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A
NEW AND COMPLETE
HISTORY
OF THE
COUNTY OF KENT;

EMBELLISHED WITH A SERIES OF VIEWS,
From Original Drawings,
BY G. SHEPHERD, H. GASTINEAU, &c. &c.

WITH
HISTORICAL, TOPOGRAPHICAL, CRITICAL, AND BIOGRAPHICAL
DELINEATIONS.

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CITY AND LIBERTY OF ROCHESTER.

Eastward from Strood, on the opposite side of the river
Medway, lies the city of Rochester, situated on an angle
of land formed by that river, which, coming from the south,
runs northward until it has passed the city, after which it di-
rects its course due east. The jurisdiction of this city was
anciently called the hundred of Rochester.

Rochester was a place of some note in the time of the
Romans, owing to its situation at the accustomed pass over the
river Medway. It was probably called by the Britons Duro-

brivae, from the British word, dour, water, and the termination briva, which is added to the old names of many places, and might signify, among the ancient Britons and Gauls, a bridge or passage over a river; since it is no where used but in the names of places situated by rivers.

Antoninus, in his Itinerary, calls it by the name of Durobrivis, though it is corruptly spelt various ways in the different copies of that production. In the Peutingerian military tables, written on the decline of the Roman empire, it is written Roibis, from which contracted, and the addition of the word ceaster, derived from the Latin Castrum, used by our Saxon ancestors to signify a city, town, or castle, they called it Hroueceaster, and, by a further contraction, Rochester. It may here be observed, that all places ending in chester, called so in the time of the Saxons, arose from the ruins of the old Roman castra, not that the former were always placed in the very same site, though they were never very remote from it. Hence the ancient stations about the noted Roman wall, the ruins of many of which are still visible, are called chesters by the country people. It was accounted, in the time of the Romans, one of their stipendiary cities, of which description they had twelve in this island.

Most of our antiquaries agree in allowing it to be the station mentioned by Antoninus, in his Itinerary, under the name of Durobrivis, situated twenty-seven miles from London. The

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remains of the ancient Roman road, or Watling-street way, leading from London hither, is very visible from Shinglewell, by Cobham park pales, as before mentioned, towards Rochester, till it comes to the north gate of the park, where it runs into the thick coppice, and is there lost, after which there are no remains till we ascend Chatham hill, in the high road to Canterbury and Richborough.

Rochester was never very extensive, though much larger now than heretofore. In the time of the venerable Bede it was rather esteemed as a castle than a city, and accordingly he styles it the Castle of the Kentish men. The walls were built according to the four cardinal points, and from east to west about half a mile distant, but from north to south not a quarter of a mile; wherefore, having been originally so much circumscribed, it was in ancient grants called, as before mentioned, a castle only.

As there is no evidence of there having been a bridge at Rochester for many centuries after the Romans retired from Britain, it is most probable that a ferry was their mode of conveyance. Dr. Thorpe, an eminent physician and antiquary, who resided many years in this town, was inclined to believe that the first bridge between Rochester and Strood was erected

in the reign of Edgar the Peaceable, but the reasons on which he founded this opinion are not known. It is certain, however, that there was a bridge before the Conquest, and that divers tracts of land were subjected to its support.

It appears from ancient manuscripts that this early bridge was of wood, and placed in the line of the principal streets of Rochester and Strood. From the depth of the water, its constant rapidity, the occasional roughness of the tides, and the shocks of large bodies of ice, the bridge required such frequent and heavy repairs, that the supporting of it became a great burden to the owners of the contributory lands. In the early part of the 14th century this structure was represented as being "dangerous for passengers, and nearly destroyed." Under these circumstances, with a laudable spirit of compassion and generosity, the great warriors, Sir Robert Knolles, and Sir John de Cobham, built, at their joint expense, the present bridge of stone.

In the 22d of Richard II. a patent was obtained, and after-

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wards confirmed by Parliament, in the 9th of Henry V., for constituting the proprietors a body corporate, under the title of "wardens and commonalty;" and a licence was granted, enabling them to receive and hold in mortmain, lands and tenements to the value of £200 a year. The first and largest benefactor was Sir John Cobham, and his gift was followed by such considerable donations, that the estates, usually termed "proper," have been long adequate to the repairs of this bridge, without levying an assessment on the contributory lands. The governing members of the corporation are two wardens, and twelve assistants; and, in pursuance of the directions of several Acts of Parliament, the practice is on Friday, in the week after Easter, to elect in the bridge chamber, wardens and assistants for the year ensuing, to commence from the Monday in Whitsun week. Four of the assistants are appointed auditors of the accounts of the wardens of the preceding year, and Thursday in Whitsun week is the day fixed for their being settled.

The length of the bridge is 560 feet, with a stone parapet on either side, strongly coped, and surmounted by an iron railing. It has now eleven arches, supported by strong and substantial piers, which are properly secured on each aide by sterlings. The river has a considerable fall through these arches.

Under the very able management of these wardens for several years past, the estates proper have been duly attended to, and the increased revenue well applied. The transit of carriages before and after passing the bridge is still inconvenient, though the entrances on both sides were much improved some years back, particularly the street at Rochester, which was widened

by the removal of some houses. The inhabitants have it in contemplation to erect a new bridge over the Medway, at a short distance from the present fabric.

The Bridge Chamber, or Record Room, which stands opposite to the east end of the bridge, is a neat building of Portland stone, with a portico beneath, occupying the site of the western porch of a chapel, or chantry, that was founded by the great baron, John de Cobham, at the time of the building of the bridge. He designed it principally for the use of travellers, and appointed three chaplains to officiate therein, with a yearly salary of £6 each, payable from the revenues of the bridge estates, who were to pray for the souls of the founder and his

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lady, of Sir Knolles, and his lady, and the other benefactors to the bridge.

In 1225 the great ditch about this city is reported to have been begun, and in 1284 Solomon de Roffa had the king's licence to build about and on the walls of Rochester, and to hold the buildings in fee.

The city has no gates at present, but the names of several are on record, viz. Broadgate, afterwards called Eastgate, which stood in the High street, a great part having remained in the reign of Henry VIII., when Leland wrote, by whom it is styled a marvellous strong gate, who adds that no more gates appeared than were commonly used. Southgate was near Bully hill, on the road to St. Margaret's, the arch of which was taken down in 1770. There was another gate, as appears by the Registrum Roffense, called Childegate, which seems to have been in the north wall of the city, leading to the marshes, that part of the wall being called from it Childegate wall, and the lane in which it stood, opposite the college gate, Childegate lane. In the Textus Roffensis there is also mention made of a gate beyond the bridge.

We have no further account of Rochester, though it was undoubtedly a Roman station, as well as a stipendiary city, till after the rise of the Saxon heptarchy, when it became more distinguished; for King Ethelbert, having embraced the Christian religion in 507, built the church of St. Andrew's, and made it a bishop's see, by which he raised this city from obscurity, giving it a distinguished place in ecclesiastical and civil history.

Rochester, from its situation at the most accustomed passage over the river Medway, has been subject to more misfortunes than perhaps any other city. In 676, Ethelred, king of Mercia, having invaded Kent, destroyed the town, and returned with great plunder to his own kingdom.

