are sent to Oxford, and two to Cambridge. There are two masters placed over the boys. The Rev. Robert Gunsley, rector of Titsey, in Surrey, devised in 1618 to University college, Oxford, 60l. per annum to maintain four scholars, natives of Kent, with a preference of those of his name and kindred, to be chosen from the free grammar-schools of Maidstone and Rochester; each to be allowed chambers and 15l. a year.

More to the east, opposite the prior's gate, is Cheldegate-lane, so called from one of the ancient gates of the city; at the bottom of it is a large suitable poor's-house of brick, built in 1734; towards the expenses of its erection Sir Thomas Palmer, and Sir John Jennings, who represented the city in parliament, gave 500l.:

the poor are industriously kept in spinning worsted and yarn.

Farther towards Chatham is the custom-house, and next to it a white edifice, with very singular inscriptions, expressing by whom, when, and for what purpose built; they are transcribed, as having, it is believed, never been entirely given to the public –

"Richard Watts, Esq., first devised An. 1579, Relief for Travellers, to be had after death of Maria his wife, which she, by the help of Thomas Pagitt her

second husband, assured, An. 1586; died 31 of December, 1580. The mayor and citizens of this city, and dean and chapter of the cathedral, and comenality of the bridge are to see this executed for ever." Below this is,

"Richard Watts, Esq.
by his will dated 22d of August, 1579,
founded this charity,
for six poor travellers,
who, not being rogues or proctors,
may receive gratis, for one night,
lodging, entertainment,
and fourpence each."

"In testimony of his munificence, in honour of his memory, and inducement to his example, Nathaniel Ward, Esq., the present mayor, hath caused this stone gratefully to be renewed and inscribed, A. D. 1771." On one of the wings is, "Thomas Pagitt, second husband of Maria, daughter of Thomas Somer, of Halso, widow of Richard Watts, deceased. These An. 1599." On the other wing opposite to it is a shield baron and femme, with labels, and "Pagitt" and "Somers" on each side; the arms are a cross invecked, in the first quarter an escallop shell, impaling vert, a fesse ermine. The rents of the lands belonging to this charity have arisen from 36l. 16s. 8d. to 500l. After fulfilling the intention of the donor in lodging and relieving poor travellers, not rogues or proctors, the remainder is given to other charitable purposes.

The hospital, once the spital of St. Catherine, founded by Simon Polyn in 1316, escaping the general wreck at the dissolution, stands in the high-street of the suburb of Eastgate, was rebuilt in 1717, and gives asylum to twelve aged persons, who are allowed twelve chaldrons of coals, and six dozen of candles amongst them, and 1l. 6s. each yearly.

The free-school founded by Sir Joseph Williamson in 1701, is a handsome brick building, on the north side of the high-street, with a very long Latin inscription above the entrance: here the sons of freemen of the corporation are educated and instructed in mathematics, and other branches of science, especially such as are nautical. There is an ample provision for the support of this foundation; the head master is allowed 100l. per annum, and the under one 40l. with each a house. It must be remarked that the first master was Mr. John Colson, afterwards mathematical professor of Cambridge; and the inimitable Garrick was under his tuition

whilst presiding over this school: at this early age genius shone forth, and proclaimed a future Roscius – the remembrance of his youthful talents is fondly treasured up by the inhabitants of Rochester. This city has to boast of as many public charities as any one of the same size in the kingdom.

St. Margaret's hill near Chatham is now built upon, and joins that town: there are some very good houses detached from the high-street, that stand very pleasantly. Rochester, since it has been new paved and cleaned, is a neat, elegant place, the residence of many genteel and opulent persons. No place can be better supplied with food than this; a variety of the finest fish is constantly brought for sale, and they have a market on Friday for pigs, poultry, butter, vegetables, &c. in the area leading to the court-hall; and on the same day for meat in the shambles within the clock-house. But Chatham has superseded the necessity for this last – a monthly Tuesday's market has lately been established for cattle; and they have two fairs, one by charter, the other by prescription, upon the feasts St. Dunstan and St. Andrew, each of which lasts three days; on the first principally for cattle.

This, though one of the smallest, is not the most inconsiderable of our cities: few have

had greater immunities and privileges granted or confirmed by English monarchs. The government is by a mayor, eleven other aldermen, twelve assistants or common council, a recorder, town-clerk, two chamberlains, a principal sergeant at mace, water-bailiff, and inferior officers. The present and late mayor, elder aldermen, and recorder, are justices of peace within the limits of the corporation: small debts in the city and adjoining parishes are recoverable in their court. Rochester has returned members to the house of commons from the time of Edward I. The present representatives are Sir Richard King, Bart., admiral of the blue, and the Hon. Henry Tufton, brother to the earl of Thanet.

Rochester gave title of viscount to Sir Robert Carr, afterwards created earl of Somerset, and elected knight of the garter, whose subsequent crimes made him an object of detestation and scorn: his munificent sovereign, James I., whose confidence he had so shamefully abused, would not permit his merited death; but his alarmed conscience, aided by a universal defection, made life a misfortune, not a blessing to him.

The loyal Henry Wilmot, only son of Charles viscount Wilmot, of Athlone, in Ireland, the faithful and confidential servant of his royal masters Charles I. and Charles II., was raised to the earldom of Rochester, by patent dated at Paris, in

1652, as some recompence for the troubles his steady loyalty had occasioned: dying at Dunkirk in 1659, his body was brought over and buried at Spilsbury, in Oxfordshire: by Ann, daughter of Sir John St. John, he was father of John, the witty, profligate, and repentant earl of Rochester, who died July 26th, 1680, leaving, by a rich heiress, Miss Elizabeth Mallet, of Enmore, in Somersetshire, Charles, an only son, who dying in November 1681 a minor, and unmarried, the title became extinct.

Laurence Hyde, viscount Hyde, second son of the great chancellor and minister, was created by Charles II. in 1682 earl of Rochester; his lordship was brother-in-law to James II., and maternal uncle to queen Anne. During four reigns he filled the most important offices in England and Ireland, and was elected knight of the garter; dying in 1711 he was succeeded by Henry his son; his first cousin, Edward earl of Clarendon, leaving no male issue, that earldom also vested in him. His only son, viscount Cornbury„ dying a little before him, both titles became extinct, and that of Rochester has never been revived.

To give a relation of every royal visit that Rochester has been honoured with, would exceed all bounds – the heptarchical kings, the Anglo-Saxon monarchs, often came hither; and after the Norman conquest, being in the direct road to our sovereigns' continental dominions, there are few of our kings until queen Mary's reign who have not been here in their passage to France, and since that time most of them on some occasion or other. Queen Elizabeth, in her progress round the coasts of Sussex and Kent in 1573, remained at Rochester five days; she attended divine service the day after her arrival, and heard a sermon in the cathedral. The benevolent Mr. Watts, at whose mansion she resided, expressing his concern that his house was too small to accommodate her majesty, she graciously answered SATIS (enough): that word has since given name to the house now owned by Mr. Longley the recorder; it is a large, handsome, brick building. – James I. and his royal brother-in-law, Frederic II. of Denmark, visited this city in 1606, and heard a sermon by Dr. Parry, dean of Chester, the greatest orator in the kingdom. Charles II. at his return from banishment was received by the loyal citizens with the sincerest joy; the mayor and corporation presented the king with a silver basin and ewer. His majesty slept that night at colonel Gibbon's, who has been repeatedly mentioned as receiving grants of royal and episcopal lands during the Usurpation, and which by this return of his sovereign he was upon the point of losing. The colonel's mansion

has since had the name of Restoration-house. That unfortunate, misguided monarch James II., came to Rochester December 19, 1688, and remained until the 23d at the house of Sir Richard Head, Bart., when, with the duke of Berwick and two others, embarking in a tender, he left Britain never to return.

CHATHAM.

