

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



3 1761 00298263 5

THE
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES
OF
THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK:
WITH
Genealogical and Architectural Notices
OF
ITS SEVERAL TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

BY
THE REV. ALFRED SUCKLING, LL.B.
RURAL DEAN, RECTOR OF BARSHAM, &c.,

Quisquis hujusmodi operis sategerit, ei non tantum multum Tædii et Laboris devorandum, sed minime vulgaris conferenda in
evolvendis Libris exercitatio. Frustra id aggrediuntur qui titulo tenus duntaxat sapiunt.—MAITTAIRE.

VOL. I.

London:

JOHN WEALE, 59, HIGH HOLBORN.

SOLD ALSO BY THE BOOKSELLERS AT YARMOUTH, IPSWICH, BECCLES, BURY, SUDBURY, THETFORD, NORWICH,
CAMBRIDGE, COLCHESTER, &c., &c.

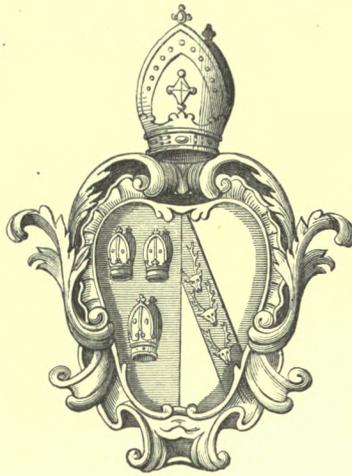
M.DCCC.XLVI.

PRINTED BY W. HUGHES,
KING'S HEAD COURT, GOUGH SQUARE.

DA
670
S9578
V.1



971758



TO

THE RIGHT REVEREND EDWARD STANLEY, D.D.,

Lord Bishop of Norwich,

CLERK OF THE CLOSET TO THE QUEEN,

&c., &c., &c.,

THIS VOLUME,

ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF A PORTION OF HIS DIOCESE,

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED BY

THE AUTHOR.

BARSHAM RECTORY,
JUNE, 1846.

P R E F A C E.

UPON the completion of the First Volume of the present extensive and arduous work, it may not seem unseasonable to offer a few observations relative to its design and prosecution. The immediate aim of its Author has been to supply, in some measure, a deficiency in topographical literature by an humble essay to illustrate the History and Antiquities of the County of Suffolk, towards which so little, except in a few favoured spots, has hitherto been done. But although his undertaking dares not aspire to the character of a complete and general History, yet his object has been to convey, within reasonable limits, a detailed account of every parish in the county,—to record the actions, characters, and family history of its past generations, and to perpetuate the memorials of their taste, their patriotism, and their devotion.

In pursuance of this design he has endeavoured to avoid, as much as possible, all digressions, and to confine himself within the narrowest limits consistent with adequate information,—to seek the middle way between superficial notice and too lengthened detail,—a task more difficult than they can justly estimate, who have never ventured on the trial.

The materials for this design,—which even thus limited is of vast

extent,—have been drawn from the most authentic sources: from the national records and from public documents; in conjunction with the Author's own collections, conducted through the leisure of above twenty years. These have been invariably noted, in the progress of the work, by marginal references, as authorities for facts, and acknowledgments of assistance.

How well he has succeeded in arranging the vast mass of these materials, it is not in his power, neither is it his province, to determine. He may, possibly, be considered a dull and heavy compiler, and should public opinion so determine, he respectfully submits. To industry and zeal, he flatters himself, he may fairly lay claim, and these he can, confidently, promise as accompaniments to his future labours.

From the local nature of the subject, he entertains no expectation that his work will excite any great degree of public attention; neither has a prospect of fame or profit urged him to the prosecution of his task. It has formed an employment in the days of declining life, and a solace in the hours of sadness; though not to the exclusion of more serious thoughts, nor to the neglect of parochial duties.

In selecting from the abundance of his matter, the writer believes he has in no one instance warped or suppressed the truth: and unless his head and heart both deceive him, he has wounded the feelings of no individual by prejudice, preference, or partiality, nor by unfavourable introduction of family anecdotes. Every parish, in succession, has been illustrated to the full extent which the cost of elucidation will permit. More favoured districts will, unquestionably, furnish subjects of greater pictorial beauty and architectural interest, which will augment the

elegance of the work as it progresses, and afford additional gratification to its patrons.

To many kind and indulgent friends the Author begs to express his obligations for ready access to family documents, regretting that inert or fastidious considerations should have, in a few cases, rejected his respectful applications. But such discourtesies will occur in literary, as in real life; so, like the sturdy pilgrim, who boldly steps onwards, regardless of the rugged path, and the lowering storm, the Author proceeds cheerfully and steadily in the prosecution of his task; cherishing a hope, which he trusts is not wholly unfounded, of liberal support and favourable recommendation,—for on the extent of these must depend his ability to bring so expensive a work to a completion. So supported, his energies will be invigorated to finish what he has thus commenced, trusting for a continuance of health and reason to the gracious Dispenser of every good and perfect gift, with whom rest all our issues, “for neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase.”

Barsham Rectory, June, 1846.

CONTENTS
OF
THE FIRST VOLUME.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	i-xxxiv
List of Birds rarely and occasionally met with in Suffolk	xxxv
Rare Plants found in Suffolk	xxxix
High Sheriffs, from 1576 to 1845	xlii
Knights of the Shire, from 1542 to 1837	xlviii

HUNDRED OF WANGFORD.

	PAGE		PAGE
Beccles	1	Weston	97
Barsham	35	Willingham St. Mary	101
North Cove	47	Worlingham	103
Ellough	53	Ilketshall	111
Great Redisham	57	Bungay	119
Little Redisham	61	Mettingham	168
Ringsfield	67	South Elmham	183
Shaddingfield	72	Flixton	189
Shipmeadow	77	Homersfield	212
Sotterley	81	<i>= St. Mary South Elmham</i>	

HUNDRED OF MUTFORD.

Barnaby	235	Kirkley	260
Carlton Colville	237	Mutford	269
Gisleham	243	Pakefield	279
Kessingland	250	Rushmere	287

HUNDRED OF LOTHINGLAND.

Ashley	294	Corton	340
Belton	301	Flixton	348
Blundeston	307	Fritton	352
Bradwell	321	Gorleston	360
Burgh	328		

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE		PAGE
1. Seal of Michael Stanhope, Vice-Admiral of Suffolk.—Temp. Eliz.	L.	33. Seal of Maria de Huntingfeld	148
2. Beeceles Farthing, 1670	13	34. St. Mary's Church, Bungay	<i>to face</i> 149
3. South Porch of Beeceles Church <i>to face</i>	15	35. Ancient Seal	160
4. Beeceles Church from the N. E. „	16	36. Shield of Arms—Safford	169
5. Altar - Tomb, St. Michael's Church, Beeceles	17	37. Gateway of Mettingham Castle <i>to face</i>	173
6. Windows in Do.	18	38. Shield of Arms—Flixton Priory	196
7. View of Roos Hall	28	39. Do. Tasburgh	198
8. Shield of Arms—Rede	30	40. Flixton Hall	<i>to face</i> 200
9. Do. Sharpin	33	41. Shield of Arms—Adair	201
10. Portrait of Sir John Suckling <i>to face</i>	39	42. Circular-headed Window, Flixton Church	202
11. Shield of Arms—Suckling	40	43. Carved Wood-work, Do.	203
12. East end of Barsham Church <i>to face</i>	41	44. Double Piscina, Homersfield Church	216
13. Brass Effigy in Do. „	42	45. Font in St. James's Church, South Elmham	219
14. Font in Do.	42	46. South Elmham Hall	223
15. Barsham Rectory House	45	47. St. Peter's Hall, South Elmham	230
16. Door in the Church, North Cove	49	48. Shield of Arms—Crowfoot	247
17. Shield of Arms—Farr	50	49. Font in St. Edmund's Church, Kessingland	255
18. Door in Great Redisham Church	59	50. The Galilee, Mutford Church, <i>to face</i>	275
19. Shield of Arms—Garneys	64	51. East Window in Do.	277
20.* Brass Effigies of Nicholas Garneys and Family <i>to face</i>	69	52. View of Pakefield <i>to face</i>	283
21. The Old Hall, Shaddingfield. „	73	53. Brass Effigy of Richard Foleard „	284
22. Font in Shaddingfield Church	74	54. Shield of Arms—Sydnor	311
23. Window in St. Bartholomew Church, Shipneadow	78	55. Do. Gonville	314
24. Stained Glass, Sotterley Church, <i>to face</i>	83	56. View of Blundeston Church	318
25. Shield of Arms—Playters	86	57. Compartment of Screen in Do. <i>to face</i>	318
26.* Brass Effigies (1, 2, 3) in Sotterley Church <i>to face</i>	89	58. Piscina and Sedilia in the Church of St. Nicholas, Bradwell	325
27.* Brass Effigies (4, 5, 6) Do. „	92	59. Plan of the Roman Encampment at Burgh	329
28. Shield of Arms—Barne	95	60. Roman Stations at Burgh	331
29. Splendid Oak Chest	107	61. Fritton Church and Ground Plan <i>to face</i>	357
30. Remains of Bungay Castle	138	62. Do. Interior of the Chancel	358
31. Ancient Seal of the Benedictine Nunnery, Bungay	141	63. Brass Effigy in Gorleston Church <i>to face</i>	373
32. Do.	147	64. Painted Arched Recess in Do.	373
		65. The Resurrection (Font in Do.)	374
		66. (Interior of the Crypts, St. Olave's Priory)	

* These three Engravings, as published in Part II., to be cancelled, and replaced by those given in Part III.

INTRODUCTION.

At the time of the Roman invasion of Britain, Suffolk formed part of a district inhabited by the Iceni. In the subsequent division of the island, it constituted a portion of the Roman province of Flavia Cæsariensis, and under the Saxons formed the southern half of the kingdom of East Anglia. This petty state comprised the present counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, and a portion of Cambridgeshire. It was erected into an independent kingdom soon after the year 570, by Uffa; from whom its inhabitants were called Uffingas, or Uffans.

East Anglia was divided into two great, but rather unequal portions, by the æstuaries of the Little Ouse and the Waveney; then very considerable streams, which probably united their waters, and completely insulated the northern half. Hence the inhabitants of these divisions were designated the North-folk and the South-folk, in reference to their relative positions, as living north or south of these æstuaries.

Upon the final division of England into Tythings, Hundreds, and Shires, the territory of the latter people became Suffolk, nearly as now constituted.

It is a maritime county on the eastern side of England, and is bounded on the north by Norfolk, from which it is separated by the streams of the Little Ouse and the Waveney. The spring-heads of these rivers, which Spelman calls the "disagreeing brethren," are not more than three yards asunder, and in times of great rains unite their waters. On the east it is bounded by the German Ocean; on the south by the Stour, which divides it from Essex, and on the west by Cambridgeshire. It is included between $51^{\circ} 55'$ and $52^{\circ} 38'$ north latitude, and $22'$ and $1^{\circ} 46'$ east longitude. Its greatest length is sixty-eight miles, measuring from Gorleston at the north-east, to the vicinity of Haverhill in the south-west; and from its north-west angle to Landguard Fort it extends about fifty-two miles. The area of the county is estimated at 1515 square miles. Arthur Young computes the superficial contents at 800,000 acres, but the aggregate of the parochial surveys gives 918,760 acres. Its shape may be compared, not inaptly, to that of an ancient galley, of which the part about Gorleston represents the prow, and the crescent at Brandon, the poop. The projection at Newmarket, and the angle about Haverhill, form the rudder.