During the Danish wars in England, Rochester frequently

suffered from the inhumanity of those barbarians, being often besieged and plundered, the enemy in general committing unheard-of cruelties before they returned to their ships. Terrified and exhausted with these misfortunes, the inhabitants at length submitted, with the rest of the nation, to the yoke of those invaders; in which state it continued, without any parti-

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cular circumstance happening, till the Norman Conquest in 1066, when it yielded to the Conqueror, on the same terms as the rest of the nation. This place suffered several times dreadfully by fire, in the reigns of Henry I. and II., from which calamities it recovered but slowly, and the intestine commotions of the kingdom occurring soon after, Rochester again suffered; but, Henry III. gaining possession of the place, and knowing that its preservation would be of considerable advantage, resolved to augment its strength, for which purpose he repaired and restored the walls to their former condition, and began the large ditch round the city.

As Rochester lies in the direct and most frequented passage from the continent to London, it would be superfluous to recount the numbers of royal and illustrious persons who have continually visited and passed through this city. We shall therefore subjoin only the following:

Queen Elizabeth, on her return from a progress she had made round the coasts of Sussex and Kent, in 1573, took up her abode in this city for five days; on the last of which she honoured Mr. Watts with her company, at his house, on Bully hill. The day after her arrival she was present at divine service, and heard a sermon in the cathedral.

James I., together with the king of Denmark, was also here in 1606.

King Charles II., on his restoration, was received in this city with the greatest demonstrations of joy, and presented with a silver basin and ewer by the mayor and corporation.

James II. was likewise received here on his abdication.

Rochester, in the time of Edward the Confessor, was in the king's hands; but William the Conqueror gave it, with the castle, to Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in the record of Domesday. On his disgrace, in 1083, this town, with the rest of his possessions, was confiscated to the crown.

Henry I. let the city to farm at pleasure, to the townsmen, at the yearly rent of £20; and granted to Bishop Gundulph and the church of Rochester one annual fair.

Henry II., by charter, granted also to the citizens of Rochester the city in fee, for £20 per annum, with sundry liberties and customs, therein mentioned.

Richard I. commanded, by writ to the bailiff and hundred of Rochester, that no person, except his servants, should purchase any victuals in the city, till after the monks of St. Andrew's priory had procured their supplies, to the great disgust and inconvenience of every other inhabitant.

Before the city was granted to the burgesses in feefarm, they accounted for a certain payment, called Maltolt, which they received from all persons passing through the city to embark for the holy land; but Richard I. abolished the toll.

Henry III. confirmed the charter of Henry II., and granted many privileges, with a free market within their city, and the return of all writs whatsoever.

Rochester was afterwards in the hands of the king, where it remained in the reign of Edward I., who committed it to John de Cobham, to hold of him and his heirs in ferme, for his life, at the same yearly rental.

Edward III. by charter, in his 4th year, confirmed to the citizens of Rochester the charter of King Henry III.; as did Richard II., in his 1st year.

Henry VI. granted several liberties and privileges to this city.

Edward IV. by charter, in 1460, finding this city defensible and fit for the resistance of enemies, confirmed the former charters, and granted to the citizens, that instead of a bailiff, they should be called the mayor and citizens of the city of Rochester, and under such title to purchase, plead, and be impleaded; and that a coroner and two constables should be chosen. The present seal of this corporation represents St. Andrew on his cross on one side, and the castle of Rochester on the other; round the former, *Sigillum Commune Civitatis Roffensis*; and surrounding the latter, *Sigillum Civium Roffensis*; it appears to be very ancient. The armorial bearings of this city are, Or, a cross gules, with an R in the centre; on the chief of the second, a lion passant, guardant, or.

All charters and privileges were confirmed by Henry VIII., and his several successors, down to Charles I., who by charter, in 1630, ratified and confirmed that of Edward IV., and all others granted to this city; and upon petition of the mayor and citizens, touching the bounds of the place, they were then further explained and designated. By this last charter the present corporation was made to consist of a mayor; twelve

aldermen, of which number the mayor was one; twelve assistants or common council; a recorder and town clerk; two chamberlains; a principal sergeant at mace; a water bailiff;

and other inferior officers. The day of election for mayor is on the Monday before the feast of St. Matthew, annually; and the day of swearing him into office on the Monday next after the feast of St. Michael; the recorder to be chosen by the mayor and aldermen, and to take an oath of office. The mayor and two aldermen to hold a court of <>Portmore from fifteen days to fifteen days; and lastly, the mayor, recorder, eldest aldermen, and last mayor for the time being, to be justices of the peace within the limits of the corporation. In the reign of George III., an Act passed for recovery of small debts in Rochester, and some adjoining parishes.

Much inconvenience having arisen in consequence of the different coinage of money in divers parts, King John, in his 9th year, issued his writ for all moneyers and assayers, and among others, those of Rochester, to appear at Westminster, and bring with them all their dies, sealed up with their seals.

King Stephen, in 1149, suppressed most of the mints which had been set up during the troubles of his reign, but reinstated the archbishops of Canterbury and York, and some other ecclesiastics, in the privilege of a mint; yet it does not seem that the bishop of this see was ever restored to his, or that, if so, he did not use the privilege, as no money has ever been met with coined by him.

The state of Rochester, in the reign of Elizabeth, may partly be ascertained by the return to an order made by that princess, in her 8th year, for a general survey; by which it appears, there were 144 inhabited houses, seven ships and boats, a mayor, alderman, customer, comptroller, and a searcher of the custom house, four quays, and that there were many persons employed in merchandize and fishing.

The venerable ruins of the castle, with its lofty keep, bearing a distant resemblance to the White Tower of London, present an object that must attract the notice of every traveller. The situation of this structure was very favorable for defence, standing at the south-west angle of the city, on an eminence rising abruptly from the Medway, that river preserving it from any attack on the west; while its southeasterly prospect and north

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sides were surrounded by a broad and deep ditch. The outside walls, which formed a parallelogram of more than 300 feet in length, were fortified by several round and square towers, but these, with the walls, are fast verging to a state of complete dilapidation. At the south-east angle of the area, stands the keep, or master tower, of which there are considerable remains.

After the Romans conquered this island, it is very evident they had a station at Rochester, and the height of the ground upon which the castle stands, and its situation with respect to

the Medway, and also the ancient road leading over the river, denote this hill to have been the most likely spot for this fortress. The great variety of Roman coins dug up within this district confirms this supposition. There are so few accounts in early history respecting this castle, that it would be nugatory to search for remains of the buildings, or attempt to ascertain what kind of military works might have been here in the time of the Saxons. When the Danes besieged Rochester, in 885, there must have been a citadel of importance, the inhabitants having been enabled to resist their attacks till they were relieved by Alfred. William the Conqueror is supposed by some to have erected a new castle; by others it is believed that he only enlarged what belonged to the Saxons. It could not have been a very strong hold, for when in possession of Odo bishop of Bayeux, who had revolted in the beginning of the reign of William Rufus, it was soon reduced; and it is very probable that the king, not finding it so defensive a post as his father had imagined, resolved upon constructing an entire new edifice. Gundulph bishop of Rochester, who had been employed by William to superintend the building of the White Tower of London, agreed, after some hesitation, to become the architect. That the keep or great tower was erected by this celebrated prelate, is little doubted, and it has hitherto been always called by his name.