THE town of Chatham, united to Rochester by the continuance of the long

street, is no otherwise known from that city and its suburbs than by having the houses of less magnitude; for here, instead of gentry and wealthy tradesmen, are found chiefly persons usually resident in sea-port towns. From the great street are some detached ones, especially at Slicket's hill, where a small town has lately been formed as it were of itself. Some years ago this place was disgustful from its filth; then the houses projected, making it dark and gloomy; being unpaved it became absolutely impassable to strangers – yet the inhabitants obstinately refused to unite with Rochester and Stroud to procure an act of parliament to pave, light, and cleanse it. A road was cut at great expense behind the town in 1769, through high hills of chalk and gravel, filling up with the excavated materials the deep valleys. At length, made sensible of their foolish prejudices, they unanimously subscribed towards improving their town; and in 1772 one gentleman generously defrayed the whole expense, about 250l., of procuring an act of parliament: a more extensive one was obtained in 1776. Since then Chatham has much increased in size and population, and become a clean, neat place; the street, moderately spacious and well lighted: the expense of this change has been at the easy rate of only 9d. in the pound. Its Saturday's market of meat, poultry, and vegetables, supplies itself, and even Rochester. There are two fairs, one on May 15, the other on September 19, which continue for three days each, chiefly for clothing, millinery, pedlary, toys, and such articles.

The first thing that arrests attention on entering Chatham from Rochester, is the victualling-office, placed on the north side the street, where the royal navy here, at Sheerness, and the Nore, are supplied with provisions, especially beef and pork. There are cooperage, pickling, baking, cutting, slaughter, and store houses. Lately a new wharf has been made, and more buildings erected for the service and conve-

nience of this office, which is under the control of an agent-victualler and a store-keeper.

A little farther on the right was St. Bartholomew's hospital, founded by an unknown person, at an early period, for lepers: Henry III. confirmed its privileges, and Edward III. discharged it from taxes, tallage, &c. Escaping the common dissolution, the estates in 1627 were vested in the dean and chapter of Rochester as governors and patrons. There are now four brethren, two of whom are in orders. Some part of the original edifice is converted into a small chapel, still called St. Bartholomew's, where the people of this part of Chatham attend public worship; William Walter, of Chatham, Esq., in 1743, enlarged, new pewed, and built the steeple.

Opposite to this is Sir John Hawkins's hospital, finished in 1592, and incorporated by queen Elizabeth at the request of the founder. One of the governors having given 500l., it has been lately rebuilt, and makes a handsome appearance to the street, which it fronts. The annual sum given by Sir John Hawkins was only 66l., and no other has added to the income except Robert Davis, a poor, honest seaman, who fell in battle in 1692, who bequeathed 60l., his little all, which his executrix punctually paid. The pensioners, reduced from twelve to ten, receive lodging and 3s. 6d. weekly, and a chaldron of coals yearly; they must be maimed, disabled, or otherwise distressed seamen, belonging to the royal fleet; and a suitable provision is made to instruct them in the truths and comforts of religion. The deputy governor resides in the principal house, and receives an additional fee of 2l. The visitor is the archbishop of Canterbury. The governors are twenty-six: of these, four are elective; the others are great official characters. This excellent institution has been unaccountably neglected by a body of men as liberal as brave, and whose profession more than any other unites its great, with the humble members. Over the old gate was,

"The poor you shall always have with you: to whom ye may do good yf ye wyl."

Near the east end of the high-street is the large poor's-house, built in 1726 by voluntary subscription, and capable of containing great part of the very numerous paupers.

The chief object of every stranger is principally the store-houses, dock, and barracks. Queen Elizabeth viewed, enlarged, improved, and built Upnor-castle to

protect this dock; knowing the importance of her naval strength, and that commerce was the natural mean of aggrandizing her subjects. James I. improved the arts of peace, and under his government the blessings of wealth acquired by merchandise, made his reign more solid than brilliant; a native timidity, aided by an acquired prodigality, prevented his uniting a martial spirit with the wisdom of peace. This monarch, finding that the old dock was become too small for the purposes designed, removed the naval yard to its present situation, and appropriated the former one to the office of ordnance. This is a long narrow point of land below the chalk cliff to the north of Chatham town, between the church and the river. Here the eye is gratified with long tiers of guns and pyramids of cannon-balls upon the wharf; under cover are carriages for the artillery, with many kinds of naval stores; and a small armory of muskets, pistols, cutlasses, pikes, poleaxes, and other offensive weapons. A store-keeper, clerk of the survey, of the cheque, two extra clerks, and other officers, preside over this department: the former has a good house.

The royal naval dock adjoins the former; it probably had been used towards the end of the reign of queen Elizabeth; James I. formed it into a regular one, and Charles I. greatly improved it by enlarging and forming new docks, capable of floating ships with the tide. Charles II. visited this dock in 1660, and saw there the Royal Sovereign of 100 guns. This monarch, whose abilities were confessedly great, directed his attention to naval affairs, knew the construction of and improved the ships of war in several respects.

Every thing here astonishes the spectator, and must give him an idea of the greatness of our strength at sea, and of the care taken to retain that superiority which the four quarters of the world acknowledge we possess. The entrance is by a spacious, handsome gateway, flanked by two embattled towers: all strangers are obliged to give a satisfactory account of themselves, and receive a written leave before they go farther. The eye is every where gratified with the elegant apartments of the commissioner, and other principal officers; the vast store-houses, one of them 660 feet in length; the work-rooms suitable to the design for which they are erected; the sail-loft 209 feet long; the immense stowages of sails, rigging, hemp, flax, pitch, tar, rosin, the coils of cordage, heaps of blocks, and every thing that can be wanting in shipping, and all this with such exactitude, that no confusion can arise on the most sudden emergency: to a person unacquainted with nautical affairs it exceeds credibility,

and still more when he is told how much one of our largest ships takes of each requisite to furnish it.

The store-houses for masts of all sizes also.occasion great astonishment: one of them is 236 feet by 120. Here are masts nearly 120 feet long, and thirty-six inches in diameter; basons of water receive them, to prevent their cracking. The smith's forge appears the native residence of Vulcan, having twenty-one fires; the labour these sons of heat endure may be imagined, when it is mentioned that anchors of almost five tons are wrought here. The old rope-house was 700, the new one is 1140 feet in length; cables of 120 fathom long, and twenty-two inches round, are twisted here. For laying down or repairing ships are four docks, of such depth and size, that vessels of the largest dimensions have been built in them; the most remarkable have been the new Royal George, the Queen Charlotte, of 100 guns each, and the Ville de Paris of 110. These, when building, appeared such immense wooden edifices, that it might be supposed another deluge was apprehended, and that the intended floating structure was to contain some of each species, that they might be saved from a second wreck of nature. To see the workmen go to their houses at stated times, and in one body, especially the carpenters, is a most pleasing sight. The whole of the dock is a mile in length, and on the land side surrounded with a high wall. The officers employed by government are a commissioner, allowed three clerks, a clerk of the cheque, store-keeper, master shipwright or builder, clerk of the survey, two master attendants, two master shipwrights, assistants, master calker, clerk of the rope-yard, master rope-maker, boatswain, purveyor, surgeon, and many inferior officers.

Leaving the dock-yard, the lower barracks present themselves; buildings which are large, handsome, and uniform, with a fine spacious enclosed area: the approach to them and the dock-yard is by a double road, shaded with lime and walnut trees.

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is near the old dock, and quite

detached from the town. The ancient church being burnt, the present was built in 1352; in 1635 it was repaired, the west end rebuilt and enlarged, and a steeple erected, all at the expense of the commissioners of the navy. Commissioner St. Loe in 1707 built a gallery on the south side for the use of the navy and ordinary. The place increasing so much, it became necessary to rebuild it upon a larger scale, except the spire; the requisite sum was raised by a brief, and parochial assessment: the present edifice is brick. This inscription is on the outside – "The body of this

church, with the chance], was taken down and rebuilt in the year 1788; John Law, D. D., minister; Mr. William Wilson, Mr. Francis-Steele Bond, church-wardens; Mr. John Southerden, surveyor." The inside is peculiarly neat, with west, south, and north galleries, and the walls much covered with neat marble monumental tablets, which had been in the former church. There are painted busts of Rainold Barker, Esq., lord of the manor, who died December 26, 1609, and Ann his wife, who died January 9, 1615, who after his death was married to Sir Michael Sands, of Throngley, in Kent, Knt. The white marble monument of Kenricke Edisbury, of Marchwell, in Denbighshire, Esq., surveyor of the navy, who died in 1638, exhibiting him to the waist, resting his right hand upon a skull, and holding a book in his left, is a fine piece of sculpture. The cemetery is crowded with tombs and grave-stones: the ground being too small for the number of interments, the office of ordnance has given a large piece of land at some distance.