The sea-coast, which for some distance inland is for the most part sandy, presents a nearly regular convex outline to the ocean; of which Orford-ness and Lowestoft are the most prominent points. The latter is the most eastern headland in Great Britain. In consequence of this regular outline the bays are shallow. The most considerable of these are Hollesley and Southwold, or Sole Bay. The latter is an open roadstead, but the former affords tolerable anchorage for trading vessels, being protected from the south-east gales by a long bank of sand, called the Whiting. There is better riding for shipping in the small bays to the north and south of Lowestoft-ness, as these roads are defended from the violence of the sea by sand-banks, which dry at half ebb: the riding in the latter is so remarkably easy during gales from the north to the west, as to procure for it from seamen the name of Abraham's Bosom. It formed in ancient days the bay-like entrance to Lake Lothing.

If the tradition be true, that the tailors of Dunwich could formerly sit in their shops and see the shipping at anchor in Yarmouth Roads, the coast-line of Suffolk, from Covehithe-ness on the north, to Thorpe, or perhaps to Orford-ness on the south, must have presented a curve, the very reverse of its present concave form; for to have obtained a view of vessels anchored there, Dunwich must have been at least six miles to the eastward of its present site.

Though there is not an eminence in the whole county deserving the name of a hill, its surface may be described as gently undulating, and pleasingly diversified. If a small portion, called the Mildenhall Fens, and the rich meadows near its north-east border, be excepted, it may be considered as a succession of swells and depressions; almost every little valley possessing its rill or 'beck' hastening to unite its waters with some more important stream. The description of Reyce, who wrote his 'Breviary' of Suffolk in 1618, and which remains in manuscript in the British Museum, is naïve and correct. "This country," says he, "delighting in a continuall evenes and plainnes, is void of any great hills, high mountains, or steep rockes, notwithstanding the which it is not alwayes so low or flat, but that it is severed and divided with little hills easy for ascent, and pleasaunt ryvers watering the low valleys, with a most beautifull prospect, which ministreth unto the inhabitants a full choyce of healthful and pleasant situations for their seemly houses."

The rich effect produced throughout the greatest part of the county by hedge-row timber, and the high state of its farming, which approaches to the neatness of horticulture, are redeeming features in the landscape. There are some spots in the angle formed by the Stour and the Orwell, which, if not deserving to be classed as romantic scenery, possess a happy combination of wood and water, with hill and dale and verdant lawns, not frequently surpassed.

A ridge of high table land, of a strong but fertile quality, commences at no great distance from Beccles, and crosses the county in an oblique direction by Halesworth, Stradbroke, and Debenham, and proceeds to the south-west angle of the district. The tributaries of the Little Ouse and the Waveney rise from the north side of this line, while the streams which spring from its southern slope find their way to the Stour and other rivers, which fall into the ocean on the eastern coast.

The climate of Suffolk is healthy, though the winters are cold, and the winds of spring sharp and piercing. But these are evils balanced by the absence of that humidity which prevails in the milder counties of the west. The average mortality of the county does not exceed one in fifty-four.

There is not, perhaps, a county in the kingdom which contains a greater diversity of soil, or more clearly discriminated. A strong loam, on a clay-marl bottom, predominates throughout the greatest part of the county, extending from the south-western extremity of Wratting Park to North Cove, near Beccles. Its northern boundary stretches from Dalham by Barrow, Little Saxham, near Bury, Rougham, Packenham, Ixworth, Honington, Knottishall, and then in a line near the river which parts Norfolk and Suffolk, to Beccles and North Cove; but every where leaving a slope and vale of rich friable loam adjoining the river, of various breadths. It then turns southward by Wrentham, Wangford, Blithford, Holton, Bramfield, Yoxford, Saxmundham, Campsey Ash, Woodbridge, Culpho, Bramford, and Hadleigh; and, following the high lands on the west side of the Bret to the Stour, is bounded by the latter river, with every where a very rich tract of slope and vale from thence to its source.

Such is the strong-land district of Suffolk, taken in the mass; but it is not to be supposed that it takes in so large an extent without any variation: a rule, to which are known few exceptions, is, that wherever there are rivers in it, the slopes hanging to the vales through which they run, and the bottoms themselves, are of a superior quality, in general composed of rich friable loams; and this holds even with many very inconsiderable streams, which fall into the larger rivers. The chief part of this district would, in common conversation, be called clay, but improperly. Many of these strong loams have been analysed, and found abounding with more sand than their texture would seem to imply; so that were they situated upon a gravel, sand, or chalk, they would be called sandy loams; but being on a retentive clay-marl bottom, are properly, from their wetness, to be termed strong, or clayey loam. The district of rich loam being much less clearly discriminated, will leave more doubts on the minds of persons acquainted with it. From the river Deben, crossing the Orwell, in a line some miles broad, to the north of the river Stour, to Stratford and Higham, there is a vein of friable putrid vegetable mould, more inclined to sand than clay, which is of extraordinary fertility: the best is at Walton, Trimley, and

Felixstow, where, for depth and richness, much of it can scarcely be exceeded by any soils to be found in other parts of the county, and would rank high amongst the best in England. As the position recedes northward to the line from Ipswich to Hadleigh, it varies a good deal; in many places it approaches to sand, and in some is much stronger, as about Wenham and Raydon: the general complexion, however, of the whole of Samford Hundred is that of good loam.¹ The greater part of the county is covered by diluvial beds. The exceptions are the crag and London clay district of the south-east, and the chalk district of the north-west. The chalk does not rise into high hills; the formation appears to extend under the diluvial beds, which occupy the centre of the county. The crag formation consists of thin layers of quartzose sand and comminuted shells, resting sometimes on chalk, sometimes on the London clay. Crag is a local name for gravel. Close examination has led to the subdivision of this deposit into the red and coralline crag: when the red and coralline crag are found together, the former is always uppermost, and distinguished from the coralline by the deep red ferruginous or ochreous colour of its sands and fossils. Its strata are also remarkable for the oblique or diagonal position of the subordinate layers; and these often consist of small flat pieces of shell, which lie parallel to the planes of the smaller strata, showing clearly that they were so deposited; and that this structure has not been due to any subsequent re-arrangement of the mass after deposition.

The fossil testacea found in the crag, amounting to upwards of four hundred species, are, some of them, common to both divisions; others are peculiar to one division, and characteristic of it. These fossils bear a general analogy to testaceous animals now existing in the Northern Seas, between latitudes 50° and 60°, but whether any are identical with those now found in the adjacent German Ocean is matter of dispute. Lyell refers the crag formations to the older Pliocene period. The thickness of the crag is not known; it has been penetrated fifty feet, near Orford, without reaching the bottom.

That part of the district which lies between the Orwell and the Stour is, for the most part, occupied by the London clay alone.²

The navigable rivers of Suffolk are the Stour, the Orwell, the Alde, the Blythe, which now joins the sea at Southwold, though its ancient passage was by Dunwich, the Waveney, the Lark, and the Little Ouse. The two latter reach the sea at Lynn, but all the former fall into the German Ocean on the east coast of the county.

The Stour, which is the most considerable river, rises from three sources; the first of which is near Kedington in Suffolk; the second rises in Cambridgeshire, and the third in Essex. These rills unite about seven or eight miles from their respective springs, whence

¹ Young.

² Lyell. Conybeare. Phillips.

the river throughout its entire passage divides the counties of Suffolk and Essex. Pursuing a winding course, it passes the towns of Clare, Sudbury, and Nayland; below which last place it receives the waters of a stream from Boxford, and a few miles lower those of the Bret, a considerable tributary; and, flowing onwards through the charming valley of Dedham, it reaches Manningtree and Mistley, where it suddenly expands into a noble æstuary, which at high water is from a mile and a half to nearly two miles wide. Its course is then about twelve miles in a direct line to Harwich, where it mingles with the German Ocean. Its entire course is upwards of fifty miles, and it is navigable by sea-borne vessels to Manningtree, and thence, by the aid of locks, by barges to Sudbury.

The Gipping, which is the name of the upper course of the Orwell, is formed by the union of several streams, which, becoming confluent near Stowmarket, flow in a south-eastern direction by Needham to Ipswich. It here meets the tide, and, like its sister Stour, expands at once into an æstuary capable of floating sea-borne vessels of considerable burthen to the ocean. From Ipswich, where it assumes the name of the Orwell, its course is about ten miles, when, uniting with the Stour, their combined waters form the capacious and secure harbour of Harwich. This river was rendered navigable from Ipswich to Stowmarket in 1793, at an expense of a little more than £26,000. The distance somewhat exceeds sixteen miles. Many excellent mansions and noble parks adorn the Orwell, the banks of which are bold, and the scenery altogether delightful.

The Alde rises at Brundish: it winds through a rich agricultural district by Dennington and Rendham to Stratford St. Andrew and Farnham, where it is crossed by the high road from Ipswich to Lowestoft. At Snape bridge, after having received Langford brook, and a smaller tributary from Saxmundham, it meets the tidal waters, and swells into a wide river: it then proceeds to Aldborough, and having reached within two hundred yards of the sea, in a direction due east, it at once abandons its purpose of forming a junction there, and bending suddenly to the south, runs parallel to the shore for about nine miles, being separated from the ocean merely by a narrow peninsula of pebbles. In its passage from Aldborough to its mouth in Hollesley Bay it passes the town and stately castle of Orford, majestic in decay, and receives the tributary waters of the Butley, which wash the site of the ruined Abbey of that name.

A plan was submitted to Government, in the beginning of the present century, to connect the Alde with Hollesley Bay by a cutting near Orford-ness. The river was proved by soundings to be capable of floating seventy-four-gun ships at the lowest tides, and the utility of the scheme strongly insisted on, as there is no harbour for many leagues along the coast, of sufficient depth to receive large ships of war. It was abandoned, however, from an anticipation, probably, of the impossibility of keeping the entrance free from a bar.

The Deben has its source near the little town of Debenham, to which place, tradition asserts, it was navigable in Saxon times. At Brandeston it receives an augmentation to its stream, whence it flows to Wickham Market. It then reaches Woodbridge by a south-eastern course, and there widens into a channel from a quarter to half a mile in width. Its course thence is direct to the sea, which it reaches in about ten miles, being navigable in this part of its channel for vessels of considerable tonnage.

The Blythe is navigable by small craft from Southwold to Halesworth. It rises at Laxfield, and, passing the Danish village of Ubbeston, intersects Heveningham Park, and flows by Walpole to Halesworth. Its course is not more than twenty miles.

The Little Ouse rises at Lopham. It then flows westward for about fourteen miles to Barnham, where it suddenly turns to the north in its course to Thetford. It hence becomes navigable, and, passing onwards through a bald and barren country to Brandon, continues the boundary line between the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk to Sedge Fen, where it is lost in the system of the Greater Ouse.

The Lark rises about five miles south-east of Bury St. Edmund's. It passes that charming town in its way to Fornham, where it becomes navigable by barges; and, running into Cambridgeshire, is mingled with the ampler waters of the Great Ouse. Its entire course does not exceed eighteen miles.