The skill and ingenuity exercised in the construction of this edifice are particularly worthy of notice, in the ingenious contrivances that secured the entrance. There was a passage through a smaller tower into the keep, after ascending a flight of steps that were carried partly round two of the fronts of the castle, and descended on the first landing place by a strong arch, under which hung a massy gate and a drawbridge. The

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entrance into the vestibule of the small tower had likewise a strong gate and portcullis; and at the portal of the great tower, there was also another gate and portcullis. This latter tower is seventy feet square at the base, and the walls in general are about twelve feet thick. The apartments of the keep are separated by a wall from top to bottom. In this partition wall were several arches, by which a communication was opened from one room to the other; there was also a well in the centre of the wall, by which every floor was supplied with water; its diameter is two feet nine inches. On the north side of the keep, is a descent by steps into a vault under the entrance tower, used as a prison. In the north-east angle is a winding staircase, which ascends from the bottom to the top of the tower; the ascent is not difficult, though the steps have fallen to decay. In the south-east angle is another staircase, winding

to the top of the tower, having also communication with every room. There were no windows on the ground floor, and very few loop holes, and those extremely small; their structure was such, that a firebrand thrown in could do very little mischief, because, when dropped, it must have fallen directly under the arch, through which each loophole was approached from within; nor could an arrow strike an individual, except he was accidentally at the loophole. The apartments of state were on the second floor; the rooms, twenty-eight feet high, separated by cylindrical columns, which supported four round arches, richly ornamented with zigzag mouldings. Ascending to the next floor, about midway, was a narrow arched passage or gallery, in the main wall, quite round the tower, presenting the remains of an arch, which appears to shew the ancient vestige of a chapel. The whole edifice rises to the height of 104 feet, having at the summit a battlement five feet high, with embrasures. After the introduction of artillery, this was no longer a defensible fortress, and the apartments being dark and dreary, alike unfit for a dignified modern residence. It was, nevertheless, preserved in a habitable condition till the reign of James I., since which it has been gradually sinking to unregarded decay.

Several towers were built in the angles and sides of the castle walls. There appears, in particular, to have been a large one at the north angle, which was a great security to the bridge; near this tower is a long opening in the wall from the bottom

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to the top, supposed to have been used for the secret conveyance of necessaries from the river into the castle. In the south-east angle of the wall there was another tower, which, from the number of loopholes, seems to have been designed to annoy an enemy who had succeeded in an attack upon the south gate of the city. At a little distance are steps of descent to Bully, or Boley hill; and while the castle was in force, there possibly might have been a postern gate to this part of the outworks.

From the many urns and lachrymatories found on Boley hill, there is no doubt but it was a burial place of the Romans, when stationed at Rochester. It is supposed, and with great probability, by several historians, that the mound on the south side was cast up by the Danes, when they besieged the city in 885.

Henry I., in his 27th year, granted, with the consent of his barons, to the church of Canterbury, William archbishop of that see, and his successors, the custody of the castle of Rochester, for ever, with liberty to build a fort and tower. In the next reign of King Stephen, the archbishop having sworn allegiance to the Empress Matilda, the castle was taken possession of by the friends of the king; and it is most probable

that William de Ipre, earl of Kent, had the custody of the same, for when Robert earl of Gloucester, natural son of Henry I., was taken prisoner at Winchester, and given in charge to the earl of Kent, he was by him sent close prisoner to this fortress. Henry de Ipre being banished the kingdom, Henry II. gave the earldom of Kent, and the castle of Rochester, to Philip earl of Flanders, but the young king dying, the earl never possessed himself of either.

King John, in his 3d year, is said to have restored this castle to Hubert archbishop of Canterbury, with whom it continued till the 17th year of his reign, when the king required of him, by writ, its restoration; and notwithstanding the archbishop's acquiescence with those demands, the discontented barons contrived to gain possession of the place, and committed it to the custody of William de Albini, a valiant and expert commander; when the king marched thither, invested the castle, and carried on a vigorous siege for the space of three months, upon which, the governor finding no hope of relief, the outward walls being thrown down and their provisions exhausted, surrendered

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at discretion. The following year, Louis, son of the king of France, being invited over to the assistance of the barons, landed at Sandwich, marched hither with his army, and invested the castle, which having previously suffered so considerably, was soon reduced. In the 10th of Henry III., Hubert de Burgh was constable of Rochester castle; and in the 42d year of the same reign, Nicholas de Moels was made sheriff of Kent, and governor of the castles of Rochester and Canterbury.

In 1264, being the 49th year of the same king, he greatly increased the fortifications at Rochester castle, and committed it to the custody of Roger de Leyborne as chief constable, when it was furnished with men, arms, and provisions, sufficient to sustain a siege. Shortly after, Simon earl of Leicester, one of the confederated barons, marched with a numerous army into Kent, to besiege this castle, who, on arriving at the western banks of the Medway, found his passage over the bridge disputed, and a pallisade and breastwork thrown up on the opposite side, well defended. Wherefore, having sent Gilbert de Clare to attack the south side of the town, the earl in person assaulted the bridge, but was twice repulsed by the citizens; at length, with the assistance of vessels loaded with combustibles, he set fire to the bridge and tower thereon, both of wood; when, during the confusion thereby caused, he passed the river, and attacked the besieged with such vigor, that he entered the place, destroyed the church and what was left of the priory; Roger de Leyborne having before burnt down all the suburbs, as also part of that edifice. After this, the earl made a furious

assault on the castle, and became master of every part, except the great tower, which was so bravely defended by the constable, that after seven days' close siege, being nearly taken, the earl suddenly raised the siege, and returned to London.

In the 2d of Edward I. Robert de Hougham died constable of this castle, and the year following Robert de Septvans had custody of the same. Sir John de Cobham was also constable in the middle of the above reign, and in the 33d of the same prince, A.D. 1304, Stephen de Dene was constable of Rochester castle.

In the 3d of Edward III. William Skarlett was constable; in the 18th of the same monarch Sir John Cobham filled that post; in the 33d of the above reign John lord Grey, of Codnor,

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was made constable of the town and castle of Rochester, for life; and John de Newtrun was constable in the 2d of Richard II. In the 2d of Henry V. William Criol, or Keriell, died governor of this castle, in which office he was succeeded by Sir Thomas Cobham, who held it at his death in the 11th of Edward IV., when he repaired the walls of the fortress and city, which seem to have been the last repairs they ever underwent. In the next century the castle became of little importance; the chief part was suffered to fall to ruins, in which state it still remains. Some years ago the materials of the great tower were offered for sale, but the charge of separating and pulling down the stonework was so heavy, that no person would undertake it upon any terms.

The property, or fee-simple of the castle of Rochester, after the reign of Edward IV., vested among the manors of the crown, till James I., in his 10th year, granted them, with all the services belonging thereto, to Sir Anthony Weldon, since which the whole has continued in the same line of ownership as that of Swanscombe manor, to Robert Child, esq., who died in 1782, when his widow, under the will of her husband, possessed it. She afterwards married Francis lord Ducie, and died in 1793, when it remained vested in trustees under the will of Mr. Child.