Leaving the church and ascending the hill, are the upper barracks, which rise one above the other, having enclosed courts; they make a very handsome appearance, occupying a large space of land; like the lower, they are of brick, and every part shows the exact neatness and order observed in them: there are always five regiments of soldiers, and a battalion of artillery, in these barracks.

The vast fortifications extend themselves on all sides, covering a very large tract of land, procured by several acts of parliament, and are capable of protecting the whole of this "grand arsenal of the navy of Great Britain." On the summit of the hill is Amherst's redoubt: these entrenchments are not fully perfected, as it is intended still farther to enlarge them.

At the top of the hill is the delightful village of Brompton, built within memory, consisting of several streets, and a range of houses very appropriately called Prospect-row. There is no where a finer view than this hill affords; for, turning to the south, may be seen in the valley the Medway expanding itself until it becomes a large bason, capable of holding a great fleet, and where vessels of all dimensions are promiscuously seen, with persons in all directions, moving in quick succession; and of these the military in the barracks form a splendid and conspicuous feature. Beyond the water lies Rochester, and its unequal wings, Stroud and Chatham, curving with the river, and extending nearly three miles; the castle, cathedral, churches, other public buildings, handsome houses, with the fertile country behind the three towns, finely varied with the richest cultivation; Upnor-castle, the church and vil-

lage of Frindsbury, the farm-houses, orchards, and woods, all gently rising from the towns, until they are lost in the distant horizon, forming a display that rivets to the spot the admiring spectator.

The view to the north is still more grand: – the river opening into an arm of the sea; Sandgate creek, where ships perform quarantine; and the coast of Essex; all are open to view. The vessels coming in and going out from Chatham, and the wood of stately masts at Sheerness and the Nore, with the sea closing that part of the magnificent scenery; the village of Brompton become almost a town; the white church of Hoo on the other side the river; the church of Gillingham, where once was an archiepiscopal palace, and now a neglected fortification; all unite their various beauties to diversify this enchanting spot.

Before quitting the three towns let it be remarked, that at Stroud are various wharfs, where the largest colliers come up and safely moor; that there and at Rochester are a company of oyster-dredgers, free by prescription, but under the government of the corporation of Rochester; and that Chatham has not only such who gain their living by sea employments and fishing, but those who serve in his majesty's navy and army, and of every different trade that is seen in the extensive docks, besides all those officers who preside over every distinct department in the

yards and barracks; forming altogether with Rochester, a great body constantly and actively employed. Besides the extensive fortifications to protect Chatham, there are always lying in commission three third-rate men of war called guard-ships; two stationed at Chatham, and the other at Blackstakes, near Sheerness.

It is evident that Chatham was a Roman station, from the many urns, coins, and other remains of that people, particularly foundations of their buildings, tesselated pavements, and arms. The manor of Horsted in this parish has generally been supposed to have taken its name from Horsa, the brother of Hengist, having been buried here: this Saxon chieftain encountering in single combat Catigern, the brother of the British king Vortimer, each died by the hand of his opponent. Catigern's burial in Aylesford parish has already been mentioned.

James I. was at Chatham July 4, 1604, where he knighted many gentlemen; and on Sunday, August 10, 1606, that monarch, his queen, and Henry prince of Wales, conducted Christian IV. king of Denmark, accompanied by the counsellors, chief officers of their household and attendants, to Chatham, in the ship named Elizabeth-Jonas, which was magnificently adorned to receive the illustrious guest,

with cloth of gold, and in the half-deck a rich chair of state was placed. After dinner the two sovereigns went from that ship to the White Bear, upon a bridge about 240 yards long, made of fir masts railed in on both sides, which floated upon the water, and was of sufficient breadth for four men to walk with convenience abreast; in the middle of the bridge was a great hoy called the kitchen, where the food had been dressed for the whole court. After the monarchs and their suites had passed the windmill-hills, the gallies, ships, and castle discharged their ordnance, a tremendous peal from nearly 1200 guns, all fired together.

A circumstance disgraceful to Britain happened at Chatham. The Dutch in 1667, under their vice-admiral Van Ghent, sent by admiral de Ruyter with seventeen sail of the lightest vessels and fire-ships, broke the chain which the duke of Albemarle had hastily thrown over the river, and burnt the Matthias, Unity, and Charles V., three large Dutch prizes taken in the preceding war, with other vessels also placed there to protect the chain: he then with six men of war and five fire-ships proceeded to Upnor-castle, which made all the resistance possible. The brave Dutchman, though checked, and finding the whole alarmed country coming against him, yet seized the hull of the Royal Charles, and burnt, in his retreat, the Royal Oak, Loyal London, and Great James, with the loss of only 150 men and two of his ships, which running on shore he destroyed. This, the greatest disgrace England has received in any of her wars, was severely animadverted upon by the enemies of Charles II.'s government: the duke of Albemarle threw the blame upon Sir Phineas Pett, commissioner of Chatham yard, whom the house of commons impeached; but he so ably defended himself, that the charge fell to the ground. The king took every prudent precaution that no subsequent dishonour should be sustained, by suitably fortifying the banks of the Medway: their good effects have remained until the present time.

Chatham has given title to two illustrious families. John Campbell, the great duke of Argyle, was in 1705 created by queen Anne baron of Chatham and earl of Greenwich; the latter in 1719 was erected into a dukedom for him: his grace dying in 1743 without male issue, this barony became extinct.

Hester, wife of the right hon. William Pitt, in consideration of his great and important public services, was raised in 1761 to the rank of baroness Chatham, with remainder to their male issue; and July 30, 1766, his majesty called him to the house of peers, by the title of viscount Pitt of Burton Pynsent, in Somersetshire,

and earl of Chatham. His lordship dying in 1778 universally regretted, as a just, wise, and successful minister, was succeeded in his titles by his eldest son John, the present earl of Chatham, whose younger brother, the right hon. William Pitt, the present premier, raised Britain from despondency to envied greatness and prosperity, until the ruthless sons of France, by outraging human nature, obliged him to take up arms to stem the torrent of what they impiously call "holy insurrection." Since then this virtuous statesman has, by his wisdom, subdued an infamous faction in this, and an open rebellion in the sister kingdom, and made our fleets ride triumphant throughout the globe; so long as religion, law, the arts, civilization, and

every thing that is valuable shall be prized, he will be esteemed as the benefactor of mankind, being, under his sovereign, the principal instrument in the hands of Providence to free a groaning world from the plunder of the atheistical regicidal governors of France, the most infamous conspirators against the rights of men that blacken the page of history.

On the south side of Chatham-hill and near, are found these different species of the satyrion or orchis plant – the butterfly, gnat, humble bee, bee, fly, bird's, and spotted bird's orchis. The sea lavender is seen below the old dock, and the small candy madder in profusion on the above hill.

SHEERNESS.

AS Sheerness is within sight of, and forms, as it were, a supplement to Chatham, the reader will be gratified with knowing something of this port. Sheerness, seated on a point of Shepey island, where the West Swale or Medway falls into the Thames, is of modern date, owing its present state to Charles II.'s improvements. There is little notice taken of it previous to the depredations committed upon our shipping by the Dutch admiral de Ruyter; yet then it is evident there was a dock and naval station, for that brave enemy found here fortifications and store-houses; the former he blew up, and the latter burnt, though defended by the gallant Sir Edward Spragge. After this disastrous event, Sheerness was better defended; a line of heavy cannon now commands the mouth of the river, bidding defiance to all our foreign enemies. The town has increased to several streets, but none reside in them except such who have particular business in the place: houses are so scarce,

that many of the hulls of old vessels are converted into dwellings; and a single ship contains a great number of inhabitants, making a very singular appearance.