The Waveney rises in a meadow in the parish of Lopham, and, pursuing a tortuous course to the east, flows by Diss, Scole, Harleston, and Bungay. Here, taking a remarkable sweep to the north, it returns in the shape of a horse-shoe; almost meeting the spot from which it diverged on reaching the town. From Bungay it becomes navigable to Yarmouth, a distance of about forty miles. From Beccles bridge it transports sea-borne vessels of a small class to the ocean by Oulton Dike and Lake Lothing, through an artificial cut near Lowestoft; the line of which was its ancient and principal mouth. At present the tides of the Waveney turn northward from Oulton Dike, and proceeding in a winding course, whose direction is first north-west, and then north-east, they wash the high banks over which from the walls of Garianonum, and there become lost in the Yare, about four miles before it reaches Yarmouth bridge. Fritton Decoy, a beautiful lake about two miles long, whose lovely scenery deserves a more extended fame, discharges its superfluous waters into the Waveney just below St. Olave's bridge. A small feeder of the Waveney in its upper course rises near Mendlesham, and, passing the borough town of Eye, falls into its channel at Hoxne. This tributary is inconsiderable in extent and volume, but demands notice, as anchors and traces of ancient navigation have been discovered in its bed: a circumstance which seems to confirm the tradition that the valleys of the Waveney and the Little Ouse were once navigable throughout their entire course from Gorleston to Lynn. Abbo Floriacensis, a Benedictine monk of the tenth century, describes the town of Eye

as then situated in the midst of a marsh; and adds that the rivulet thence to the Waveney had formerly been navigable. Swindon, in his History of Yarmouth, relates, that so late as the year 1549, during the time of Kett's rebellion in Norfolk, a small pinnace was prepared to convey twenty men up the Waveney, as far as Weybread, which, following the curves of the river, is twelve or fourteen miles higher than the limit of the present artificial navigation, and within four of the point where it receives the tributary stream from Eye.

The meadows through which the Waveney meanders are amongst the most fertile in the kingdom. All these rivers abound in fish. In the Little Ouse are caught pike, chub, and eels, all of large size. The grey mullet is taken in the Alde in the greatest perfection. The Waveney produces eels of a delicate flavour, with pike, perch, and roach, in abundance. Smelts are taken in the season, and occasionally a salmon strays up its waters. In the year 1753 a sturgeon was captured on the flats above Beccles bridge, which weighed eleven stone two pounds, and measured seven feet eight inches in length. Another fish of this class got entangled in the nets of a fisherman, now living, not far below the same spot, but effected his escape before his astonished captor could secure him in his boat. The perch of the Waveney are unrivalled for the brilliancy of their colours, and occasionally attain a considerable weight. Six of these fish were caught near Worlingham Staithe, four miles below Beccles, by Henry Francis, Esq., of that town, on the 9th of August, 1844, which averaged three pounds each. One measured eighteen inches in length, five and a half in depth, and weighed three pounds and a half. It was what sportsmen term an empty fish, but had it been taken in full season, it would have weighed nearly five pounds. The eels are occasionally taken very large: the writer has caught them exceeding six pounds in weight. About thirty years since a pike was captured near Ellingham water-mills, and kept for a considerable time in a tank, as an extraordinary specimen. He here became so tame as to take small fry from the hand of his keeper. He weighed forty-four pounds. Lampreys of large size are not unfrequently taken in this river.

The waters of the Waveney in its upper course are singularly brilliant and transparent. Every weed in its bed may be seen, even where the channel is deep, and the fishes may be discerned sporting in shoals. It may venture to vie, in this respect, with the Dove, so celebrated by Cotton, and the Author dares apply to it that poet's elegant lines—

“ Princess of rivers! how I love
 Upon thy flowery banks to lie,
 And view thy silver stream
 When gilded by a summer's beam!
 And in it all thy wanton fry
 Playing at liberty:
 And, with my angle upon them,
 The all of treachery
 I ever learn'd industriously to try.

Reyce enumerates among the produce of our rivers, besides the fish already mentioned, "trout, barbel, and crevises:" after speaking of these rivers and their peculiar adaptation to commerce, he says, "I must confess as all other earthly benefitts are accompanied with some incommodities, it is objected it (the county) lyeth open, and is ready for forreigne invasion, there bee so many havens, harbours, creeks, and other places of ready discent, that the enemy is soon entered; and this is more confirmed by the frequent prooffe of the silly Dunkirkers, who, before the peace concluded between Spaine and England, robbed our shores, came into our havens, and carried away our loden vessels, rifling oftentimes whole townes. Butt that which is common to all other sea-bordering shires (as what shore is free from their insulting, audacious, and their furtive preying) ought nott here to be reckned as a perticuler incommoditie, neither may these furtive assaults with a more momentary returne bee reputed as a warlike invasion; which whensoever it shall bee effected, by that time the invaders meet with our deep myrie soyle, our narrow and fowle lanes, our manifold inclosures, severed with so many deep ditches, hedges, and store of wood, bushes and trees, seeing the impassableness of this country with any materiall forces, albeit there were noe other meanes of resistance, they will have just cause to repent their rashness."

Ipswich, the county town of Suffolk, is distant seventy miles from the General Post Office in London. Bury St. Edmund's, the second town in importance, is seventy-six miles from the same point, measured by the mail-coach road through Bishop's Stortford and Newmarket. Besides these towns, Suffolk contains the borough of Eye, and the lately disfranchised boroughs of Aldeburgh, Dunwich, Orford, and Sudbury; and the market towns of Beccles, Bungay, Clare, Debenham, Framlingham, Hadleigh, Halesworth, Lavenham, Lowestoft, Mildenhall, Newmarket, Saxmundham, Southwold, Stowmarket, and Woodbridge. The little towns of Bildeston, Blythborough, Botesdale, Brandon, Haverhill, Ixworth, Mendlesham, Needham, Nayland, Wickham, and Woolpit, formerly possessed markets which are now discontinued.

The mail-coach road from London to Norwich enters Suffolk at Stratford St. Mary, on the Essex border, passes through Ipswich, and thence runs northwards by Stonham to Scole. A branch at Ipswich diverges to the right hand, gradually approaching the sea-shore, by Woodbridge, Wickham Market, Saxmundham, Yoxford, and Lowestoft, and leaves the county at Southtown.

A road also enters the county at Newmarket and proceeds to Norwich by Thetford. A line here, also, diverges to the right and unites with the mail-coach road from Ipswich to Norwich, near Scole, having passed through Bury St. Edmund's, Ixworth, and Botesdale.

A road from London crosses the river Stour at Sudbury, and proceeds by Long Melford to Bury St. Edmund's.

The principal cross-roads, which rival the highways of many counties in excellence, are,

a line from Beccles through Halesworth and Bramfield into the Yarmouth and Ipswich mail-coach road at the ninety-sixth mile stone; a road, which, leaving the Norwich mail road at Claydon, branches to Needham, Stowmarket, Woolpit, and Bury; and a road from Ipswich through Helmingham, Debenham, and Eye, which falls into the Norwich mail-coach road about two miles from the Norfolk boundary. A road also, of considerable traffic, runs from Lowestoft to Beccles, and thence proceeds through Bungay and Harleston to Scole. In 1844 a bill was obtained in Parliament for extending a line of railway, from the present termination of the Eastern Counties Railway at Lexden by Colchester to Ipswich; which line is now in active progress.

The Norwich and Brandon Railway will also enter Suffolk at the latter town, and pass through the north-western angle of the county.

Suffolk is, happily, almost exclusively an agricultural district, and is, perhaps, one of the best cultivated in England. Farming implements of the most perfect kind are almost universally employed, and Agricultural Associations have been formed in various parts for the improvement of the breed of cattle, for the construction of agricultural implements, and the encouragement of good conduct in labourers and domestic servants.

Suffolk possesses an indigenous breed of cattle;—these are of the polled kind, and of a fine red or brindled colour; the cows are in great repute as excellent milkers; and the quantity of milk yielded by one of them, is, on an average, from four to six gallons a day,—though a Suffolk cow in the writer's parish has been known to give thirty-two quarts of milk per day, and of a good quality, for a considerable time after calving: but this is, no doubt, an extraordinary instance. The Suffolk cow is small in size, with a clean throat and little dewlap, a thin clean snake-like head, large carcass, and high hip-bones; the udder large and loose, and the milk veins remarkably prominent.

The Suffolk pigs are a prolific and profitable breed; they are well made, compact, with short upright ears, and mostly white: they are thickly covered with hair, and hardy in their nature.

The horses of this county, widely known as Suffolk punches, are a valuable and docile race, remarkable for their unwearied exertions, and unrivalled at what is, provincially, called 'a dead pull.' They are middle-sized, very short made, and though low in the forehead, are active in their paces, and on the lighter lands of the county will draw a plough at the rate of three miles an hour. In many respects they resemble the little compact horses of Normandy, so much esteemed for their hardihood and constant readiness for labour. "Now for our horses of burden or draught," observes Reyce, "experience of long time teacheth us, how uncertain the prooffe is of that which wee pay so dear for at other hands, causeth us to esteeme our owne home-bred the more, which every way proveth so well for our use and profit, that our husbandmen may justly compare in this respect with any other country whatsoever."

The breed of sheep most usually kept in Suffolk is a cross between the South-down and the Leicester.

The dairy lands of Suffolk are by no means so extensive as formerly. Large tracts of old grass have been ploughed up, and converted into arable land. The quantity of butter still made is considerable, and a large supply of this is annually sent to the London markets.

Suffolk cheese is proverbially execrable, though Fuller³ says, "most excellent cheeses are made herein, whereof the finest are very thin, as intended not for food but digestion." It must be presumed that the art of cheese-making has considerably declined in Suffolk since Fuller's days; for it would be impossible to doubt the judgment of so keen an observer, whose accuracy is proved by his remarks on the "Suffolk fair maids."—"It seemeth the God of Nature hath been bountiful in giving them beautiful complexions."

Hops have been grown in Suffolk ever since the early part of the sixteenth century, though their cultivation has never been carried to any great extent. "I may nott here," says Reyce, "next to the corne omitt to speake of our hopps, which when they were first perceived to delight in our soile, well was hee that could entertaine this plant." Bullein, who wrote his 'Bulwarke of Defence' in the middle of that century, mentions their growing at Brousyard, near Framlingham, and in many other places. The same writer, in his 'Government of Health,' observes, that "though there cometh many good hops from beyond sea, yet it is known that the goodly stilles and fruitful grounds of England do bring forth unto man's use as good hops as groweth in any place in this world, as by proof I know in many places of the countie of Suffolke, whereas they brew their own beere with the hops that groweth upon their own grounds." Tusser, who was a Suffolk farmer, gives full directions respecting their management in his 'August's Husbandry,' by which it would appear they were then more extensively cultivated than they are at present. A small extent of land is still employed in hop-gardens, in the neighbourhood of Stowmarket, and at Rushmere, near Ipswich. Mr. Cobbold, the proprietor of the hop-grounds at the last-mentioned village, has also a garden of about 23 acres at Foxhall.

There are rabbit-warrens in the sand district about Thetford and Brandon, but these are neither so numerous or extensive as those on the opposite borders of Norfolk. At the latter town a warren is said to make an annual return of forty thousand rabbits, twenty rabbits per acre being the usual produce.

Suffolk is one of the earliest enclosed counties in England: the system of tillage is very uniform throughout the district, and the greater part of the land is under the plough. Two Suffolk horses will plough an acre a day; and nearly two on the sand-lands: the ploughmen

³ Worthies.

are remarkably skilful, and prizes are frequently distributed among them for such as draw the straightest furrow.

Besides all the common crops, carrots are grown on the sand-lands about Woodbridge, and rape-seed and hemp in the fenny district.

The turkeys, and poultry in general, are but little inferior in size and flavour to those reared in Norfolk; and game, in places, is very abundant.