Large parcels of land are held of the castle of Rochester, the tenure of which is perfect castle-guard. On St. Andrew's day, (old style,) a banner used to be hung out at the residence of the receiver of the rents, and every tenant who did not then discharge his proper rent, was liable to have the amount doubled on the return of every tide of the river, so long as it should remain unliquidated. The services of castle guard have been long since converted into annual rents of money.

Within the last twelve months considerable improvements have taken place in the environs of the venerable tower of

Rochester castle, which were effected by a public subscription of £700, the residue of the sum required to complete this desirable purpose having been furnished by the munificence of Samuel Baker, esq., the present proprietor. The whole circuit of the keep now presents a beautiful garden, most tastefully laid out in serpentine walks, and a luxuriant shrubbery, for the accommodation of the inhabitants of the city of Rochester.

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Although there is no mention of a bridge at Rochester till the reign of Henry I., it certainly appears, from ancient manuscripts, such a structure did exist, as Ernulphus, bishop of Rochester, in the 16th year of that reign, who collected the records contained in the Textus Roffensis, has inserted several regulations for the repairs of Rochester bridge, apparently as ancient customs in his days.

Lambarde, in his Perambulations, has given us three extracts from manuscripts, concerning this bridge; one from an ancient record in Christ church, Canterbury, and the others in the Saxon and Latin tongues, from the Textus Roffensis, before mentioned.

These records do not much differ from each other; they contain a curious account of the bridge, the number of its piers, the materials with which it was built, and the method whereby it was kept in repair.

It thence appears that the ancient bridge was composed of wood, and consisted of nine piers, which made ten intermediate spaces in the length of the bridge, and from one end to the other was about twenty-six rods and a half, equal to 431 feet, which correspond nearly to the present breadth of the river, where this bridge stood, in a direct line with the High street of Rochester, and that of Strood.

The owners of the manors and lands chargeable with the repairs of this bridge, were used, by ancient custom, to elect two men from among themselves, to be wardens or overseers of the repairs, at which time there was a wooden tower erected on the bridge, with strong gates, probably near the east end, used as a fortification for the defence of the place.

The first mention of this structure in our English historians appears in Stow's Annals, who writes that when King John, in the 17th of his reign, besieged and took Rochester castle, he attempted to burn the bridge, but Robert Fitzwalter put out the fire, and saved the fabric.

In 1281 a sudden thaw swept several of the piers away, and considerably damaged the rest, in which state the bridge continued in 1293, when it was so broken and out of repair, that the people were obliged to pass the river in boats.

After being continually repaired, in 1347 this bridge was

found to be too old, and badly constructed for the depth of the

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river, and the rapidity of the stream, when it was resolved that a new fabric should be erected of stone, which noble and useful work, as before observed, was completed about the 15th of Richard II., by Sir Robert Knolles and Sir John de Cobham.

The passage over Rochester bridge, as originally constructed, was extremely narrow, subsequent reparations having enlarged it by the widths now appropriated on either side for foot passengers. The space at present occupied by the arch in the centre, formerly consisted of two small arches, the central passage in question having been completed about nine or ten years back, thus affording much greater facilities for traffic above the bridge, as formerly nothing but very small craft could pass to and fro.

The foundation of the see of Rochester is ascribed to Ethelbert, king of Kent, who was persuaded to perform this pious action by Augustine, styled the apostle of Britain, and first Archbishop of Canterbury. The same monarch erected a cathedral church here, and conferred the episcopal dignity on Justus, a prelate of eminent talent and moral worth, in 604. The edifice erected by this munificent monarch was not of long duration, as a new church was erected by Gundulph, promoted to this diocese in 1077, who continued therein till his death, which happened in March 1107. It is doubtful whether he had completed the buildings at the time of his decease, but there are several parts of the present fabric unquestionably of his construction; the beautiful west door has been attributed to him, and the style of its sculpture shows it could not be the work of a much later period. It has a semicircular arch, agreeable to the early Norman style, with several members, unfortunately much mutilated, containing a great variety of ornaments. Beneath the crown is the figure of our Saviour, sitting on a throne, with a book open in his left hand, resting on his knee, the right hand raised in the attitude of blessing; but the hand is broken off, as likewise the head, though the nimbus, or glory, is discernible. On either side is an angel, with the symbols of the Evangelists. On the north side of the door is the statue of King Henry I., and on the south that of Matilda his queen. Henry was present at the dedication of this cathedral by Archbishop Corboil, on May 11, 1130, and afterwards a benefactor to the neighbouring priory; Bishop Gundulph had been con-

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fessor to that queen. In a niche of the west front of the north-west tower of the nave, is a very ancient episcopal figure,

standing upon a shrine, designed, as it is supposed, for Gundulph. In 1763 the old tower was taken down; the statue was an ornament of that tower, but placed in the north side, facing the gate of entrance from the city into the precincts. The cathedral is entered by a descent of several steps, and its dimensions are as follow: from the west door, to the steps leading up to the choir, 150 feet, and thence to the east wall of the chancel, 156 feet; total, 306 feet. The east transept is in length, from north to south, 90 feet.

In the original plan of Gundulph's church there was a tower over the steps leading up to the choir, whereon was afterwards raised a low octagonal spire, which, being in danger of falling, was rebuilt under the direction of Mr. Sloane, architect to the dean and chapter in 1749. There are six bells in the tower, and its height is 156 feet.

The choir was raised from the offerings at the tomb of William, a charitable Scotch baker, who was, by some crafty monk, converted into a martyr and saint; because, while travelling towards the Holy Land, he was unfortunately robbed and murdered by his servant, near Rochester. From the entrance of the choir to the eastern extremity, the style of the building has a uniform character, and presents a curious specimen of the early English, or pointed mode of architecture. In 1742 and 1743, very considerable alterations were made in the choir, under the direction of Mr. Sloane; new pews erected, the partition walls wainscoted, and the pavement laid with Bremen and Portland stone; the choir was new furnished, and the episcopal throne erected. The altar-piece, of Norway oak, is plain and neat. £50 were given towards ornamenting this part of the church, by Dr. Herring, archbishop of Canterbury, who was many years dean of this cathedral. There was then only a panel of wainscot in the middle, in which was fixed a large piece of rich velvet in a frame, elegantly carved and gilt. This was removed some years ago, and the altar-piece is now decorated with a picture of the angels appearing to the shepherds, by Mr. West. There are three elegant stone seats adjoining the south wall of the chancel, similar stalls still subsisting in the chancels of many parochial, as well as cathedral and

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collegiate churches, which were doubtless for the convenience of ecclesiastics of high rank, used by the officiating clergy during the celebration of mass. In the front of the stalls are three shields of arms; on the first, those of the see of Rochester; the centre, the arms of Christ church, Canterbury; while it is supposed that the third shield is emblazoned with the arms of the prior and convent of St. Andrew, who was tutelar saint of Rochester cathedral.