Sheerness superseded Queenborough, also in the isle of Shepey, but more south, built by Edward III. to secure the Medway, and its situation is far better adapted for the purpose: the yard for building vessels, with a dock intended chiefly for repairing ships in case of sudden accidents, and for building others of smaller dimension than those at Chatham, make this an appendage to that place. The greatest inconvenience it sustained was a want of fresh water: Sheerness was supplied with this absolutely necessary article from Chatham. To rectify this great inconvenience, the marquis of Townshend, master-general of the ordnance, as well as the whole board, and general Craig, governor of the garrison, encouraged Sir Thomas-Hyde Page, as able as an engineer, as gallant as an officer, to undertake sinking a well in Fort Townshend. The experiments to try the different strata, and preparing materials, commenced April 17, 1781: the well was begun June 4 following; and what does the greatest credit to Sir Thomas, it was finished July 4, 1784, though sunk 330 feet deep. The water rushed in with such velocity, that it was with difficulty the workmen escaped the torrent, which after its blowing up rose forty feet from the bottom of the well, mixed with quicksand. In six hours it rose 189 feet, and in a few days within eight feet of the top, and has never been lowered more than 200 feet, though constantly drawn out. The quality is remarkably good, being fine, soft, and, what is singular, a degree warmer than common well water; a circumstance very beneficial, as the soldiers in garrison at Dover castle often suffer from the very cold water drawn from that well. It is very extraordinary that in sinking the well a piece of a tree was found at the depth of 300 feet. As this great acquisition to Sheerness was obtained under the patronage of his majesty, it has judiciously been called King's well. The sovereign, when at Sheerness, viewing the undertaking, ordered Sir Thomas to continue the work to the utmost extent, as far as there remained a possibility of success. Sir Thomas-Hyde Page thinks it still capable of farther improvements, and no one can be so good a judge.

The number of ships at this station is always very great. Here is an office for the ordnance under the inspection of the same commissioner as Chatham, where there is an attendance often for many days together, when the fleet rendezvous at the Nore, to observe that each ship has its complement of military stores, and to

check the officers of the ships from taking more than what they ought. The principal servants of government are the clerk of the cheque, store-keeper, master shipwright, clerk of survey, master attendant, master shipwright's assistant, master

calker, boatswain, surgeon, and porter.

Hundred of Toltringtrow.

THE hundred of Toltringtrow, in the lath of Aylesford, is written in Domesday-book Tollentru; other ancient deeds spell it Toltetern and Tollentr: the archbishops of Canterbury were lords of it in the reign of Edward I., answering for four knight's fees and an half, and containing the parishes of Luddesdon, Meopham, Nutsted, Ifield, Milton, Gravesend, and Northfleet.

LUDDESDON.

THE parish of Luddesdon, on the north of Birling, and to the west of Halling, generally called Luddesdown, in Domesday-book is written Ledesdune; in the Textus Roffensis, Hludesdune; from leod, populous, dune, a peopled hill. The situation, as may be supposed, is elevated, extending from north to south only two miles, and not one from east to west: though it has two villages, each of the same name, yet from the poverty of the stony soil, and detached situation, it is little known, and less frequented.

At the Conquest Ralph Fitz-Turold held this manor of the bishop of Bayeux earl of Kent: under the Confessor it had been part of the great possessions of earl Leuuin. It is remarkable that so very inconsiderable a spot should have been constantly owned by a succession of great families: from the Giffards it went to the Montchensies, whose heiress Dionisia took it to the Veres earls of Oxford, and by other females to the Valences and Hastings, earls of Hastings, and lord Grey of Ruthin; who becoming a prisoner to Owen Glendower, the Welch rebel chieftain, this manor, to raise money towards his ransom, was sold to that great warrior Thomas Montacute earl of Salisbury, who left it his natural son, buried in this church: he conveyed it to the great Nevil family, earls of Westmorland, since barons of Abergavenny, one of whom some years ago disposed of it to the Brasiers. The manor is now possessed by Mr. John Walter, who holds a court baron as a

member of Swanscombe, parcel of the ancient barony of Montchensie; it pays an annual rent instead of guard duty to Rochester castle.

Great or South Buckland, a manor held by William de Lodesden in Edward I.'s reign, as three parts of a knight's fee, of the heirs of Warine de Montchensie: he gave the corn tithe of it to the nunnery of Malling, at the time his daughter Joice became a nun there, and an acre of land to build a barn upon; a gift so considerable, that it was confirmed by Richard Wendover and Hamo Noble bishops of Rochester, and Simon, Theobald, and Hubert, archbishops of Canterbury. A family afterwards possessed this manor, who adopted the surname of Buckland: their heiress took it to the Polleys or Polhills; who conveyed their interest to the family of the present possessor, Thomas Whitaker, of Trottescliffe, Esq., who holds a court baron for the manor. The remains of the chapel of Dowdes stand about a quarter of a mile from the manor-house.

This parish, in the diocese and deanry of Rochester, is a rectory in the gift of Edward Barrett, Esq., and valued in the king's books at 11l. 11s. 3d. The church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is small: the Rev. William Thomson, S. T. P., is rector. Mr. Stephen Thornton, who held this living from 1681 to his death in 1744, will long be remembered with grateful respect by the numerous families, whose relations received most excellent educations under his tuition.

MEOPHAM.

TO the west of Luddesdon is Meopham, anciently Meapaham, now pronounced Mepham; twenty-four miles from London, and nine from Dartford, extending five miles from north to south, and almost three from east to west; containing 5700 acres of land, let from 5s. to 30s. per acre, forty-eight houses, 117 families, and 612 souls; mostly consisting of persons engaged in agriculture or weaving, and all professing the established religion. This district is diversified with hills and vallies; the former chalky and sterile, the latter plow land, varied with coppices of beech, birch, and stunted oak: to the north it has the small hamlets of Mellaker, Hook-green, and Camer; to the south Pitfield-green, Priest-wood, and Culverstone-green,; and in the south-east Harefield.

The extensive estates included in the manor were in various hands; for duke Eadulf gave that part which he had received from Athelstan, by leave of that sovereign, in

940, to the priory of Christ-church, in Canterbury: Edgiva, the widowed mother of his successors Edmund and Edred, in 961 granted other lands. Britrick and his wife Elfswithe united in devising the remainder to the same monastery; the latter lady, to show her zeal, gave thirty marks of gold to the archbishop, and thirty marks, a necklace value twenty, and two silver cups, to the convent. Edward II. granted free warren of all the demesne, and Henry VI. a weekly Saturday's market, and an yearly fair on the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul. At the dissolution Henry VIII. gave it to the dean and chapter of Canterbury. Mr. John Market is the lessee, and resides in the court-lodge, which his father rebuilt. The manor and royalties are retained by the dean and chapter, who hold courts leet and baron.

Dodmore, a manor long possessed by the knightly family of Huntingfield, after a great variety of proprietors came to Mr. George Lattenden, of Frindsbury, by whom it was devised to the present owner, Mr. Thomas Elliot, who holds a court baron.

Dean-court is an estate owned by the family of Twitham. Adam de Twitham was amongst the Kentish gentlemen who attended Richard I. at the siege of Acon, in Palestine: an heiress of one of them, in Richard II.'s reign, took it to the Septvans, who from their seat in Ash were called at Chequer, and afterwards for a gallant service of one of them at Harfleet, in Normandy, under Henry V., took the surname of that place; the family of Septivan alias Harfleet, parted with it in Charles I.'s reign: it is now owned by Richard Gee, Esq., who has taken the name of Carew.

George Smith, Esq., resides in a handsome seat of his at Camer.

Meopham, a vicarage, in the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Shoreham, is a peculiar of Canterbury, and in the gift of that see: it is valued in the king's books at 16l. 3s. 4d. The large, handsome church, standing in the centre of the parish, is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The vicar receives all the tithes, corn excepted, 30l. a year from the lessee of the parsonage, and an annual pension of 5l. 6s. 8d. from the dean and chapter. The Rev. John Smedley is vicar.

Simon Meopham, who became archbishop of Canterbury in 1327, was a native of this place. This parish contributed towards the repair of the ninth pier of Rochester bridge.