Various Hundreds in the county are incorporated by Act of Parliament, and have erected Union-houses for the maintenance of the poor: they manufacture netting for the fishermen, spin, and cultivate a few acres of land: they are well kept and managed, but have not lowered the poor-rates to the extent anticipated. The best managed are of an expensive tendency, and of equivocal effect, as to comfort and morality;—where badly managed, they are nurseries of idleness and vice. There is a Pauper Lunatic Asylum at Melton, near Woodbridge.

The manufactories of Suffolk are very inconsiderable. At Sudbury and Mildenhall are mills for silk and woollen goods; the latter being a branch of an extensive concern at Norwich. The manufactory of woollen cloth at Sudbury was introduced in the reign of Edward III., but after a time it gradually declined. Crape, and bunting for ships' flags, are made here. It is calculated that fifteen hundred persons are now employed in this town in the silk, and about four hundred in the crape and bunting business. Silks and velvets are made by hand-loom weaving at Glemsford. The combing and spinning of wool for the Norwich manufactories is also pursued in many parts of the county, but carried to no great extent.

The manufacture of gun-flints at Brandon, which formerly employed sixty men, is now much reduced.

Straw-plat for ladies' bonnets is made at Clare, Cavendish, Lavenham, Haverhill, and many places in the south-western part of the county.

Woolpit is famous for its bricks.

The herring fishery off the coast of Suffolk commences about the middle of September, and ends in the beginning of December. The boats used in this trade are decked vessels of about forty or fifty tons burthen, and lugger rigged. The favourite fishing-grounds are situated about thirteen leagues north-east from Lowestoft. The boats continue at sea till they have obtained a sufficient cargo to bring into the roads. Instances are on record, where a single boat, under circumstances of extraordinary success, has taken twelve or fourteen lasts in one night, of ten thousand herrings to the last, or the surprising number of one hundred and forty thousand fish. About fifty or sixty years since, Lowestoft employed not more than thirty or thirty-five luggers annually in this fishery. Their number has, however, vastly increased. Sixty-five vessels were so engaged in the season of 1844.

Fishermen complain that the herrings are not so numerous on the 'grounds' as they were formerly; but it may fairly be questioned, if the increased number of boats, causing a smaller individual 'catch,' has not produced this seeming deficiency. The master of one of these boats reports to the writer, that though sixty-five luggers were employed in the autumn of 1844, that number was less by twelve than was engaged in the preceding season;—that no fishing vessels have been built at Lowestoft for nearly two years; and that the returns are so bad, there is no prospect of any being built for some time to come. The sixty-five boats employed during the last season took on an average twenty-one lasts of herrings per boat. Mackarel fishing commences in May, and ends in July. The same boats and crews are employed in this service as in the herring fishery. The boats are attended by fast-sailing cutters; and of late, by steam vessels, which collect the 'takings' of the luggers, and convey them to Billingsgate. During a favourable season, one hundred thousand mackarel are carried to that market every week. These fish are also brought on shore by ferry-boats, and sold by auction on the beach, to the owners of vans, who convey them to Town with incredible speed by land carriage; the success of this mode of trade depending entirely upon the quickness with which they are transported to London.

Suffolk is included in the Norfolk circuit. The Assizes are held in the spring at Bury St. Edmund's, and in the summer at Ipswich. Quarter Sessions for their respective divisions are held at Beccles, Bury, Ipswich, and Woodbridge. There are county gaols and houses of correction at Bury and Ipswich; county houses of correction at Beccles and Woodbridge; and borough prisons at Ipswich, Bury, Sudbury, Eye, Aldborough, Southwold, and Orford.

The county is divided into twenty-one Hundreds, besides the Liberty of the borough of Ipswich, viz., Babergh, Blackbourn, Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Carlford, Colneis, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Lackford, Loes, Mutford and Lothingland, Plomesgate, Risburgh, Samford, Stow, Thedwestry, Thingoe, Thredling, Wangford, Wilford.

These are subdivided into the 'Geldable portion,' in which issues and forfeitures are paid to the King; and the Liberties of St. Ethelred, St. Edmund, and the Duke of Norfolk.

The Liberty of St. Ethelred comprehends the Hundreds of Carlford, Colneis, Loes, Plomesgate, Thredling, and Wilford.

That of St. Edmund includes the Hundreds of Babergh, Blackbourn, Cosford, Lackford, the Half-hundred of Exning, Risbridge, Thedwestry, and Thingoe.

The Liberty of the Duke of Norfolk, which was granted to John Duke of Norfolk, and his heirs for ever, by letters patent, dated at Westminster, Dec. 7, 1486, includes several of his manors, for which he appoints a Steward and a Coroner, issues writs, and receives

all fines and amercements. In Norfolk this Liberty is very extensive, but in this county it embraces only the manors of Bungay, Kelsale, Carlton, Peasenhall, the three Stonhams, Dennington, Brundish, the four Ilketshalls, and Cratfield.

The Sessions for the two Liberties of St. Ethelred and St. Edmund are held at Woodbridge and Bury respectively. The Liberty of St. Edmund returns a Grand Jury at the Assizes, distinct from that returned by the rest of the county. In the reign of King Stephen, it was proved by Sir Henry de Glanvil, that all pleas, suits, and actions whatsoever, concerning any person in the Liberties of St. Edmund, except the pleas of murder or treasure trove, belonged to the court of St. Edmund, and were to be tried by the Abbot of Bury, his Steward, or other officer appointed by him. The Marquis of Bristol is now Lord of this Liberty.

The Geldable portion includes the Hundreds of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Hartismere, Hoxne, the two Half-hundreds of Lothingland and Mutford, Samford, Stow, and Wangford.

Suffolk formerly returned sixteen members to Parliament; but by the Reform Act, Orford, Aldborough, and Dunwich, were disfranchised, and Eye reduced to one member. Sudbury has since been deprived of its privilege, on the ground of bribery and corruption. The county now returns two members for the eastern, and two for the western division; two each for the boroughs of Ipswich and Bury, and one for Eye: total nine.

The polling places for the eastern division of the county are—Ipswich, Needham, Woodbridge, Framlingham, Saxmundham, Halesworth, Beccles, and Lowestoft.

For the western division the places of polling are—Bury, Lavenham, Stowmarket, Wickham-brook, Botesdale, Mildenhall, and Hadleigh.

The civil government of the county is in the High Sheriff for the time being, who is annually appointed by the Crown, and presides at the Assizes, and other important county meetings. There was but one High Sheriff for the two counties of Norfolk and Suffolk until so late as the year 1576.

The military and marine government of the county is entrusted to the care of the Lord Lieutenant, and who, as in the case of the late Duke of Grafton, is Vice-Admiral and Custos Rotulorum. As Lord Lieutenant he is the locum tenens of the Crown, and its Viceroy. He has the power of commissioning all officers in the Militia, appoints the Deputy Lieutenants, and, as Custos Rotulorum, puts such gentlemen as are properly qualified into the commission of the peace, and has the custody of the rolls or records of the Sessions of peace.

The principal fairs in Suffolk are—

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Aldborough, March 1, May 3.
 Aldringham, October 11, December 1.
 Barrow, May 1.
 Beccles, Whit Monday, July 11, Sessions, October 2.
 Bergholt, last Wednesday in July.
 Bildeston, Ash Wednesday and Holy Thursday.
 Blythborough, April 5.
 Botesdale, Holy Thursday.
 Boxford, Easter Monday.
 Boxted, Whit Tuesday.
 Brandon, February 14, June 11, November 11.
 Briect, July 5.
 Bungay, May 14, September 25.
 Bures, Holy Thursday.
 Bury, Easter Tuesday, October 2, December 1.
 Cavendish, June 11.
 Clare, Easter Tuesday, July 26.
 Cowling, July 31, October 17.
 Cratfield, September 16.
 Debenham, June 24.
 Dunwich, July 25.
 Earl Soham, July 23.
 Elmsset, Whit Tuesday.
 Elmswell, November 1.
 Eye, Whit Monday.
 Felsham, August 16.
 Finningham, September 4.
 Framlingham, Whit Monday, October 11.
 Framsden, Holy Thursday.
 Glensford, June 24.
 Gorleston, Whit Monday.
 Great Thurlow, October 10.
 Hacheston, November 12.
 Hadleigh, Whit Monday, October 10.
 Halesworth, Whit Tuesday, October 29.
 Hartest, April 23.</p> | <p>Haughley, August 25.
 Haverhill, May 12, August 26.
 Hinton, June 29.
 Horringer, September 4.
 Hoxne, December 1.
 Hundon, Holy Thursday.
 Ipswich, first Tuesday in May, May 18, July 25, August 22, September 25.
 Kedington, June 29.
 Kersey, Easter Monday.
 Lavenham, Shrove Tuesday, October 11.
 Laxfield, May 12 and 13, October 25 and 26.
 Lindsey, July 25.
 Lowestoft, May 12, October 11.
 Melford, Whit Tuesday.
 Mendlesham, Holy Thursday.
 Mildenhall, October 11.
 Nayland, October 2.
 Needham, October 12 and 13.
 Newmarket, Whit Tuesday, August 24.
 Orford, June 24.
 Polstead, June 16.
 Saxmundham, Holy Thursday, September 23.
 Snape, August 11.
 Southwold, Trinity Monday, August 24.
 Stanton, Whit Monday.
 Stoke-by-Clare, Whit Monday.
 Stoke-by-Nayland, February 25, Whit Monday, first Wednesday after Old May-day.
 Stowmarket, July 10, August 12.
 Stradbroke, third Monday in June, October 2.
 Stratford St. Mary, June 11.
 Sudbury, March 12, July 10, September 4.
 Thrandeston, July 31.
 Thwaite, June 30, November 26.
 Woodbridge, April 6, October 11.
 Woolpit, September 6.</p> |
|---|---|

Suffolk is in the province of Canterbury, and was formerly wholly included in the diocese of Norwich; but by an Act of Parliament, passed in the sixth and seventh of William IV., the Archdeaconry of Sudbury (except the Deaneries of Hartismere and Stow, now attached to the Archdeaconry of Suffolk,) has been transferred to the See of Ely.

The Deanery of Blackbourn, formerly included in the Archdeaconry of Suffolk, was added to that of Sudbury at the time of the same arrangement.

The Archdeaconry of Suffolk comprehends the sixteen Deaneries of Bosmere, Carlesford, Claydon, Colneis, Dunwich, Hartismere, Hoxne, Ipswich, Loes, Lothingland, Orford, Sam-

ford, South Elmham, Stow, Wangford, and Wilford; including 348 cures, of which 198 are rectories, 80 vicarages, 55 perpetual curacies, and 15 chapelries.

The Archdeaconry of Sudbury comprises the Deaneries of Blackbourn, Clare, Fordham,—part of which is in Cambridgeshire,—Sudbury, Thedwestry, and Thingoe; 174 cures, of which 126 are rectories, 18 are vicarages, 19 perpetual curacies, and 11 chapelries. The total amount of cures in the county is, therefore, 522, viz., 324 rectories, 98 vicarages, 74 perpetual curacies, and 26 chapelries. But by the union of cures the number of benefices is greatly reduced. There are four peculiars in the county, the rectories of Hadleigh, and Monks Eleigh, and the rectory and vicarage of Moulton, belonging to Canterbury, and the rectory and vicarage of Freckingham, attached to the See of Rochester. Of these preferments, fifty-four are in the gift of the Crown, thirty-four in the patronage of Colleges, four in the gift of Corporations, four in the gift of the Parishioners,—five, and one alternate, presentations in the Bishop of Norwich, three in the Dean and Chapter of Norwich, six in the Bishop of Ely, two in the patronage of the Archbishop of Canterbury, two in the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, and the residue in private hands.