At the east end of this structure are numerous ancient monuments, among which the following require notice: a stone chest, with a figure in pontifical robes, assigned to Bishop Laurence de St. Martin, who died in 1274; a shrine-like monument, supposed to be that of Gilbert de Glanville, who died in 1214; the tomb of Bishop Thomas de Inglethorp, who died May 12, 1291, though it is a matter of doubt whether he might not be deposited in a more eastern cenotaph. At the foot of the steps leading to the communion-table are two large slabs, having formerly had brasses, representing the figure of a bishop under a rich canopy; a similar gravestone appears near the great west door, and two more in the south transept of the nave. There is a chapel called after St. Edmund, behind the south wall of the choir, though the altar erected to his honour was fixed in the undercroft.

In 1826, when some reparations were effecting in the choir, was discovered the figure of Bishop Walter de Shepey, who flourished early in the 13th century, the face and robes being coloured, and as brilliant as if issued that moment from the bands of the limner. This effigy is now carefully preserved, and forms one of the most curious objects in the choir of Rochester cathedral.

There was a common passage through the chapel, for the monks, from the north cloister into the church, and the arch of the door of communication is still discernible. In the partition wall of the choir is a stone chest, and upon it a figure of Purbeck marble, pontifically habited, lying under a canopy, curiously ornamented, and terminating pyramidically. The head is entirely gone, and in its place is a flat stone. In the left hand is part of a crosier, only the fore finger of the right hand remaining, holding, to all appearance, a book. It is supposed to be the tomb of Bishop Bradfield. who died April 23,

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1283. The conjecture is, that there was originally a south aisle of the same width with that on the north side of the choir, and that the wall might have been continued to the east transept. Traces of such a wall appear by the steps into the undercroft, and in what now serves for the minor canon's vestry.

Against the south wall is a stone chest, raised about a foot above the pavement, and another of the same size was removed some years back. They had antique crosses upon them, and appeared to have been forced open. It has been said that the persons, who, about the year 1645, defaced and pillaged the tombs in this church, found in one of these coffins a crucifix and a ring.

In the south transept is a richly ornamented door-case,

forming the entrance into the present chapter-house, used for a library, but formerly the grand door of communication between the church and chapter-house of the priory in solemn processions. The moulding of the arch of entrance into the north cloister is still to be seen, supposed to have been executed about the 14th century. This elegant piece of sculpture had been much defaced, and injudiciously covered with whitewash that disguises its beauties. The royal figures on each side, supported by bustos, like those on the sides of the great west door, are intended to represent Henry I. and Matilda his queen; the scroll in the king's right hand having a reference to his new grants, and Acts of confirmation of former rights and privileges; and the church in his left, to his being present at the dedication of the cathedral. The queen holds a book, or scroll, in her hand. Above, on either side, are two figures, seated in episcopal habits, supposed to represent Gundulph, Ernulph, Laurence de St. Martin, and Hamo de Hethe.

The north-east transept was formerly separated from the choir by a screen of wood, with Gothic arches. The northern part of this transept used to be visited by devotees without number, before the Reformation, because St. William, from whom it derived its appellation, was enshrined therein. The tomb ascribed to him consists of a large coffin, of Petworth marble, and adjoins the north wall, near a door leading up to an apartment over the east end, called the Treasury. The middle window, at the shrine of St. William, was given by Hubert de Burgh, jus-

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ticiary of England in the reign of Henry III. The window thus described, is said not to be either of the central windows now extant, but a window that was under them. The stone frame may be seen in the wall without the church. To the west of the shrine is a monument to the memory of Walter de Merton, founder of the college at Oxford, which bears his name: he died October 37, 1277, being drowned in passing a river, of the depth of which he was unfortunately unawares. He is the earliest prelate of the see of Rochester, whose place of burial can be accurately ascertained by his tomb. The original monument was constructed at Limoges, in France, where the art of enamelling chiefly flourished, then a common mode of ornamenting sumptuous tombs. The expense of constructing it, and the carriage from Limoges to Rochester, was £67 14 6. This tomb was almost entirely destroyed at the Reformation, and a new and elegant monument erected in 1598, at the expense of the master and fellows of Merton College. It was repaired in 1662, and cleaned and beautified in 1772, by the same learned body. From this prelate the chapel has acquired the appellation of Merton chapel. Opposite is a monument in

memory of Bishop Lowe, who died September 30, 1467. It is still in good preservation, and the oldest monument in the church with a legible inscription. At the west end, within a shield held up by an angel, are the family arms of the bishop, empaled with the arms of the see of Rochester, placed on the sinister side. At the east end of the chapel, to the north, is a beautiful tomb of white and black marble, in memory of Bishop Warner, who died in 1666, having been the last prelate of the see interred in this cathedral. His munificent endowment of Bromley college, for the support of twenty widows of clergymen, is the most honourable memorial entailed on the name of this prelate.

From this chapel is a descent into the north aisle by several steps, much worn; a proof of the great resort to the shrine of St. William. Against the wall of the choir is an altar tomb, placed under a low canopied arch, and above, a mutilated angel, holding a scroll. It has been assigned to Bishop Haymo de Hethe, who died in 1352. When the north transept of the nave was building, it was termed the New Work towards St. William's gate. This gate was placed opposite the north door,

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through which was an entrance into the High street, where anciently stood the gate of the priory.

We cannot quit our notice of this cathedral without observing that the west front and nave are entitled to deliberate examination. In those parts of the structure we contemplate august specimens of the Anglo-Norman style of architecture, practised by one of the most able builders of the 11th century. The semicircular and stately arches, the ponderous columns, and the general simplicity of design, act as a fine school of information for the student of architectural antiquities. The sculptured effigies, which adorn the pillars of the great west door, are instances unparalleled of the application of the Norman chisel to the representation of statues, not emblematical of scriptural character, and yet free from grotesque or indelicate allusions.

From the foundation of the priory of Rochester to its dissolution, under Henry VIII., there were forty priors, of whom, Ordowinus was the first, having been appointed to witness the charter of its foundation on the 20th of September, 1089. The last prior was Walter Boxley; Henry VIII., in his 31st year, having granted a commission to the archbishop of Canterbury, George lord Cobham, and others, to receive the surrender of this priory; which instrument was dated the 8th of April, 1540.

Walter Boxley, the last prior, as above mentioned, on the surrender, was, by the foundation charter of the new dean and chapter, under date June 18, in the 33d of Henry VIII., appointed first dean by his family name of Phillips. Any

person who assumed the monastic habit under the Catholic regime, was accustomed to take the name of his birthplace, and Boxley having been that of Walter Phillips, he had been so denominated by the monks of the priory; he died A.D. 1570.

The priory of Rochester was valued at £486 11 5, yearly income, the whole of which devolved to the king, who founded the cathedral church within the precincts of this priory. In the 33d of Henry VIII. that monarch granted his dotation charter, sealed on the 20th of June following. On the 4th of July, the king granted a commission, to George lord Cobham, and others, setting forth that he had lately founded the cathedral church, in the site and place of the late priory at Rochester, and gave them authority to repair thither immediately, and, as they should think fit, allot the whole, and assign to the dean

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and canons separate stalls in the choir, with lodgments, tables, &c. By the above charter, Henry VIII. reserved to himself and his successors the right of nominating the dean and prebendaries.