NUTSTED.

TO the north of Meopham is Nutsted, usually called Nursted, written in Domesday-book Notestede, in the Textus Roffensis, Hnutstede. This parish, not a mile each way, contains only five dwellings, lies high, and has arable, orchard, hop, and wood land.

The manor prior to the Conquest was held of Edward the Confessor, by Ulstan; after by Wardard, of bishop Odo. In king John's reign the de Nutsteds possessed it as one knight's fee of the barony of Arsic, and superior to that of the castle of Dover, by the service of keeping ward. The de Gravesends held it for some ages; two of them were Richard and Stephen de Gravesend, uncle and nephew, successively bishops of London. In this century it was divided into four parts by coheiresses; now the whole, by purchase, centres in Mr. Henry Edmeads, who resides here.

Nutsted, a rectory within the diocese and deanry of Rochester, is a discharged living of the clear yearly certified value of 30l., exclusive of lands purchased by queen Anne's bounty, and in the gift of the Boteler family. The advowson is appendant upon the manor. The Rev. William Crakelt is the present incumbent.

Even this very small parish had its chapel, the ruins of which adjoin the court-lodge.

IFIELD.

TO the north of Nutsted is Ifield, written in the Textus Roffensis, Iuelda, in records, Yelesfelde; a parish still more inconsiderable than the last described, not containing 300 acres of land, and having only ten dwellings. The Roman road is visible at Shinglewell, anciently Shanecemcewell-street, leading from Springhead, in Southfleet, to Cobham-park and Rochester: bye roads go from hence to that

city, and also to Gravesend, from which it is distant only between two and three miles. The land is chalky and barren, a fine sandy, hazel mould, or clay upon the chalk: the air is good.

The manor called Hever-court, from the family who owned and resided here, obtained from Edward III. a market to be held at Shinglewell, and two yearly fairs, one at Michaelmas for five, and the other on St. Laurence's feast for three days. The ancestors of John Toke, Esq., the present owner, obtained this manor

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and estate by descent and purchase. Mr. Benjamin Hubble resides here, letting his own mansion to the Rev. John Tucker, rector of Gravesend, who makes it a seminary for young gentlemen.

This rectory, in the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Shoreham, is a peculiar of Canterbury, of the certified yearly value of 26l. 10s., and was augmented with Nutsted; it has the same patron and incumbent.

MILTON.

FARTHER north is Milton, on the Kentish shore of the Thames, the Meletune or Middletown of Domesday-book, from lying between Gravesend and Chalk: to distinguish it from the two other places of the name in this county, it is usually written Milton near Gravesend. The dimensions of this parish are small, extending only a mile and half from north to south, and a third less from the other points, containing about 1100 acres of land, of which fifty are marsh. In the account of Gravesend other particulars will be given of this place, as incorporated with it; observing, however, that Milton has a fair commencing on the conversion of St. Paul, which continues a week.

The manor, once Odo's bishop of Bayeux, and earl of Kent, at his disgrace went into other hands, and generally followed the descent of that of Luddesdon, until sold towards raising money for the liberation of Reginald lord Grey of Ruthin, after which it seldom has remained long in the same family. The late Michael Bedell, Esq., who died in 1795, left this manor to his executor; but Mr. Weston resides in the court-lodge, rebuilt some years ago by Mr. Peter Moulson, of London, a former owner, who also greatly improved the ground.

Paddock or Parrocks, is another manor, part of the possessions of the de Gravesends, of whom Edward III. purchased it, to give to the monastery of St. Mary Graces, near the Tower: at the Reformation Henry VIII. granted it out for lives, and James I. passed away the fee to Mr. William Salter. For a century the estate has been possessed by the Coosens, the last of whom died in 1779, leaving an only child, a daughter; and since 1695 the manor, separated from the estate, has been vested in the corporation of Gravesend by the gift of George Etkins, Esq., a jurat. The town-hall, market-yard, free-school, wharf or quay, ferry to Tilbury, with thirty-three houses chiefly in East-street, and on the east side of high-street, all in

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Gravesend, belong to this manor, the court baron of which is held in the town-hall of that place.

This parish, in the diocese and deanry of Rochester, has a venerable church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, repaired and beautified in 1792, at the expense of 650l. The crests of our kings from Edward III. to James I. are painted upon the walls. This rectory was given to its own chapel and chantry, or college for priests, dedicated to the blessed Virgin, situate on the west side of the parish, founded and endowed by Aymer de Valence earl of Pembroke, in the reign of Edward I., and confirmed by Hamo Noble called de Hythe, valued at the dissolution at 61. 8s. Henry VIII. gave it to Sir Thomas Wyat. The rectory is now valued at 16l. 5s. 10d.: the present incumbent is the Rev. William Crawford, also rector of Trottescliffe, and chaplain to the bishop of Rochester.

GRAVESEND.

MORE to the west, bounded also by the Thames, is Gravesend, the Gravesham of Domesday-book, and Gravesaende of the Textus Roffensis, derived from the Saxon gerefa, and German greve, ruler or portreeve, and ham, a place. The parish is near a mile to the north of the London road, from which the town, on the banks of the river, is twenty-two miles, and eight from Rochester.

The town of Gravesend, lying upon a declivity, is small, but populous, containing about 700 houses, crowded together; which is the more extraordinary, as the conflagration happening between eleven and twelve o'clock at night, on August 24, 1727, destroyed the church and 110 houses, and gave the inhabitants an opportunity to rebuild the whole in a far more commodious manner: the wonder is, how the inhabitants dare live in houses built of wood, as most of them are, when so much mischief has arisen by fires; for in May 1731, seven houses were burnt; and November 9, 1748, several others, by a warehouse in which pitch, tar, rosin, &c. were lodged, taking fire; perhaps the whole place would have been consumed, had not one of the houses accidentally blown up, having a great quantity of gunpowder in it. The devastation in 1727 nearly ruined the unhappy sufferers; but the mayor and jurats, wisely making immediate application to the surrounding corporations, clergy, and others, relief was given sufficient to alleviate, though not wholly to compensate their misfortunes.

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The narrow streets, until the thirteenth year of his present majesty's reign, were so entirely filthy, that the place was never frequented by any but persons obliged by business; now it is paved and lighted much in the same manner as the other corporate towns in Kent: from the great increase of trade, no doubt other great improvements will be made. West-street, and the west side of High-street, are in Gravesend parish; the remainder is chiefly in that of Milton. The parishes of Gravesend and Milton, incorporated by Henry IV., were confirmed in their privileges by queen Elizabeth, who changed the name of their chief magistrate from portreeve to mayor, under whom are twelve jurats and twenty-four common-councilmen, a recorder, high steward, chamberlain, town clerk, and sergeant at mace. The mayor and deputy mayor are chosen from the jurats on the Monday after St. Michael; the mayor, and generally the eldest jurat, act as a justice of peace within the limits of the corporation. This body politic has little authority as lord of the manor of Milton. The lord of the manor of Gravesend formerly held courts of the water to regulate the carriage between Gravesend and London; he was obliged, with the people of Milton, to repair the causeway and bridge: these powers and obligations are now neither exercised nor demanded. The city of London regulates the passage from hence, though their port comes only to the extremity of the town. The marsh land extending from Gravesend bridge to the mouth of the Medway, and to Higham marshes, is within the jurisdiction of the commission of sewers, who meet at Rochester when business requires. The market days are Wednesday and Saturday. Edward III. gave them two annual fairs, which are held on April 23 and October 24, each continuing a week; horses, black cattle, clothes, toys, and other articles, are brought to them: the profits arising from these fairs belong to the lord of the manor.

The most conspicuous building in the place is the town-hall, supported upon pillars. In the front is – "This building was erected in the year 1764. John Delap, Esq., mayor; C. Sloane, archt." The school adjoining was founded and endowed by Mr. David Vachall, who died in 1703: twenty boys, half from Gravesend and half from Milton, are clothed and instructed. The estate given for this and other charitable purposes, amounts to 67l. 8s. and Mr. James Fry in 1710 left an annual rent charge of 14l. 10s. for the education of ten other boys; four to be taken from Gravesend, four from Milton, and two from Cliff.