The See of this Diocese was first fixed at Dunwich in Suffolk about the year 630, by Felix, a Burgundian priest, under the auspices of Sigebert, King of East Anglia. In 673, Bisus, the fourth Bishop, weighed down by age and increasing infirmities,⁴ divided the diocese into two parts, one of which was to embrace Suffolk with its See at Dunwich; and the other to be co-extensive with Norfolk, having its See at North Elmham. About the year 870, the two Sees were re-united by Bishop Wybred; but Suffolk never after regained its Episcopal dignity.

The Archdeaconry of Sudbury was erected in A. D. 1126, and the present Archdeacon is the Venerable George Glover, A. M., of South Repps. The Archdeaconry of Suffolk was instituted in 1127. The Venerable Henry Denny Berners, LL.B., of Woolverstone Hall, is the present Archdeacon, who holds Visitations at Ipswich, Wickham Market, Yoxford, Beccles, and Stradbroke.

The Rural Deans of this Archdeaconry are the following clergymen :

Bosmere	. . . . .	The Rev. R. Longe, and C. Shorting.
Carlford	. . . . .	— W. Potter, and E. Moor.
Claydon	. . . . .	— J. Bedingfeld, and W. Kirby.
Colneis	. . . . .	— W. J. Edge, and H. Edgell.
Dunwich	. . . . .	— S. Clissold.
South Elmham	. . . . .	— E. A. Holmes.
Hartismere	. . . . .	— Lord Bayning, and R. Cobbold.
Hoxne	. . . . .	— E. Barlee.

⁴ Godwinus.

INTRODUCTION.

Ipswich	The Rev. R. Mosley.
Loes	— Lord T. Hay, and G. Attwood.
Lothingland	— F. Cunningham, and C. Green.
Orford	— H. T. Dowler, and J. D. Money.
Samford	— R. Berners, and E. Gould.
Stow	— A. G. Hollingsworth, and C. Bridges.
Wangford	— A. I. Suckling.
Wilford	— W. P. Larken, and E. Walford.

The population of Suffolk, according to the census of 1841, was 315,073, of which 154,095 were males, and 160,978 were females; giving an excess of 6883 females over males, or 1045 females to every 1000 males. The same return shows that there were in Suffolk 208 inhabitants to every square mile, and 4·9 inhabitants to every house.

The average amount of rates per pound, levied in the county in 1841, was *2s. 9d.*

The number of criminal offenders was 482, or 1·5 in every 1000 inhabitants.

The increase of population between 1831 and 1841 was 6·3 per cent.; and the increase of inhabited houses, in the same period, was 27·7 per cent.

There were 574 houses being built at the time of the last return. The total annual value of real property in Suffolk, in 1841, was £1,297,956, and the annual value of land £912,062, giving an average annual value of land per acre of *18s. 9d.*

The summary of the returns of the amount of money levied, &c., and expended for the relief and maintenance of the poor, and for other purposes, during the year ending March 25, 1843, for the county, was as follows :

Amount levied by assessment	£ 182,059
Received from other sources in aid of the poor-rate	4,397
	<u>186,456</u>
Expended in relief, &c., of the poor	£ 139,919
Expended in law charges	1,293
Amount of fees paid to vaccinators	165
Outlay for register and certificate books	2
	<u>141,379</u>

The number of persons who emigrated in the year 1843 was seventeen, of whom four embarked for South Australia, and the remainder proceeded to Canada.⁵

The county contained in 1839, 281 miles of turnpike road, and 3235 miles of other highways, embracing an area of 1515 square miles.

⁵ Poor Law Commissioners' Report, 1844, p. 584.

According to the Reports of the Charity Commissioners, there are annual funds amounting to £3991, applicable to the purposes of education. The income of endowed schools is £2972, and a sum of £1018 is for educational purposes in schools not endowed.

The number of boarding-schools in 1833 was fifty-eight.

The state of the elective franchise in 1839-40 was as follows :

	East division.	West division.	Total.
Freeholders of every class	3708	3056	6764
Copyholders and customary tenants .	742	570	1312
Leaseholders, for a term, or for life .	40	22	62
£ 50 Tenants at will	1683	1283	2966
Trustees and mortgagees	14	13	27
Qualified by offices	134	131	265
Joint and duplicate qualifications . .	83	96	179
	6404	5171	11575

The principal historical events connected with this district, during the period of Roman domination, were, the revolt of the natives in the year 51, which was speedily quelled by the activity of Ostorius Scapula; and the insurrection of the Iceni, to revenge the wrongs of Boadicea and her daughters. This formidable rising, which had well-nigh extirpated the Roman power in Britain, was crowned with brief success. The native valour of the Iceni was unable to cope with the discipline of their opponents in a protracted warfare. The Royal family perished, the British chieftains were swept away, and their lands allotted to the conquerors. A vigorous administration of military government succeeded; numerous and important stations arose throughout the province, connected by solid and well-constructed roads; and the people passed into slavery and bondage.

The principal Roman road entered the county from Londinium, at the modern Stratford St. Mary's, on the Essex border, and, running northward towards Needham Market, left Ipswich on the right hand. It probably fell into the present mail-coach road to Norwich at Creeting: the names of the parishes of Stonham are there indicative of its course. It pursued its way by Yaxley, and, crossing the Waveney at Billingford, passed by Wacton, the Saxon wake (*i. e.* watch) town, Long Stratton, and Taseburgh, and terminated at the station of Venta Icenorum, now known as Caistor, by Norwich. It would appear that this road was not completed by the Roman soldiers without molestation; for the ancient name of Billingford, and under which it is recorded in Domesday Book, was Preleston: from

which we may infer that some severe contest (*prælium*) had taken place at this ford, between the Romans and the natives.

A vicinal way stretched from Taseburgh to Blythborough. It crossed the river Waveney into Suffolk at Bungay; proceeded by Spexhall, where, for a considerable distance, it retains the name of Stone Street; and, leaving the Halesworth road at the point called Broadways, ran through Holton, and onwards to Blythborough.

From the direction of certain lanes and driftways, now leading to bare heaths only, it seems likely that a branch of this 'Way' pursued its course to Dunwich, the *Dommoc ceastre* of King Alfred.

The Ickneild Street crossed the corner of Suffolk from Thetford to Newmarket.

A military road also intersected the south-west angle of the county, from the neighbourhood of Haverhill towards Cambridge.

A Roman way also crossed the entire county in a south-east direction from Thetford, by Ixworth, Woolpit, and Bildeston, to Stratford St. Mary; and the names of Norton Street, Fen Street, and Low Street, which occur on its line, plainly indicate its route. It also passed Stowlangtoft, where the remains of Roman castrametation are yet visible. This road is most probably the continuation of the well-known Peddar Way, which, proceeding from Brancaster and Hunstanton, in Norfolk, runs in a direct and still well-defined course, by Castle Acre and Swaffham; and, stretching across the dreary and bald heaths of Cressingham and Bodney, passed the clear and sparkling stream at Stanford, and then ran by Thetford to Ixworth, whence its route has been defined. A direct and unimpeded communication was thus opened from Londinium and Camulodunum to the extreme northern shore of the kingdom of the Iceni. The direction of this entire line from Stratford to Hunstanton is singularly direct; and it is altogether a remarkable route, whether we regard its extraordinary length, which exceeds 70 miles, or consider its undeviating course. It is not a faint emblem of the energy of the wonderful people who constructed it, whose plans of universal dominion crushed every impediment of distance, opposition, or danger. By it they were enabled to transport heavy-armed troops and military engines to at least six important stations in Icenia,—Stratford, Brettingham, Ixworth, Thetford, Castle Acre, and Brancaster.

A road is also conjectured to have extended from the Waveney, near Lopham Ford, through Ixworth to Bury. On this line we detect at the present day, the two villages of Stanton, and a place called Up-street Lane. In all probability this was a branch from Taseburgh, which seems to have been the recipient of a vast number of roads which convened at it in their course to *Venta Icenorum*.

A road ran from Dunwich, or Aldborough, perhaps from both, through Sibton, where a portion of it exists, in an extremely perfect state, just to the north-west of the Abbey

grounds. It stretched thence towards the Waveney, which it crossed near Harleston, and led onwards to Taseburgh.

From the direction of existing lanes, it is evident that a branch of this road diverged at Sibton or Peasenhall, and, directing its course by Baddingham, Dennington, and Soham, fell, at Pettaugh, into the long lane now called Stone Street, where it pursues a straight line for nearly four miles, and, passing Coddendam, joined the great road already mentioned as bisecting the county from Stratford to Billingford. This route afforded a communication from London, through Stratford, to the principal stations in the eastern parts of Suffolk.

A road must have run from Dunwich to the Ad Ansam, through Burgh, near Woodbridge, though it is not now to be followed with exactness. Traces of it appear in the name of Stratford, a village near Saxmundham, where it passed the river Alde.

These numerous roads, which thus spread over Suffolk like so many arteries in the system of Roman subjugation, terminated at strong fortresses, and afforded expeditious means of communication with the intermediate stations.

Of the stations themselves, scarcely one in the county is identified beyond doubt; their exact locality being still a subject of discussion. We may, however, be allowed to exercise our speculation; and possibly, like men groping in the twilight, may occasionally stumble on the objects of our search. In the ninth Iter of Antoninus we read thus: "A venta Icenorum Sitomago. M. P. XXXI. Cambretonio. M. P. XXII. Ad Ansam. M. P. XV."

If we follow the line of Roman road, as just detailed, from Caistor to Colchester, by the route of Thetford, Brettenham, and Stratford, we shall find the respective distances of these modern towns to coincide in a very remarkable degree with the measurement of Antoninus; allowing the difference between the Roman and the English mile. Thus from Caistor to Thetford is, by the old Roman route, 26 English, or, as we see above, 31 Roman miles. Now, as a Roman mile contained only 1614 yards, or $\frac{9}{10}$ ths and $\frac{1}{10}$ th of an English statute mile, the variation between the ancient and modern measurement is brought to about three miles. So, again, Cambretonium is placed by Antoninus at 22 Roman miles from Sitomagus, and Brettenham is about 20 from Thetford. Cambretonium is 15 of Antoninus's miles from Ad Ansam, and it is about 14 English miles from Brettenham to Stratford, measured in a straight line, as the Roman roads were constructed. The coincidence of these respective admeasurements, and the similarity of sound between Cambretonium and Brettenham, which is too remarkable to be passed unnoticed, are arguments as to the site of these three stations, which, if they do not carry conviction, are decidedly superior to any which controversy may prefer in favour of other localities. To place Sitomagus at Dunwich, or at Easton, which is almost undoubtedly the *ἐξοχή*, or *extensio* of Ptolemy, and thus make Burgh by Woodbridge the Cambretonium, is objectionable; for, besides that the distances do not so well accord with the Iter, it seems

inconsistent with military practice to march troops so much along the sea-coast, in preference to passing them through the heart of the province. Camden and Dr. Gale are firm in fixing Cambretonium at Brettenham. Horseley and Gale would fix Sitomagus at Woolpit, and Ad Ansam at Witham in Essex; but such an arrangement involves the Iter in inextricable difficulty.

If the Iceni be in Suffolk, sound would lead us to place it at Ixworth, undoubtedly a Roman station; but this claim is strongly advocated by some for Ickburgh in Norfolk.

The Villa Faustini has been placed at Yaxley: perhaps Bury St. Edmund's is its true position.