We have now to remark that, after the Dissolution, the site of the priory became a scene of devastation and confusion; the buildings were large, irregular, and ruinous, and even a century after, in the great rebellion, A.D. 1647, they were reported as being in a decayed state, at which time the church does not appear to have been much better, as Archbishop Laud, in his return of the state of this diocese, in 1633, says "that the cathedral suffered much for want of glass in the windows." About nine years afterwards it was considerably injured in consequence of the fury of the rebel soldiers, under Colonel Sandys, who, having plundered the edifice, broke every thing in pieces, made use of the structure as a drinking house, having also converted the body of the church to the purposes of a carpenter's shop.

After the Restoration, dean Hardy took infinite pains to have the whole restored, which was effected by means of the benefactions of the gentry of the county, together with £7000 added by the dean and chapter. Notwithstanding this, time and neglect had so corroded the building, that the possibility of its preservation was much feared; every endeavour was, nevertheless, used to secure it from ruin, the exterior was repaired, and the inside beautified, and, being now kept extremely clean, the fabric presents a very beautiful appearance.

The great tower of this cathedral, with the east and west windows, and the south-west end, have all been recently rebuilt or cased by --- Codrington, esq., the architect of Great Queen street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, in a style suited to the rest of this venerable ecclesiastical structure.

At the south-west corner of the precincts of the cathedral, bishop Gundulph separated a portion of ground, as a habitation for himself and successors, and though there is no mention of a palace for near eighty years after his death, we have good reason for believing that he built one at the time he re-edified the church and priory. In what situation it remained till the time of bishop Lowe, we have not discovered, but he appears to have rebuilt it, one of his instruments being dated from his

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new palace, at Rochester, A.D. 1459. Whether the building was not sufficiently substantial, or had been neglected, does not appear; it seems, however, to have been a cold and comfortless habitation, for when bishop Fisher resided here, in 1524, Erasmus, of Rotterdam, in his letters of that year, complains of the bishop's want of attention to his health, by residing at this palace; adding that it was composed of such thin walls, the air found entrance through every crevice, and that it was neither wainscoted nor floored, having only a brick pavement. Bishop Fisher was the last learned prelate who resided here; and after the Reformation which soon followed, not only this mansion, but those belonging to the see at Halling and Trottesclive, were let for terms of years, and forsaken; the palace at Bromley, in Kent, being a pleasanter spot, and more convenient for the bishops of this see. The building, now existing on the site of the palace at Rochester, was erected about the middle of the 17th century, and by the bishop leased out to tenants. The bishop's court for the trial of civil causes, and a prison, were in the west quarter of the palace precincts. No debtors have been confined here for many years, the practice of the court not being sufficient to defray the expenses of supporting the jurisdiction. Bishop Pearce, in 1760, erected a Register's office, in what used to be the Gaoler's garden. At a very short distance from Minor Canon row, on the right side, is a small embattled tower, through which was the entrance into the cloister of the priory. Contiguous were the refectory and dormitory, and other offices, which were taken down at the Dissolution. Part of the wall of the cloister is still standing, which, together with the remains of the Chapter-house, exhibit a beautiful series of Norman arches and ornaments, though now greatly mutilated.

The diocese of Rochester is the smallest of any in this kingdom, the whole being situated in the western division of the county. It has one archdeacon, and contains ninety-nine parishes, included in the deaneries of Rochester, Malling, and Dartford.

The deanery of Shoreham, though properly indeed within this diocese, being a peculiar of the archbishop, is subject to

his immediate jurisdiction.

This bishopric is not only distinguished from almost every

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other in the kingdom by the narrowness of its district, but the slenderness of its revenues. Before the Conquest, the salary was not a sufficient maintenance for the bishops, who were often compelled to retire, for part of the year, to some of their palaces in the county, with a few domestics; nor could they afford to attend the Parliament or Council at any distance from London.

In bishop Fisher's time, the income of this see amounted only to £300; and in the king's books it was valued at £358 4 9½. In 1559, the clear annual profits did not exceed £207 per annum; and we believe that at present the rental of the episcopal see of Rochester is not productive of more than £600 per annum.

The oyster fishery upon this river, carried on in the several creeks and branches within the liberties of the city of Rochester, for the conducting of which there is a company of Free Dredgermen established by prescription, time out of mind, is subject to the government and authority of the mayor and citizens.

Several persons having disputed this authority, great inconveniences arose, and the fishery was consequently endangered; to prevent this, the corporation and dredgermen petitioned Parliament for relief, in the 2d of George II., when an Act passed for the better ordering and governing this fishery, for rendering them secure under the protection of the mayor and citizens, and confirming and settling their power and jurisdiction over that and the free dredgers belonging thereto. By the Act in question, the mayor and citizens have power, once, or oftener, in every year, to hold a court of Admiralty, to which the dredgers are summoned, and a jury is appointed from among them, which possesses the power to make rules and orders for the times when the oyster-grounds shall be opened and shut, (the former of which is generally on St. James's day,) and the quantity of oysters which shall be taken on each day of dredging, and also for the preservation of the brood and spat of oysters. Every person is free of this company who has served an apprenticeship of seven years; but every person catching oysters in this river, not free of the fishery, is termed a cable hanger, and liable to such penalty as the mayor and citizens shall think fit to impose.

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The town hall of Rochester stands on the north side of the

High street, and was erected in 1687; it is a handsome brick building, supported by duplicated columns of stone, of the Doric order; and the area beneath was paved with Purbeck stone, at the expense of Sir Stafford Fairborne, in 1706. The entrance into the hall is by a spacious staircase, the ceiling of which is richly ornamented, as is also that of the hall, with trophies of war, fruits, and flowers; the upper end is adorned with full-length portraits of William III. and Queen Anne, by Sir Godfrey Kneller. At the lower end are portraits of Sir Cloudesley Shovel, Sir John Jennings, Sir Thomas Colby, Sir Joseph Williamson, and Mr. Watts. Here are also portraits of Sir John Lake, Sir Thomas Palmer, and Sir Stafford Fairborne, all by the best masters of that age. The public business concerning the government of the city is transacted here, and the judges have frequently held the assizes for the county in this edifice. The clock-house was erected by Sir Cloudesley Shovel, in 1706.

At a small distance eastward, and directly opposite the college gate, is ancient Cheldegate lane, so named from a gate placed there. Near the spot on which the pump stands, in the main street, was anciently the corn cross; at a little distance on the left, is the custom-house; attached to which is the house appointed for the reception of six poor travellers. The following inscription, placed over the door, shews the design of this charity: "Richard Watts, esq. by his will, dated August 22, 1570, founded this charity for six poor travellers, who not being rogues or proctors, may receive, gratis, for one night, lodging, entertainment, and four pence each." In testimony of which munificence, and in honour of his memory, Nathaniel Hood, esq., mayor, caused this stone to be renewed and inscribed, A.D. 1711. For the support of this charity, Mr. Watts left an estate, then valued at no more than £36 per annum, which now produces a yearly income of upwards of £1000. By his will he ordered, that what surplus remained after defraying the expenses of the establishment, should be given to the poor of Rochester. In consequence of which, it is paid to the overseers and churchwardens in such proportions, as the court of Chancery has decreed.

At no great distance, on the same side of the street, is the

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free school, founded by Sir Joseph Williamson, Secretary of state in the reign of Charles II.