The poor's-house, a plain brick edifice, is very properly at some distance from

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the town. Over the entrance is, "This building was erected in the year 1797: George Thompson, Samuel Mann, churchwardens; William Smith, Alexander Suttie, overseers. Beatus qui egentium habet rationem."

Gravesend has a very large distillery, lately taken by Mr. Brenchley, and a considerable brewery. Machines, and every other accommodation for sea-bathing, have lately been established near the town. In the parishes of Gravesend and Milton there are as much as seventy acres of land used by gardeners, who chiefly raise asparagus, which is in higher estimation than even that of Battersea: they raise after-crops upon the beds, generally peas. The quantity of vegetables raised is of the utmost use to the shipping outward bound, and to the neighbouring country. It is remarkable that this place was as much deficient in vegetables as is it now

abundant: some time back the people did not raise sufficient for their own use; now London, the shipping, and neighbourhood, have great supplies of these necessary articles from hence.

This place has long been of consequence from its situation. Richard II. in 1377, commanded beacons to be erected here, and at Farndon, in Essex, the opposite shore. These precautions were rendered useless by the supineness of the English, and the temerity of the French, who soon after having taken Winchelsea, and burnt Appledore, Rye, Hastings, and Portsmouth, came hither, September 8, 1384, with four gallies, and finding it equally neglected, set fire to and burnt a great part of the town, transporting to France the unfortunate inhabitants, and the plunder they had obtained, and, what is almost incredible, without being opposed; a circumstance disgraceful to the nation.

Henry VIII. built two bulwarks or platforms, mounting upon them cannon, as a defence to the Thames; one was at Gravesend, the other lower on the river, near Milton: and in 1782 an act of parliament was procured for the better securing the Thames at this town, and Tilbury. The governor of Gravesend is major-general Thomas Musgrave; the appointment is 300l. per annum: the lieutenant-governor is the hon. James de Courcy, who has 182l. 10s.

To compensate and encourage the unhappy townsmen of Gravesend and Milton for their misfortune by the French, Richard II. gave to the convent of St. Mary Graces, in which the manor was vested, the exclusive privilege of conveying all passengers going from those places to London by water, provided that they procured a sufficient number of boats, and charged only 2d. for each person, and any

bundle such passenger had; nor more than 4s. for the use of the whole boat. The charter was frequently confirmed by succeeding monarchs. It is now called the long ferry; no more is paid for each passenger than 9d., nor 10s. 6d. for the whole vessel: these are called the tilt-boats, and are large and convenient for the purpose; they appear for ages to have been capable of carrying many passengers. October 25, 1553, a tilt-boat was overset by a “catch” running against it, and fourteen persons drowned; the remaining sixteen saved themselves by swimming. March 5, 1576, in the night, “through a great flaw of wind,” in the north-west, a tilt-boat, with about thirty-one persons of both sexes, coming from Gravesend, were all, except a boy, drowned. May 4, 1591 , another tilt-boat with forty persons, being overrun by a hoy, the greater part of the passengers were drowned near Greenwich, whilst the court were there, which greatly frighted her majesty queen Elizabeth, who we must suppose saw the catastrophe. December 23, 1599, the violent west by south wind, which did so much mischief on land, occasioned. a tilt-boat coming from London to Gravesend to be lost near Woolwich, and only eleven out of thirty persons were saved.

There is a bell rung for a quarter of an hour previous to these boats leaving; and though they go every flood to London, and return every ebb by a like signal, it is incredible the number of passengers that are each time conveyed by these vessels to and from that great mart of commerce.

As the port of London terminates at Gravesend bridge, there is a custom-house established, where two principal searchers attend, who visit all outward-bound ships, which are obliged to anchor in the road before the town, but those sailing to London are suffered to pass without any examination, unless they are in want of tide-waiters. Most of the former here complete their cargoes, and take in provisions: it is also the rendezvous of the Dutch turbot-vessels, by which London is supplied with that commodity.

The concourse and bustle arising from this, with the passengers, horses, cattle, and carriages to and from the Essex side in ferries, the number of stage-coaches, travellers of all sorts, even the most indigent, to the number of 8 or 900, who gain here, for a trifling sum, a passage to London, make this place all activity; equally profitable to the tradesmen and the inn-keepers. Gravesend was formerly honoured by the presence of all the great passing to or coming from the continent, the road to Dover then going through it. The custom of having regular ambassa-

dors resident in the courts of potentates in friendship with them, becoming established in the reign of Elizabeth, it was necessary to fix precise regulations, to pre-

vent giving any umbrage to the diplomatic corps: for this reason her majesty commanded that all illustrious personages and ambassadors coming by water, should be received at this place by the lord mayor of London, aldermen, and companies in their formalities in their barges: the ambassadors and their suite being conveyed in the royal ones, were landed at the Tower wharf, where a deputation of noblemen awaited their arrival, and the carriages of the sovereign and others attended to convey them to their lodgings. Before this time, however, princes or their representatives were honourably received at Gravesend. December 27, 1555, in the reign of queen Mary, Emanuel Philibert duke of Savoy, with other great foreigners in his train, were received here by the lord privy seal and others, who conducted them by water under London bridge to Westminster: and on January 9 following, the prince of Orange was conveyed from this place in a vessel, and landed at the duke of Suffolk's town residence, which was built upon the bank of the Thames.

As so many illustrious strangers were constantly coming to Gravesend, it is extraordinary that our sovereigns did not build a suitable edifice to receive them. When we recollect that queen Elizabeth received an embassy from France consisting of 300 persons, all of whom passed through this place, we wonder how they could be accommodated, especially when joined by those deputed to conduct them to London, which, exclusive of the corporation of the city, often consisted of many noblemen, courtiers, master of the ceremonies, and attendants.

To attempt giving a detail of the different ambassadors who stopped at Gravesend would be tedious: Sir John Finett's Philoxensis mentions many in the reigns of James I. and Charles I.; and by Whitlock it is obvious that during the Usurpation the same practice continued. The ambassadors having encroached upon queen Elizabeth's regulations, by obtaining attendance beyond Gravesend, Charles I. ordered that no ambassador should be met beyond this town: soon after, that no nobleman should attend an embassy more distant than Greenwich, and some time before the civil war commenced, that ambassadors should defray every expense of conveyance, board, and lodging. King Charles was frugal from inclination and necessity.

On July 17, 1606, Christian IV. king of Denmark, with eight ships, containing six of his great officers of state, and a most splendid retinue, came to Gravesend on

their way to London to visit our sovereign James I., whose consort was this monarch's brother: the news reaching London, the duke of Lenox and other noblemen came to pay their respects to his majesty, but not arriving till eleven at night, and finding they could not be introduced, returned to town. The next morning king James, Henry prince of Wales, the duke of Lenox, the lord admiral, lord chamberlain; the earls of Rutland, Pembroke, and Montgomery; lords Mounteagle, Compton, and many other earls and barons, went by water from Greenwich to Gravesend. The king of Denmark, when they came near, intended to leave his ship to conduct his brother-in-law and nephew to it; but finding that the stairs were too narrow for more than one to ascend or descend, he remained on board, where he received the illustrious company with the greatest courtesy, taking each nobleman by the hand, kissing his nephew the prince of Wales, and embracing our sovereign, whom he led to his cabin, beautifully adorned, giving his Britannic majesty the upper hand. The English nobility were honourably feasted in another part of the ship. After dinner the Danish and British navies announced the sovereigns' taking their barges by a discharge, every vessel they met doing the same, until they came to Greenwich, where the privy council waited to receive the monarchs.