The Garianonum, mentioned in the Notitia Imperii, is almost universally fixed at Burgh Castle, by Yarmouth; but surely its only claim to this locality is its situation on the banks of the Yare, the Gariensis of former days; as no situation could be worse chosen for the evolutions of cavalry.

Roman earth-works may be traced at Burgh by Woodbridge, at Lidgate, at Blythborough, Bungay, Haughley, and Stowlangtoft. At Pakenham, midway between Ixworth and Bury, a tessellated pavement has been dug up; and at Wenham, at Felixstow, and in the vicinity of Bury, Roman antiquities of various descriptions have been discovered.

If, in examining these widely-extended, and not faint traces of the arts and the arms of our Roman conquerors, we have to lament the ravages of time, or still more, perhaps, of wanton neglect, they reflect, notwithstanding, in no ordinary degree, the warlike spirit of our aboriginal ancestors, which required these numerous strongholds to subjugate their power, and curb their doubtful allegiance; and they attest the fidelity of that portrait which Tacitus has drawn of their military gallantry: "*Iceni, valida gens, nec præliis contusi.*"⁶ That they were an unpolished people is unquestionable; for human nature, distant from the arts of civilization, and the refinements of social life, is always, more or less, sunk in barbarity; but many discoveries of recent days have rendered it doubtful whether they were so rude and savage as Cæsar has described them, and we may fairly question if he has not degraded them, to exalt his own triumphs.

At what period the Romanized Iceni were first subjected to the predatory attacks of the Saxons is uncertain. Cerdic, one of the earliest Saxon invaders, landed in 495 on the eastern coast of Suffolk, probably near Lowestoft; and after gaining a few inconsiderable advantages over the natives, withdrew his forces, and set sail for the western shores of the island. But the appointment of a military chieftain by the Romans, who was designated from the place of his command, Comes littoris Saxonici,—which embraced the coasts of Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Kent,—leads to a supposition, not unsupported by several

⁶ Tac. Ann. lib. xii. 31.

facts in local history, that the Saxons had gained a permanent settlement on our eastern shores, before the recall of the Roman legions from Britain. If such be the fact, their immigration was probably consequent on the revolt of Carausius, about the year 280. This chieftain commanded the Roman fleets in the North Seas, against the Saxon and Frankish pirates; but being urged by his ambition to assume the Purple, he coalesced with his lawless adversaries, employed them in his fleets, and, assisted by their valour and naval skill, bade defiance to the power of the emperors. The numerous estuaries on the eastern coast, which were at that time capable of receiving such armaments, were, of course, well known to Carausius, as High Admiral of these seas; and must have been now frequented by his piratical allies, even if they had been previously ignorant of their shelter. The broad channel of the Gariensis, now shrunk into the muddy shallow Breydon, and the waters of Lake Lothing, then an open haven, united their mighty tides, and formed one capacious port. At a period when the naval warfare of Britain was carried on, for the most part, against the piratical hordes of the North and the East, the importance of such a harbour could not have been overlooked. Here might the fleets of the usurping Admiral brave every tempest; and issuing hence, they rode triumphant on the seas.

Upon the subversion of the brief sovereignty of Carausius, many of the smaller Roman fortresses were raised on the coast to repress the incursions of the Saxons, who, harboured by the settlers brought in by Carausius, succeeded, in spite of the most vigilant precautions, to gain ground in the locality. Hence, on the abdication of Britain by the Romans, the contests maintained against the new invaders were neither severe nor protracted.

The ancient province of the Iccni daily witnessed the arrival of fresh bodies of the roving Saxons and Angles; and while the other States of Britain were struggling against the inroads of their rude invaders, the Saxon power became sufficiently consolidated here to lead forth an aggressive host to the banks of the Rhine, and compel the recreant Prince of the Varnians to fulfil his vows plighted to a Saxon princess. The province was finally erected into the independent kingdom of East Anglia by Uffa, about A. D. 571.

A succession of petty wars with the neighbouring States succeeded this event; during which East Anglia appears, gradually, to have receded from power. Redwald, the wisest and most powerful of her kings, and the only one who enjoyed the dignity of Bretwalda, is said to have kept his court at Framlingham, where he founded a castle.

Sigebert, to whom the East Anglians owe the establishment of Christianity, was slain in battle by Penda, King of Mercia, one of the fiercest tyrants that ever filled a throne. Egric, and Annas, the succeeding monarchs, fell by the same sword. The battle, which proved fatal to Annas and his son Ferminus, was fought in the year 654, at Bulchamp, near Blythborough, where the unsuccessful monarch and his son were buried. In 792 Ethelbert was treacherously murdered by Offa, King of Mercia, who annexed East Anglia

to his own dominions; which supremacy its inhabitants were unable to shake off till the year 823.

The fate of Edmund, familiar to us as the patron Saint of Bury Abbey, deserves a more extended detail. This prince was distinguished, in those days of violence and oppression, for his virtue and piety. In 870, Ingwar, a Danish chieftain, landed in East Anglia, and ravaged it with unprecedented ferocity. Thetford was pillaged and burnt, and its inhabitants violated and slain. Edmund, who was at Eglesdune, (now Hoxne,) in Suffolk, when these atrocities were committed, led an army against the invaders, whom he encountered near the scene of their brutalities. A desperate engagement ensued, which lasted from morning until evening, great numbers being slain on both sides. The Danes quitted the field of battle, and King Edmund retired with the remains of his army to Hoxne, "resolving," says the chronicler of Bury Abbey, "never more to fight against the Pagans, but, if it was necessary, to yield up himself a sacrifice for the people, and for the faith of Christ." Ingwar, mad with defeat, recruited his forces, and followed Edmund to Hoxne, where the latter was worsted, and fled. Hiding himself, says a tradition yet current in that village, beneath a little bridge, which still bears the name of Gold Bridge, he was discovered, by the glittering of his golden spurs, to a newly-married couple, who were returning by moonlight to their home. These votaries of Hymen—shame upon their heads—betrayed their monarch to the Danes. Edmund, as they dragged him from his hiding-place, indignant at the treachery, pronounced a malediction upon all who should afterwards pass this bridge on their way to be married; and no bride and bridegroom have been bold enough to venture on the forbidden path from that day to this. Edmund was put to death with circumstances of great cruelty, and buried at Hoxne. But miracles having been wrought at his tomb, his bones were afterwards removed to Bury, and canonized. Here their miraculous powers were more actively developed, and procured for the Abbey its wealth and distinction, and for that beautiful town its present appellation.

Eleven mounds of earth, on the Suffolk side of Thetford, in the parish of Barnham, are the enduring monuments of St. Edmund's encounter with Ingwar, and mark the site of this sanguinary battle-field.

The next important event in the early annals of East Anglia is its colonization by the Danes, who were planted here after their defeat by King Alfred, in the year 879. The frequent occurrence, among Norfolk and Suffolk families, of the names of Rolfe, Ladbrook, Hammond, Sego, Alpe, Goodrum, Tirketil, &c., is consequent on this immigration. Guthrum, the Danish chieftain, was baptized, with his followers, and remained faithful to his spiritual vows, and his allegiance to Alfred, until the day of his death. He was buried at Hadleigh.

Upon the subsequent invasion of England by the Danes, the most patriotic and effectual

resistance was offered to their inroads, in East Anglia; where, from the circumstance just narrated, it was least to have been expected. But the want of unanimity and co-operation among the Saxon Thanes led to the final triumph of the assailants. During these sanguinary contests, Ipswich was plundered by them in 991, and again desolated in 993, when its fortifications were destroyed. In the spring of the year 1010 a fearful battle was fought in the neighbourhood of Ipswich, which proved equally calamitous to that town, and the arms of the East Anglians. Ulketil, their chieftain, was defeated, and the government transferred to Turketel, a Danish commander, who assumed the title of Earl of East Anglia.

During the mild but feeble administration of Edward the Confessor, Suffolk became a separate Earldom, and was bestowed by him on Gurth, the brother of Harold, who fell by the side of that monarch at the battle of Hastings, valiantly defending the Saxon standard.

Besides the dignity of the Earldom, the possessions of Gurth in this county must have been large; for the number of persons recorded in Domesday as having held estates under him is very considerable. The decisive battle of Hastings produced a revolution in the laws, the manners, and the interests of England, the influences of which have not yet passed away. One of the principal of these changes was the almost total confiscation of the Saxon estates, and the substitution of new lords. In parcelling out these possessions, the conqueror bestowed above six hundred manors in Suffolk upon his followers, who held them as great tenants in capite. Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, William Warren, Earl of Surrey, William Malet, Lord of Eye, Jeffery de Mandeville, Richard Fitz-Gilbert, Earl of Clare, Hugo de Montford, Roger Bigot, and Ralph Baynard, obtained enormous grants. Robert Moreton, Odo, Earl of Albemarle, Eudo de Rie, Robert de Toden, Robert de Stafford, Alberic de Vere, Robert de Limesi, Hugh de Grantmesnil, Peter de Valoines, Swene de Essex, Roger d'Auberville, and Robert le Blund, acquired considerable estates.

Of these twenty puissant chieftains, who thus entered on the lands of the dispossessed Saxons, the history is very remarkable; and in tracing the respective fortunes of themselves and their descendants, if the reader question the immediate interference of retributive justice, he must, at least, acknowledge the emptiness of sublunary honour, and the mutability of earthly possessions. Eudo de Rie died without an heir male. The sons of three were banished the realm. The grandson of Swene de Essex, standard-bearer to Henry II., was deprived for cowardice. The line of three became extinct in the persons of their sons: three became extinct in the male line, in the third generation, and totally in the seventh or eighth—two were extinct in the fourth: one in the fifth; two in the sixth generation, and one in the ninth. The line of Alberic de Vere, however, after various forfeitures, misfortunes, and violent deaths, continued till the beginning of the eighteenth century,

when it was extinguished in the person of Aubrey de Vere, who died without issue male in 1702. Robert de Stafford is represented through the female line by the descendant of the more ancient Dane. Robert de Toden merged in female heirs in the seventh descent, and is represented, like the great Earl Warren, through female heirs only, by the house of Howard; but not one of them has left his name among the noble and the great. Had a persecuted Saxon seer predicted to these proud barons in the day of their triumph this complete, and in many instances, speedy annihilation of their fortunes and their race, his prophecy had been received with a scornful laugh; but what had been the indignation of the Norman, could he have known that the line of many of these dispossessed and despised Saxons should flourish in wealth and honour, ages after his own lineage was lost and forgotten.

King Stephen entered Suffolk with an army during his contests with the adherents of the Empress Maud, when he laid siege to Ipswich, which he took in the year 1153. Hugh Bigod, supporting the cause of the rebellious children of Henry II. against their father, brought the miseries attendant on this unnatural contest into the county of Suffolk. A body of Flemings, headed by the Earl of Leicester, landed at Walton, near Ipswich, where they were joined by Bigod. These mercenaries were encountered on the banks of the Lark, near Bury St. Edmund's, by the King's army under the command of Richard de Lacy, and totally routed. Above ten thousand of the Flemings were slain. The scene of this fearful carnage is pointed out by several tumuli, which may be seen on the right-hand side of the road leading from Thetford to Bury, about a mile beyond Rymer House. Seven of these tumuli are conspicuous for their size and height, and have given name to the spot. They, probably, cover the bodies of the commanders, and the most considerable persons among the slain. A gold ring, belonging to the Countess of Leicester, and supposed to have been lost by her in her flight from this scene of her husband's disastrous conflict, was found a few years ago in cleansing the river. Human bones, broken arms, and fragments of armour, are also occasionally discovered in the vicinity.