At this end of the High street stood the East gate. By the charter of Edward IV. a licence was given to the mayor and citizens to build upon the same, for the use and profit of the city, new houses, both of stone and wood; part of which remained when the houses were erected opposite the free school;

the spacious street without the gate hence acquired its name. A legacy being left about the year 1529, towards the repairs of a bridge of wood, in East gate, it seems that the tide must have occasionally flowed across this street. A new road, leading to Canterbury, opens to view at the bottom of the street, whence are beautiful prospects of the Medway, the ordnance-office, the dockyard, the guard ships, and those lying in ordinary.

St. Catherine's hospital was founded by Simon Potyn, master of the Crown Inn, in 1316, for the support of leprous and diseased persons; it is now the habitation of twelve poor individuals, who have separate rooms, being found in coals and candles, and also receiving an annual stipend.

The inhabitants of Rochester, actuated by a spirit of emulation, highly redounding to their credit, have it in contemplation to erect, in the High street of their city, a building intended for scientific purposes, to contain a lecture-room, library, museum, &c. The society is actually formed, and nothing required but the structure, the site of which is partly agreed upon./*

Troy Town, standing at the back of Rochester, which has sprung up within the last thirty years, occupies a space of ground formerly used as brick-fields. It is in St. Margaret's parish, within the liberty of the city of Rochester, and derives

/* About one mile from Rochester, on the right of the road leading to Canterbury, is a mathematical school, governed by a master and two assistants, founded in 1828. In this seminary 100 pupils may be accommodated, who receive every instruction necessary to fit them for commercial pursuits. The salary of the head teacher is £200, the second master, £120, and the third, £80 per annum.

On the same road, a quarter of a mile from Rochester, is also a classical seminary, established by a society of gentlemen, holding shares. It is a large mansion, stuccoed in front, capable of containing 100 students, and is attended by four preceptors.

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its name from a person connected with the property and original foundation of this populous district.

The city of Rochester is strongly fortified on the south side, agreeable to the modern system of defence. Fort Pitt, partly in the parish of St. Margaret and in that of Chatham, was erected in 1803, being originally intended for a military hospital. In 1812, Fort Clarence was built, a little to the west of St. Margaret's church, and a broad deep ditch, extending from the river to the Maidstone road, defended by a rampart, with casemates for troops, and magazines for powder, completed at the same time. These, in conjunction with Chatham Lines,/* are considered as a regular series of fortified positions, commanding the river, and extending from Gillingham fort to the right bank of the Medway, above Rochester bridge.

There were formerly two parishes within the walls of this city, those of Sts. Clement's and Nicholas, and two without the walls, Sts. Mary and Margaret; of which there remains only those of Sts. Nicholas and Margaret.

St. Clement's parish was situated in the western parts of the city, and appears to have extended from the court hall, westward, to the river. A considerable portion of the walls of this church is still remaining at the entrance from the High street, into the lane formerly called St. Clement's, but now Horsecwash lane, the east end, or chancel, having been visible in Mr. Hasted's time, as well as part of the south wall, forming the frontage of three dwellings, almost in a line northward from Bridge lane; while the north wall forms the backs of the houses in question. The width of the church does not appear to have been above forty feet; there were a row of pillars and arches extending from east to west, at about fourteen feet from the north wall, making a narrow aisle; two of the pillars and one arch are still existing in one of the houses above mentioned. Adjoining the north wall of the church was the churchyard, which, in 1580, had become private property.

This church was a rectory, of which John Hurrope was the last rector, who died in 1538, when this parish was served by

/* On the elevated position called the Lines, near the military barracks, is the race course, whence you command a wonderfully fine panoramic view in every direction. The races at this place do not present any very great attractions.

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different curates. The income of the rectory was so trifling, as to be united to the adjoining parish of St. Nicholas, by an Act passed in the reign of Edward VI.

The parish of St. Mary was situated without the eastern gate of the city, and the church was standing in the time of the Saxons, A.D. 850.

The parish of St. Nicholas, the only one at present within the confines of Rochester, appears to have been a parochial district before the Conquest. It certainly was so in the time of bishop Gundulph, though there was no church belonging thereto for some centuries after; but in lieu of the same, the parishioners resorted to an altar in the cathedral, called the Parochial Altar of St. Nicholas, to which the officiating priest was appointed by the convent, and presented to the bishop. This altar is supposed by many to have been placed in the large recess on the east side of the great north cross aisle of the cathedral. It was certainly below the choir, and removed from the place where it previously stood, by the monks, as appears by a judicial Act made in 1312, whereby the parishioners were allowed to perform service there; and

agreed that, whenever the prior and chapter should cause a proper church to be built elsewhere, they would then resort thither as to their parish-church, without any further claim in that or any other place in the cathedral. No description is left of the church, which appears to have remained nearly 200 years; when the building becoming ruinous, and, in 1620, found incapable of reparation, was taken down, and the new one, now standing, raised on the same spot. It is a substantial spacious church, handsomely fitted up, and ornamented; and at the north-west angle is a tower steeple, containing two bells.

The present altarpiece was presented by Edward Bartholomew, esq. in 1706; he also gave for the use of the church two silver flaggons, and a patten of £30 price. Edward Harlowe, in 1609, gave a gilt cup, and Francis Brooke, esq. in 1703, a large silver plate, for the offering at the sacrament; and Henry Austin, gent. presented two handsome large Common Prayer books, to be placed on the altar. This parish is situated within the diocese and deanery of Rochester. The vicarage of St. Nicholas, in 1291, was valued at five marks, and estimated in the king's books at £20 8 9, the yearly tenths being £2 0 10½.

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In 1649 the yearly value was returned to be £59 6 8, the bishop of Rochester continuing patron of this vicarage.

There is a manor in this parish called Ambree Manerium Amberiaie, which became part of the possessions of the dean and chapter of Rochester, and formerly belonged to the priory; it was called the Cellarer's court, and held at le Ameribenche, that is, the almonry bench of the priory, from which it acquired that name.

In this parish, at a small distance southward of the castle, is a large mount thrown up, in ancient times called Bully Hill, whereon are built several good houses, the principal of which stands on the summit of the mount, commanding a fine view of the river, both above and below bridge, the navy docks, &c., the cathedral, the castle, and adjoining country, forming altogether a prospect scarcely to be exceeded. This seat, with the surrounding gardens, was the property of Thomas Pearce, esq., commissioner of the navy, whose son Thomas sold it to Thomas Gordon, esq., who rebuilt it. His daughter and heir carried it in marriage to her first cousin, William Gordon, esq., late M.P. for this city, and sheriff for the county in 1763. He resided here, and died possessed of it in 1776, leaving an only daughter and his widow surviving, who possessed this property.

Satis is a seat lying westward from the last mentioned, nearer the river, on the edge of the cliff, and at a considerable height. In the reign of Elizabeth it was the property and residence of Mr. Richard Watts, who, as before observed, had the

honour of entertaining the queen in 1573. It is said that when Mr. Watts, at her departure, apologised for the smallness of his house, as being ill suited for the reception of so great a princess, the queen in return made use only of the Latin word satis, (enough,) signifying she was perfectly contented. After the death of his widow, this estate was sold, and the money arising from the sale applied towards the support of the almshouse, now called Watts's hospital, in this city. After passing through several owners, it became the residence of John Langley, esq. recorder of Rochester.