Gravesend exhibited a more splendid sight at Christian's return. James having given a naval entertainment at Chatham to that king, they, queen Anne, prince Henry, and many of the nobility, came the following day, Monday, August 11, to this place, and went on board the largest ship of Denmark, where it rode at anchor. This vessel "was a gallant ship of very high and narrow building;" the beak-head, stern, and three gallies, were finely gilt; the waist and half-deck were adorned with arras and other rich ornaments. The great personages and their suites went on board at ten o'clock in the forenoon, and were very royally feasted; the drums and trumpets proclaiming the mutual pledges of affectionate regard, were answered by the cannon of the admiral's ship, seconded by the blockhouses, followed by the vice-admiral's, and other Danish ships. James rose

at four o'clock to take leave; Christian pressed his majesty to remain until the evening, as he had fireworks to amuse him; but the British monarch excusing his departure, the pageant was immediately played off, though the sun would much injure the effect. The device was the seven deadly sins, chained to four circular pillars, bound with a chain, which a couchant lion over them held, threatening,

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by the fire vomited from his mouth, instant destruction; at length the vengeance commenced, and in a quarter of an hour the fiends were consumed amidst a constant noise, occasioned by exploding gunpowder. The lion couchant being king James's device, the pageantry was meant as a compliment to his supposed virtue, in having overcome all the seven deadly sins. On Wednesday the king of Denmark went a little lower down the river, and on Thursday setting sail, he arrived in eight days in his own dominions, the winds favouring him the whole time.

Frederic elector Palatine, coming to espouse the princess Elizabeth, daughter of James I., landed at Gravesend on the evening of Friday, October 16, 1612: his highness was welcomed by lord Hay, attended by Sir Lewis Lewkner, master of the ceremonies; and on Sunday again by the duke of Lenox, attended by many noblemen, knights, and gentlemen, belonging to the court: soon after he left this place, and was conducted with the utmost splendour and festivity by water to the palace of Whitehall.

The Danish monarch came again to England to visit the British court: he landed at Yarmouth, came to London July 22, bringing with him only forty noblemen and attendants, and after spending his time in every kind of pleasure, accompanied by king James and prince Charles, he took barge early in the morning of August 1; after viewing Woolwich dock, he went to Gravesend: the royal brothers with the prince dined at an inn, whose sign was the Ship. After dinner they went aboard the Danish king's ship, where they stayed two hours. James taking leave, Went into his own barge, and returning to Blackwall, where his suite waited to receive him, he went to Theobalds, and thence begun his progress, leaving the prince of Wales with his majesty of Denmark, who the next day conducted him to Rochester to view the new stately ship the Prince: coming again to Gravesend, he dined there; after which the prince accompanied his uncle to his ship, and there taking his leave, returned to London that night. The next day Christian, with his three fine ships, set sail, and safely regained his native shore. There was some similarity of character between the Danish and British monarchs, in a love of splendour and lavish profusion: James was sober, Christian indulged in wine to the greatest excess. If the English did not admire Christian as an accomplished man, they loved him as a condescending and liberal monarch.

We have seen that Charles I. when prince of Wales was at Gravesend; soon after his accession he came by water in his way to Canterbury to meet his bride

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Henrietta, a daughter of France; and May 23, 1625, the marriage was consummated in that city. The next day they removed to Cobham, from thence to Gravesend, with a most numerous train of ladies, noblemen, knights, and gentlemen, both French and English. They were welcomed by the ordnance, and the guns in the different ships stationed there. This was as splendid an assemblage as most that our annals record; but Sir John Finett says, it was as ill conducted, owing to the want of order and regularity, which should, on such occasions, be particularly observed. Amongst the illustrious strangers, the most conspicuous were, the French ambassador, the duke de Chevereux and his dutchess. Here the royal pair took shipping, and landed at the privy stairs, Whitehall.

There is no better security for the prosperity of towns than keeping good roads: the profit arising from these illustrious strangers, and indeed of all kinds of passengers by land, must have been very great, when this was the direct road from London to Dover: the chalk pits, which will be noticed when we speak of Northfleet, at length rendered the great road so dangerous, that, after repeatedly changing it farther from Gravesend, it is now half a mile to the east of the town, from whence a lane leads to it by queen Mary's green. This town gave name to a family famed for the prelates it produced: Richard de Gravesend bishop of Lincoln in 1258; Richard de Gravesend bishop of London, 1282; and Stephen de Gravesend, his nephew and successor in that see. They and their ancestors owned

estates in the parish.

Odo, the disturber of England's peace, owned the manor of Gravesend; but was deprived of it in 1083; when, vesting in the crown, it was granted as part of a knight's fee to the Cramaville family, held by the service of contributing to defend Dover castle, and thither thrice in each year the tenants of this town repaired to perform the duty of warding. Reverting again to the crown, Edward III. granted the place to the Uffords, of whom that sovereign afterwards purchasing, gave, and Richard II. confirmed it, to the Cistertian abbey of St. Mary Graces, near the Tower. After the dissolution it was leased, until queen Elizabeth granted the fee to Robert earl of Leicester, who disposed of it to Sir Thomas Gawdie and James Morice: Sir Thomas having purchased the share of Morice, conveyed the whole to William lord Cobham: at the attainture of lord Cobham James I. granted it to the duke of Richmond and Lenox. At the extinction of those titles in the Stuart family, the manor came by purchase to Sir Joseph Williamson, who married the sister of the last duke; at Sir Joseph's death it came to the ennobled family of

Bligh, in the same manner as Cobham-hall; and the earl of Darnley is the present lord of the manor, and the hereditary high steward of the town and corporation of Gravesend.

This parish is in the diocese and deanry of Rochester; the most ancient church was burnt down in 1509: another, dedicated to St. Mary, was consecrated April 3, 1510: this mean structure was destroyed in the fire of 1727. An act passed in 1731 for rebuilding it, and having been classed as one of the fifty new ones, 5000l. was given towards it. Sir Roger Meredith, M. P., laid the first stone June 3, and in compliment to the king's name it was dedicated to St. George. It is a neat brick edifice, with stone quoins and cornices, having a musical peal of eight bells, purchased by subscription. The organ was erected in 1764 at the expense of 100l., bequeathed for that purpose by Mr. John Ison. The parish is a rectory, valued in the king's books at 15l. The patronage was appendant upon the manor until lost by forfeiture to James I.; since, it has remained in the crown. The present incumbent is the Rev. John Tucker, A. M., also rector of Luddenham.

There was a chapel, dedicated to St. George, consecrated April 2, 1510, which never had the privilege of performing the rites of baptism and sepulture: the remains of this desecrated building, lately modernized, have long been used for purposes very different from the original intention, much to the inconvenience of the people in that part of the parish in which it stands.

Gravesend has now a ship-yard; Mr. Cleverly, the owner, has frequently built large men of war in it; a circumstance of great advantage to the town, and from the increase of our fleets likely to become more so.

There are dug innumerable fossils from the chalk quarries, principally of the echinus species, also glossa petra, of the finest polish, and sharp as thorns; in the strata of flints, knapped for the use of guns, are sometimes cockleshells of so large a size as to be highly prized by naturalists.

These rare plants are found near Gravesend – the round salt marsh cyperus, sea lavender, both below the town; great and small sea starwort, near the block-house; the male, female, small-ground, and ivy-ground pine milkwort; bastard hemp of various kinds, both in and round the town; traveller's joy in the hedges, and marsh asparagus on the banks of the Thames.

Three large fishes called whirlepooles, taken here October 7, 1552, were drawn to Westminster bridge; and a whale was caught a little below the town August 30, 1718, which was forty feet in length.

This town, disagreeable as it is, has the pleasantest walks around it that can be imagined: the cultivation of the garden ground may be well placed in opposition to the romantic and terrific chasms of the chalk quarries: ascending towards the windmill hills, as high as the public house, towards the north is one of the finest views that imagination can paint; it seems enchantment – towards the west the august Thames, widely expanding itself, exhibits to the wondering beholder a fine lake as it were, the town cutting off every communication, hiding the lower part of the river from view; the ships sailing in becoming pride towards the world's grand magazine of commerce; sloops, hoys, tilt-boats, vessels of all sizes, con-

taining persons and properties of all descriptions, make it a busy, changing, never-ending variety: on the opposite shore the magnificent fort of Tilbury, a large distinct object standing upon the banks of the river, with the land gently rising, spotted with its villages, and whitened by spires, the whole terminating in hills, clothed with woods. Leaving this bewitching view, and looking towards the east, the sight is, if possible, more gratified: a prodigious estuary, rather than a river, presents itself, extending beyond the naked eye, with ships, some just turning a point of land, others losing themselves in the distant prospect; the Kentish landscape varying from the rich cultivated gardens to the pasturage and wood, all tend to diversify the beautiful whole; nothing heightening the scenery more than the broken clefted chalk hills, seemingly set detached, and rudely formed, stretching themselves into the river. Few spots in the island, or in Europe, can vie with this.