*"Agricola, incurvo terram molitus aratro,
Exesa inveniet scabrâ rubigine pila:
Aut gravibus rastris galeas pulsabit inanes,
Grandiaque effossis mirabitur ossa sepulchris."*

GEORG. I. 494.

Richard I. visited Suffolk on his return from Palestine, to pay his devotions at the shrine of St. Edmund at Bury; when he presented the royal standard of Isaac, King of Cyprus, to that monastery. It was at Bury that the first meeting between John and the Barons was held to adjust the national grievances, and to procure the signature of Magna Charta. Parliaments were held at Bury by Henry III. and Edward I., and in 1446 a

parliament was convened there for the purpose, it is thought, of effecting the destruction of Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester. But these are subjects of general, rather than of local history.

In the reign of Richard II., when the vast preparations were made at Sluys for the invasion of England, the coast of Suffolk presented a watchful scene. Twelve hundred and eighty-seven ships, according to Froissart, were assembled for this expedition in the opposite harbours of Sluys and Blanckenburgh. The Earls of Stafford and Pembroke were sent to Orwell⁷ with five hundred men at arms, and twelve hundred archers; Sir Henry, and Sir Faulx Percy, to Yarmouth, with three hundred men at arms, and six hundred archers. Watchmen were posted on all the hills near the sea-coasts opposite to France and Flanders. "The manner of posting these watchers was as follows: they had large Gascony casks filled with sand, which they placed one on the other, rising like columns: on these were planks, where the watchmen remained night and day on the look-out. They were ordered, the moment they should observe the fleet of France steering towards land, to light torches and make great fires on the hills to alarm the country, and the forces within sight of these fires were to hasten thither."⁸

When the agitation subsided, which had been caused by this threatened invasion, popular insurrections of a formidable character manifested themselves throughout England. In Suffolk, the insurgents amounted to above fifty thousand men. In 1381, they seized the person of Sir John Cavendish, Lord Chief Justice of England, and murdered him at Bury. Sir John Cambridge, the prior of that Abbey, was also beheaded by them. Their riots were at length quelled by the valour of Spencer, the martial Bishop of Norwich, and their forces totally dispersed.

In 1486, Suffolk was visited by Henry VII., who made a progress through it, to confirm the loyalty of the inhabitants, on the expected invasion of Lambert Simnel, who had assumed the name of Edward Plantagenet, and threatened a landing on the eastern coasts. Risings of a similar nature to those just detailed again took place in the county, when Kett's insurrection occurred in Norfolk during the reign of Edward VI. This spirit of insubordination manifested itself chiefly in the island of Lothingland, where the rioters assembled in great numbers, and committed various acts of violence and aggression. Notwithstanding a defeat, which they sustained at the hands of the men of Yarmouth, they succeeded in joining Kett on Mousehold Heath. Among other causes assigned by the rioters for this rising, the principal one alleged was the inclosing the commons and waste lands of the counties.

Upon the decease of Edward VI., his sister Mary first displayed her standard as Queen of England at Framlingham Castle, where she was speedily joined by the Suffolk and Norfolk

⁷ Query, Orford.

⁸ Froissart.

gentry in great numbers. Sir John Sulyard, of Wetherden, Sir Henry Bedingfeld, Sir John Shelton, Sir William Drury, Sir John Tyrrell, Richard Freston, Esq., and Sir Thomas Cornwallis, the High Sheriff for the Counties, were the foremost in her cause. Her forces speedily amounted to above 13,000 men, and hence she marched in triumph to London. The county participated in the miseries soon after inflicted on the nation by this bigoted queen and her ministers. Dr. Rowland Taylor was burnt at Hadleigh in 1555, for his adherence to the reformed church. The place of his martyrdom is a high and bleak spot, marked by a plain substantial column. Above twenty persons are recorded to have suffered at the stake in this county. Several were burnt at Ipswich, Bury, and Laxfield; and three were committed to the flames at Beccles in a most summary manner, without the warrant of Council.⁹

Queen Elizabeth visited Suffolk in her magnificent progresses, and sailed down the Orwell in great state, attended by the corporation of Ipswich.

Upon the threatened invasion of England by the Spanish Armada, Suffolk was eminent in loyalty, and sent a gallant assemblage of Knights and Gentlemen to augment the army encamped at Tilbury. These were "all choice men, and disciplined, and singularly furnished."

Sir William Waldegrave, Knight, had in his band	500 men.
Sir William Spring, Knight	500 men.
Sir Nicholas Bacon, Knight	500 men.
Sir John Heigham, Knight	500 men.
Robert Foorde, Esq.	500 men.

Two thousand men were left in the county to "defend the inland with the ports and the landing places."

Sir Robert Wingfield, Knight, had in his band	500 men.
Sir Philip Parker, Knight	500 men.
Sir Robert Jermyn, Knight	500 men.
Sir Thomas Barnadiston, Knight	500 men.

In August, 1599, Suffolk sent eighty-one horsemen and horses into Essex, near London, for the defence of the Court "against secret purposes intended."¹⁰

In 1635, during the reign of Charles I., the county of Suffolk was rated at £8000 for the support of a ship of 800 tons, manned with three hundred and twenty seamen. This sum was afterwards reduced to £6400, but even this the Sheriffs could not collect, through the alleged inability of the inhabitants to pay it.

The following are some of the returns :

⁹ Fox.

¹⁰ Reyce.

“ Barsham, May 6th, 1640.

“ Charles Suckling, Esq^{re}., his answer is that he doe not refuse to paye, but he have no munny.”

Then follow twenty-eight names of inhabitants.

“ All thes ther answers ar a like, and furthermore thaye saye, that if the constable plesse to leve uppon ther goods he Maye. JOHN MUSKIT, Constable.

“ The some chargid upon Barsham is £17. 3. 10, whereof collected 26^s, and 2 pence.

“ Shaddingfield was rated at £21. 1. 1½, divided among twenty-one persons. Thomas Robinson, Clerk, paid for the tythes he leateth out to his P'ishioners 14^s. 10. ½. Francis Cuddon, Gent. £2. 10. 0.

“ Shipmeadow was rated at £8. 11. 11, divided among thirty persons, whose names are mentioned. Tho^s. Whall, Clerk, was rated 5^s. 0. John Harborne, Esq^r. 18^s. 6. Robert Fox, 2^s.

“ The answer was, ‘ Wee finde our selves unable, beinge the most Parte of us poore farmers, by reason of the greate Taxations wch wee formerly hadd by the settinge forthe of souldiers with other echargis.’ Complayninge still they have noe mony, neither can gett any for commodities which they have. ‘ These thinges considered, we humblye crave yo^r woreshippe to be exempted and discharged.’ By RICHARD FIRBANCKE, Constable.

“ The Hamlett of Bungay Boysecott have not yett made a rate, and the constables name is Robert Goodale, but he can neyther write or reade. The Hamlett abovesayd is to paye £23. 14. 8. Richard Battle, a chief constable of the Hundred.

“ Loving Partner, I know not whether the High Sheriffe doe expect the Somes charged uppon those townes that have not made rates, but in the Warrant it is not expressed. If neede require, I praye enter my Limitt in my returne thus :

	£.	s.	d.
Shadingfield	21	1	1½
Cove	13	6	6½
Satterley	18	18	3½
Worlingham	17	12	4½
Ellough	15	3	4½
Willin: cum Hulverstreete	17	1	3½
	£103 3 0		

The answers from Ellough are as follow :

“ Christopher Weste, clerk, saith he hath not the money. Tho^s. Love, Gent.; Lyonell Seaman, Gent., and ten others return the same answer. John Love, Gent., saith further, his reason is, because he hath many Comodyties by him made of his Fearme, but cannot come to any sale for them. Will: Whitlesham doe returne the veray same answer. William Bardwell doth further protest he cannot paye it although he should be sent to the Gaile.

Nicholas Peeke, Gent., an outdweller, his answer is that he must save his money to pay the King his Subsidyes.

“THOS. GIRLING.

“WILLIAM WHITLAM.”

The names of persons refusing to pay the tax in Bungay, are given to the number of one hundred and twenty, of whom some answer that the “charges to there Towne where they live is soe great, that as yet they have no money to paie it;—this is there hole answer: others say, Tradinge is so deade that they have noe money; they would they had it to pay it very willinglye.” Others declare “the want of the poore in there Towne is soe great, that as yet they have noe moneye to paie.” Others, “that in Tradinge times are soe hard that they can skerslie mayntayne there charge and Famylic.” Others give no answer, and are not to be spoken with. The Constables thus sum up their return. “The whole Towne of Bongaie within the Burrowe is of Tradesmen, and tradinge soe fayle, and the Towne soe pore for want of Tradinge, that it is a generall complaynte in the whole Towne, not without just cause, as the Tradesmen find by Experience, willing to paie, but not able to performe it.”

The High Constables of the Hundred, in their general return, certify, “that the reasons why the Shipp monyes is not as well paid now (1640) as in former yeares is, that the Inhabitants are not able to paye the monyes charged upon them, being much impoverished by the fourmer Payments for Shipping, lying for the most parte upon Fearmers for the Landes in their Occupacon, whereas the Landlords, and other the most able and wealthyest men, pay but little for ther grete estats, for wch they have formerly used by way of subsyde to beare the greater parte of the charge upon the county: and likewise, that Tradinge is soe deade, and chese, butter, corne, and all other ther comodyties doe yield soe little price, as that they are not able to live, and pay their Rents.”

The volume concludes with a very pathetic letter, praying from the Crown a remission of the sum which cannot be collected.¹¹

Suffolk being one of the associated counties for the maintenance of the Parliament against Charles I., was placed under the command of the Earl of Manchester, and thus in great measure escaped the horrors of civil war, at the expense of its loyalty. A few cavaliers, however, endeavoured to secure the county for the King, but Cromwell surprised them at Lowestoft, which he entered in 1643, at the head of one thousand cavalry, and, seizing several of the most active loyalists, sent them prisoners to Cambridge. This bold proceeding of the usurper is thus recorded in the parish registers of Lowestoft.—“March 14, 1643. Col. Cromwell, with a brigade of horse and certain foot, which he had from

¹¹ Harl. MSS.

Yarmouth, came to this town, and from thence carried away prisoners Sir Edward Barker and his brother, Sir John Pettus, Mr. Knight of Ashwellthorpe, Mr. Catline, Capt. Hammond, Mr. Thomas Cory, with others, to Cambridge, and with these myself, (Rev. Jacob Rous, Vicar,) Mr. Thomas Allen, (afterwards Admiral Allen,) Mr. Simon Canham, and Thomas Canham of this town."

In 1644, Suffolk was harassed and disgraced by the visit of Matthew Hopkins, of Manningtree, in Essex, the self-styled witch-finder general; who, having received a commission from Parliament—can it be credited?—to perform a circuit through the associated counties, entered Suffolk for the discovery of witches. Armed with his powerful 'commission,' he inspected many towns, receiving twenty shillings from every place he visited. Sixty poor decrepit wretches were put to death by him in one year in this county, forty of whom suffered at Bury. Butler alludes to this demon's performances in 'Hudibras.'

"Has not this present parliament
A ledger to the devil sent;
Fully empower'd to treat about
Finding revolted witches out?
And has not he, within a year,
Hang'd threescore of 'em in one shire?"

Part II. Canto III. line 139.

Dr. Hutchinson, in his 'Historical Essay on Witchcraft,' page 66, tells us, "that the country, tired of the cruelties committed by Hopkins, tried him by his own system. They tied his thumbs and toes, as he used to do others, and threw him into the water, where he swam like the rest."