Walker Weldon, of Swanscombe, owner of Rochester castle, in 1722 conveyed to Mr. Philip Brooke that part of the ditch and ground, then as it lay unenclosed, on Bully hill, being the whole breadth of the eminence and ditch, without the castle

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walls, extending thence to the Medway, under which title it descended, with Satis, to Mr. Joseph Brooke, who filled up the ditch within a few yards of the river, and planted it with trees, now forming a lawn in front of the house. On the hill being levelled for the above purposes, many Roman urns, Paterae lachrymatorae, and other remains of that nation were found by the workmen, most of which were given to Dr. Thorpe, of this city.

The large mount whereon Mrs. Gordon's house and garden stand, was, in all probability, thrown up by the Danes in 885, at the time they besieged this city, a circumstance recorded by most of our ancient historians.

The Parish of St. Margaret's is of large extent, and contains all the lands, without the walls, on the south side of the city, that are within the limits of its jurisdiction. It is styled in some records, St. Margaret's in Suthgate, and in those of the city, the borough of Suthgate. There are two streets in this parish.

Several manors are also contained within the bounds of this parish, the most eminent of which is that of Borstall, given to the church of Rochester in 811, by Coenulf, king of Mercia, as three plough lands. It so continued till the Conquest, and was entered in Domesday under the general title of the possessions of this see.

The manor, with others in the neighbourhood, was anciently bound to contribute to the repairs of the first pier of Rochester bridge.

Nashenden is a manor in this parish, about three quarters of a mile from Borstall. In the Textus Roffensis, it is called Hescenden, and in Domesday record, Essedene. This manor was part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, being so entered in Domesday record. Under Henry II. it was held by

Thomas de Nessingdon, of Daniel de Crevequer, as one knight's fee. In the reign of Edward I. this manor had become the property of Jeffery Haspale, whose descendant, John, died possessed of Nashenden, after which it passed to the name of Basing, and thence to that of Charles.

Richard Charles, under Richard II., died possessed of Naseden, when Nicholas Haut afterwards possessed this manor in right of his wife, a descendant of the above-mentioned family.

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She held it for her life, with remainder to James Peckham, who, in the reign of Henry IV., came into possession of the estate. He obtained the king's licence to give and amortize to the wardens of Rochester bridge this manor, since which it has continued in their possession for the support and repairs of the same. There was a chapel at this place dependent on the parish-church of St. Margaret.

Great Delce is a manor, which, with the estate called Lower Delce, lies on the eastern side of the parish, about half a mile from Eastgate, in Rochester. It was formerly called Much Delce, and Delce Magna, or Great Delce, and given by the Conqueror to Odo, bishop of Bayeux. On his disgrace it went to the possession of a family, on which it conferred the name. Herebert, Gosfrid, and Hugo de Delce, possessed it in successive generations, after which it passed to the name of Buckeril, under Henry III., when it was separated into parcels, as Geoffry de Haspole held this manor, as the fourth part of a knight's fee. The next family that succeeded was the Molineux's, which did not long possess it, and it subsequently passed through many names, till the reign of Queen Anne, when this estate, excepting the manor and forty acres of land, became the property of Thomas Chiffinch, esq. of Northfleet, in this county, from which time the seat acquired the name of Lower Delce.

Thomas Chiffinch, esq. died in 1727, who was succeeded by Thomas his only son and heir. He died without issue in 1775, bequeathing this estate to his niece Mary, who carried it in marriage to Francis Wadman, esq. of the Hive, in Northfleet, when he possessed Lower Delce.

The manor of Great Delce, and the forty acres of land above mentioned, were in the possession of Richard Lee, esq., who died possessed of them in 1724, and his grandson Richard, of Wales, possessed this manor, but in 1769 alienated the demesnes to Mr. Sampson Waring, of Chatham. He died owner in 1769, leaving his brother, Walter Waring, and Mrs. Smith, of Lower Delce, his executors. The court for the manor of Great Delce has not been held for some years.

Little Delce, or Delce Parva, now known by the name

of Upper Delce, is a manor in this parish, situated in the high road between Rochester and Maidstone. It was given by

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William the Conqueror to Odo bishop of Bayeux, and as such entered in Domesday record. On his disgrace it most probably reverted to the king, and was afterwards possessed by a family that assumed the name of Delce. In the reign of King John it was held by Jeffry de Bosco, a Norman, but this manor was afterwards passed to William de Ciriton, who died possessing it under Henry III. On that family becoming extinct, it was possessed by Richard Pogeys, and afterwards by the family of the Basing's, from which it passed into that of the Charles's, a descendant of whom, Richard Charles, dying without issue, his two sisters became his coheirs. Alice, married William Snayth, and Joan, Richard Ormskirk, when, on the division of their estates, this manor fell to the share of William Snayth, commonly called Snette, soon after which Charles and William Snette gave and amortized this manor of Little Delce to the wardens of Rochester bridge, for the support and repair of the same; since which it has acquired the name of Upper Delce.

The parish of St. Margaret, in Rochester, is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the diocese and deanery of Rochester. The church, situated at the south extremity of St. Margaret's street, consists of one nave, and two chancels on the south side, of much later date than the church. That towards the east end was built and long supported by the family of the Lee's, of Great Delce, whose remains lie in a large vault under this chancel, but, since the alienation of their mansion, the repairs have devolved on the parishioners. At the west end of the church is a tower, covered with ivy to the summit, which presents a beautiful picturesque appearance. Against the east wall, in the south chancel, is an ancient bust, in robes, with a coronet on the head. In the reign of Charles II. a crown, set with precious stones, was dug up in this churchyard, when the report of the parishioners was, that one of our Saxon kings had been buried here.

Rochester has given title to several families; Sir Robert Carr, or Kerr, K.B., the favorite of James I., was first created by letters patent, in 1611, Viscount Rochester, afterwards knight of the Garter, and earl of Somerset. He died in 1645, leaving an only daughter, married to the earl of Bedford, so that his title became extinct.

Henry Wilmot, son of Viscount Athlone, in Ireland, was by

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Charles II. created earl of Rochester, leaving an only son, who

succeeded his father in the earldom, and dying without issue male, his title became extinct.

Laurence Hyde, son of the chancellor Lord Clarendon, was by letters patent created earl of Rochester. He left one son Henry, who succeeded as earl of Rochester, and the latter also left a son, Henry viscount Cornbury, who died before him, without issue male in 1753, so that this title became extinct.

In 1773 the hop duty of the whole kingdom amounted to £45,847 18 10, of which the eastern division of Kent paid at Canterbury £10,737 0 6, and the western division at Rochester, £14,958 5 4. In 1778 the total amount of the duty was £159,891 2 10¼, of which the eastern part of Kent paid £36,862 3 6; the western, £42,046 6 11. In 1794 it was £203,063 2 0¼, when the Kent collections amounted to £90,000; but, in 1824 it amounted to £258,838 6 3½, of which the Canterbury collection was £56,394 18 4, and that of Rochester was £95,169 17s.

As in the last census of the population, taken by order of Government in 1821, the populations of the city of Rochester and town of Chatham are enumerated together, we refer our readers to the ensuing account of the latter place for the same.