A tunnel is projected from this place to Tilbury-fort, to pass under the Thames, forming a land junction of Kent to Essex: the idea would have appeared ridiculous a century ago. The inland navigations of these kingdoms evince that not only hills may be excavated or perforated, but that rivers may be passed under their beds. The souterrain intended between the North and South Shields, near the mouth of the Tyne, probably gave rise to this scheme of Mr. Dodd's. The expense estimated is so inconsiderable, that the whole would be saved to government in three years, in barges and other navigable charges. The chalk, extending a considerable way from the Kent side, makes the practicability the greater. The tunnel is intended to be thirty feet below the bed of the river, arched with brick, or, what is more durable, stone masonry, sufficiently capacious to admit every kind of carriage, and to be lighted with reflecting lamps. What a novel sight will it be, to see a stage coach merge under the Thames in Kent, and emerge in Essex!

NORTHFLEET.

TO the west of Gravesend, also upon the banks of the Thames, is Northfleet; written Norfluet in Domesday-book, and Northfleotu in the Textus Roffensis, from a point of the compass, and fleet or arm of the river. The parish contains 3000 acres, 100 of which are wood: the unhealthiness of the neighbouring marshes is somewhat qualified by the great quantity of lime-kilns; yet still it is far from salubrious. The soil at a distance from the Thames is a stiff loam, intermixed with gravel, and brings good crops: it is diversified with gently rising hills, and small vallies. The north-west is so low that the high tides overflow it, and would extend even beyond the London road, if not prevented by the raised causeway, and the bridge, where the flood-gates make a barrier against the tides, which otherwise would deluge the marsh lands; the flood-gates serving also to let off the fresh water. This bridge, built at an early period, was taken down and rebuilt in 1634, which being found inconvenient, another has lately been erected in a strait line with the road.

Mr. Pitcher has a ship-yard here; behind it is a spacious dock, capable of containing six or seven large ships, cut out of the solid chalk: the first vessel ever built at Northfleet was the Royal Charlotte East Indiaman, launched November 2, 1789.

Besides Northfleet, a village built round a green, it has the hamlets of Northfleet, Hythe, Perry-street, Wombwell-hall, the estate of Windfield-bank, near the parish of Southfleet, extending to the south-east, between those of Ifield and Nutsted; the small hamlets of Northfleet-green, Nash-street, and part of Shinglewell-green.

Northfleet had once its Tuesday's market, from Easter to Whitsuntide, and three fairs, on St. Botolph's, March 24; Easter-Tuesday; and Whit-Tuesday.

If tradition may be depended upon, the valley through which the fleet or stream runs, once called Ebbsfleet, was formerly a large bay, bounded by hills. It is also believed that the Danish navy rode here during the winter; a circumstance no way improbable, as at present the water by the causeway is prevented from overflowing this part of the river's bank, which might afford depth sufficient for the mooring of the small ships of those piratical people.

The manor of Northfleet continued, from the Anglo-Saxon times to Henry VIII.'s reign as part of the revenues of the see of Canterbury; the succeeding sovereigns gave leases of it. Charles II. disposed of the quit-rents, valued at 50l. per annum, to the dean and chapter of Rochester; and in 1758 the manor was granted to William

earl of Besborough, at a fee-farm rent of 6s. Sd.: his lordshlp conveyed it and Ingress, in Swanscombe, to John Calcraft, Esq., at whose death, in 1772, the manor came, by his will, with his other Kentish estates, to the present proprietor, John Calcraft, Esq. Some of the estates in this manor are copyhold.

Ifield-court, a manor giving name to a family, came to the Gerrards, the last of whom dying without male issue, his four daughters and coheirs joined in conveying it to the father of Mr. John Tilden, the present possessor, who makes it his residence.

Wombwell-hall, an ancient seat, usually called Wimple-hall, was the residence of the Wombwells from a very early period. Until the reign of Charles I. the estate by purchase came to the Fortryes; thence, by descent, to Thomas Chiffinch, Esq., and is now the property of Francis Wadman, Esq., who was gentleman-usher to the late princess Amelia, from his marriage with Miss Mary Comyns, the niece and heir at law of the last owner. This mansion is rather more than a mile south-east of the church.

The Hive or Hythe was the seat of the Chiffinches for near a century, a family who were confidential and faithful servants of the crown in the worst of times. At the return of legal government Thomas Chiffinch, Esq., became principal searcher of the port of Gravesend, in which he was succeeded by a son of his names. His son, Thomas Chiffinch, Esq., a barrister at law, resided here near fifty years; leaving no issue, he devised this, with his other estates, to the wife of Francis Wadman, Esq., the owner of Ifield-court. The Hive or Hythe is near the Thames, a little to the north of the London road.

Ormus, known more generally by the name of Orme, is a handsome modern seat, the residence of Charles Lefevre, Esq.

What makes this parish the most observable, is the chalk, long dug, which, either in its native state or burnt into lime, is sent to London, and even Holland and Flanders: the refuse for manure is sold in the counties of Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk; forming as it were a compost, by the chalk breaking strong clays, and making it work well. It is singular, that though chalk is of so sterile a nature in itself, and the long ridge of hills in Kent, which contains no other substance, is barren and unproductive, yet when taken and put upon land of the most contrary nature, it very greatly assists vegetation.

The immense quarries from whence the chalk for so many ages has been taken,

are as terrific as dangerous, lying close to the north side of the village, from which they extend a quarter of a mile, and are bounded by the river: on this account it is that the London road has been changed more to the south. The quarries give employment to many, supporting numerous families. It is conveyed by land and water to the neighbourhood; but chiefly in vessels to Essex, to every creek of which boats of lime are taken.

Northfleet, in the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Shoreham, a peculiar of Canterbury, once a rectory, now a vicarage, is valued in the king's books at 21l.; archbishop Cranmer exchanged it with Henry VIII. The church is a very large structure, with many very ancient monumental memorials: the steeple was rebuilt in 1717, and the church beautified in the following year. The present incumbent is Gilbert Buchanan, L. L. B.

This parish anciently contributed towards repairing the ninth pier of Rochester bridge.

No other memorable circumstance is known of Northfleet, except that near the bridge a skirmish was fought between the royalists and republicans in the last century, when victory declared for the enemies of the constitution.

The orchis tribe, fond of chalky ground, even more than of the quarries near Maidstone, here flourish with the greatest luxuriance and variety; few flowers exceed them in beauty. Here are these kinds – orchis caryophillata spica longissima rubra; orchis magna latis foliis galea fusca vel nigricante; orchis antropophora oreades; the man orchis, with a ferruginous, and sometimes a green flower; orchis myodes galea et alis herbidis; common fly orchis: orchis sive testiculus vulpinus major spegodes; the humble-bee satyrion, with green wings. The first is found in chalky grounds and old pastures, lying between Northfleet and the river: the fourth kind on the chalk cliffs, though but seldom. Few flowers which the garden boasts equal the humble-bee orchis in beauty, which, notwithstanding the frequent

assertions of botanical writers to the contrary, may, with others of the same tribe, be successfully cultivated in gardens, by removing them in the first instance with plenty of earth, taking care that the rude spade of the gardener does not reverse their situation in the ground when planted, or in future digging, as the root would then inevitably perish from its peculiarity, so different from any other bulb.

<As far as Kent is concerned, this book contains a "general survey" of the county (pp 12–19) and a "particular description" of the towns and villages within (approximately) 25 miles of London (pp 155-424). The latter is not signed, but is known to have been the work of Mark Noble (1754–1827), rector of East Barming from 1786 till his death. From internal evidence, this contribution of Noble's seems to have been written (and probably printed) in 1797–8 (which is why the "last" century means the seventeenth); but long delays ensued, and the book was only completed and published in 1811. – C.F. December 2014.>

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