During the reign of Charles II., two obstinate engagements were fought off the Suffolk coast, between the Dutch and the English fleets. The first of these battles took place off Lowestoft, on the 3rd of June, 1665.

The English fleet was commanded by the Duke of York, afterwards James II. Under him were the impetuous Prince Rupert, and the gallant Earl of Sandwich. Cornelius Van Tromp was the Admiral of the Dutch. The forces were pretty equally balanced; each fleet consisting of about one hundred ships of war, and a few smaller vessels. After an obstinate battle the Dutch were defeated, with the loss of eighteen ships taken, and fourteen sunk or burned. The English lost only one ship.

The second encounter took place off Southwold, on the 28th of May, 1672, and is popularly remembered in Suffolk as 'Sole Bay Fight.' The fleets of England and France were on this occasion combined; the former consisting of sixty-five, and the latter of thirty-five, men-of-war. The Duke of York was again in command. The Dutch fleet under De Ruyter was composed of ninety-one ships of war, and some smaller vessels. The battle again proved obstinate, but, unlike the former brilliant encounter, indecisive.

The brave Earl of Sandwich was killed, and above two thousand officers and seamen slain. The English lost six ships of war; of which two were burned, three sunk, and one taken. The Dutch lost only three ships of war, but a number of their smaller vessels were destroyed. As the States-General prohibited an official return of the killed and wounded in this action, it may be inferred that the loss of the Dutch was unusually severe. The brunt of this action was sustained by the English, as the French are charged with having hung back at the onset, Count D'Etrees, their Admiral, having received private instructions to that effect from his Government. The French, however, lost two ships; and their Rear-Admiral was killed. The combatants were parted in the darkness of the night, during which the Dutch sheered off with their disabled fleet. The shattered state of the English squadron prevented pursuit.

In 1782, during the pressure of the American war, the patriotism of Suffolk convened a meeting of its principal inhabitants at Stowmarket; where it was agreed to raise a sum of money, by subscription, sufficient to build a ship of seventy-four guns, to be presented to Government. At the close of the year, it was found that only £20,000 had been assured, but as the general peace followed soon afterwards, the subscribers were never called on to fulfil their engagements.

On the 14th of January, 1736, George II. landed at Lowestoft, on his return from Hanover. When the royal barge, with his Majesty, the Countess of Yarmouth, and the Lords in attendance, approached the shore, a body of sailors belonging to Lowestoft, uniformly dressed in seamen's jackets, waded into the sea; and meeting the barge, took it on their shoulders, with the King, and all the nobility; and carried it to the beach without suffering it to strike the ground.¹² His Majesty proceeded to London, after remaining in Lowestoft about two hours, and was received at Ipswich with a congratulatory address from the Corporation of that town.

George IV., when Prince Regent, paid a visit of some days to the Marquis of Hertford, at Sudborne, near Orford, on a shooting excursion; but he never entered Suffolk after he ascended the throne.

The Earldom of Suffolk was granted by William the Conqueror to Ralph de Guader, who forfeited it, with his other honours, by rebelling against him. It was afterwards conferred on Hugh Bigod, by King Stephen; and on the extinction of his line, was given to Robert de Ufford, who was created Earl of Suffolk in 1337. It became again extinct on the death of his son, in 1382. This was the first family, since the Norman Conquest, that held it distinct from the Earldom of Norfolk.

¹² Gillingwater's 'Lowestoft.'

The honour was next conferred by Richard II. on Michael de la Pole, whom he raised to the Earldom on the 6th of August, 1385. It was connected with the various forfeitures and re-grants of that family, as a Dukedom, till its final extinction in the person of Edmund de la Pole, who was beheaded in the year 1513, and attainted; leaving no issue male. The title of Suffolk, as a Dukedom, was re-granted by the capricious Henry VIII. to his brother-in-law, Charles Brandon, and once more became extinct in the person of his son, Henry Brandon, who died in 1551, without issue. Henry Grey, Marquis of Dorset, having married Frances, daughter of Charles Brandon, by Mary Tudor his wife, sister to Henry VIII., was created Duke of Suffolk in 1551, but being beheaded and attainted for his designs on the Crown, in favour of Lady Jane Grey, the title was again lost by forfeiture. It then continued dormant till the reign of James I., when Thomas Howard, Baron Howard of Walden, youngest son of Thomas Duke of Norfolk, was created Earl of Suffolk on the 21st of July, 1603, with whose heirs and descendants it has ever since continued; but the Dukedom has never been revived.

The Norfolk and Suffolk round steeples have been the subject of much discussion. They were long popularly ascribed to the Danes, and Mr. Britton, in his *Essay on the Architecture of the Anglo-Saxon period*, countenances this opinion. He says, "the round towers attached to churches in Norfolk and Suffolk, the district of East Anglia, have been attributed, with some appearance of probability, to the Danes. As examples of architecture, they are certainly devoid of science, or beauty in design; and the masonry is of the very rudest, and most unskilful kind. They may fairly be referred to an age of barbarism; and no period of the English annals is more entitled to this appellation than that of the Danish, under the reigns of Canute, Harold, and Hardicanute."¹³ Mr. Gage, an acute and accurate antiquary, is far from according with this writer. He observes, "that the Danish dynasty subsisted in Northumbria, as fully as in East Anglia; yet not a single example of the round tower will be met with between the Humber and the Tweed."—"Instead of finding," he continues, "this rude and doubtful character, I saw pure Norman architecture, or the circular style, highly finished in some, and plainer in others, until it became more or less mixed with the English, or Pointed: and with surprise I found the early pointed style prevalent in a great many. There was but one tower, which I conceived might reach higher in antiquity than the twelfth century, and that one not being earlier than the Norman time. None could properly be said to be doubtful in the date of their construction; though some so mutilated and altered, that the original character was lost."¹⁴ The truth, perhaps, here, as in most disputed cases, lies in the middle course. Mr. Britton could not have examined these singular structures with any thing approaching to careful investigation, or his judgment

¹³ *Essay prefixed to 'Architectural Antiquities,' p. 74.*

¹⁴ *Archæol. vol. xxiii. p. 10.*

would never have assigned any great number of them to the Danish or Saxon period. And yet there are a few which challenge the accuracy of Mr. Gage's position, that "none rank higher in antiquity than the twelfth century." The tower of Cranwich Church, a village situated a few miles north of Brandon, possesses characteristics decidedly Saxon. The windows, of which there are but four, and those in the bell stage, are small and circular, and deeply splayed both within and without. These apertures contain twisted tracery, not unlike that in the tower of Barnak Church, in Northamptonshire. The whole air of this steeple differs so materially from the general appearance of these circular structures, as to have drawn an observation upon its peculiarity, even from so careless an investigator of ecclesiastical architecture, as the continuator of Blomefield's Norfolk. He says, "This tower is of great and venerable antiquity, built in the reign of the Danish kings, and probably by Harold, King of England, of whom a free man held a moiety of this town in the time of Edward the Confessor."¹⁵

The tower of Taseburgh Church, built within the lines of the Roman encampment there, is ascribed by Mr. Gage to a period little subsequent to the Norman Conquest. This is altogether a remarkable structure: freestone, and dressings of every kind, are absent throughout its entire fabric. It may enter the lists and challenge controversy as to its exact era, which is, perhaps, half a century or more, higher than the one assigned.

An examination of the interior of the round tower at Bungay will amply repay the curious in these pursuits. It has a singular triangular arch in the eastern face of the inner wall, abutting upon the apex of the roof of the nave; and the character of the stones employed in its masonry differs both in quality and size from those usually selected for our circular towers.

By far the greater number, however, of these structures are unquestionably Norman; but some are as late in their style as the reign of Henry III.; and very few are dubious in their character and construction. Their masonry may be described as consisting of rough and whole flints laid in very tenacious mortar. In some of the later examples thin bricks are introduced in their interiors, and in a few cases the flints are broken; and the squared faces laid outwards with considerable attention to regularity. They rise on an average to the height of fifty or sixty feet, upon a diameter of fifteen or sixteen; the thickness of the walls, in most cases, occupying the greater half. Their peculiar construction can only be ascribed to the resources of the district, which abounds with bolders, or rolled stones, but is altogether deficient in quarries whence squared stones might be obtained, so essential to the corners of rectangular buildings.

There are several churches in Suffolk, portions of which lay claim to Saxon antiquity,

¹⁵ Blomefield's Norfolk, Art. 'Cranwich.'

as the tower of Flixton, near Bungay, and a ruined church not far distant, which retains its ancient appellation of the Minster.

Norman architecture is of very frequent occurrence in the Suffolk churches: here, in many examples, a low ponderous square tower rises between the nave and the chancel, sometimes accompanied with transepts, and very frequently terminating at the east end in a semicircular apse. The most curious of these is the chancel at Fritton, by Yarmouth.

It is very remarkable, that while the Domesday Book records only one church as then existing in Cambridgeshire, and none in Lancashire, Cornwall, or Middlesex, three hundred and sixty-four are enumerated in Suffolk. Fuller¹⁶ tells us that the churches of Suffolk are all humble fabrics; but such an assertion proves an ignorance of his subject. What is to be said of those glorious structures at Lavenham, Melford, Bury St. Edmund's, Hadleigh, Framlingham, Southwold, Lowestoft, Beccles, and Blythborough—a fabric splendid even in decay! These, and others, are all so many examples of grandeur in design, and consummate skill in execution. Several of them display almost unparalleled specimens of open wooden roofs, which, borne aloft by figures in busto, or occasionally, as at Bury, by effigies in full proportion, exhibit a singular combination of boldness, picturesque effect, and geometrical skill. Despite the wear and tear of centuries, and the yet more hurtful botching of unskilful restoration, they put to shame the paltry imitations of modern design and carpentry.

There is a fine specimen of a wooden porch at Boxford, of the fourteenth century; and in the timber roof of that of Chevington, some of the beams bear marks of the dog-tooth moulding, which refer it to a century earlier.

Suffolk is unhappily not free from examples of modern church building,—those plague-spots of architectural beauty. Should the stability of these structures transmit them to posterity, which is greatly to be questioned, they will furnish to the pupils of a reviving school, remarkable monuments of deficiency of taste, and ignorance of architectural adaptation.

Of the ancient monastic buildings, in which Suffolk was once so prolific, the remains are few, and not generally imposing. The gate-houses of Bury Abbey are the foremost exceptions to this assertion; on the elegance and solidity of which fancy rebuilds the Abbey Church in all the grandeur of majestic elevation and tasteful decoration beseeing that wealthy establishment. The traces of foundation walls, and a breadth of western front, attest its vast extent, which few of our cathedrals rivalled; and of which old Fuller says “the sun never shone on fairer.” At Sibton are some shattered walls of the conventual church: at Butley is a gate-house, rich in heraldic sculpture; and Bungay presents some mouldering

¹⁶ Worthies.

but picturesque remains of former splendour. The chapel of the Augustines, at Clare, is converted into a barn. The spacious crypts at Herringfleet have lately been degraded into cottage residences. Among others, whose crumbling walls reflect faint tokens of former grace, a rather striking fragment is visible at Leiston.

Of castellated architecture more perfect specimens remain. Orford, with its polygonal Keep, 90 feet in height, recalls the stern magnificence of feudal days. Framlingham, a mere shell, frowns on the spectator, a still proud fortress. Wingfield, with its turreted gateway, is more entire, but less picturesque. The massy ruins of the castle of Bungay still remind us of the turbulent period in which its lord could bid defiance to the Crown; and Mettingham, with less of desolation, stands a proud monument of the noble families of Ufford and Norwich. But Suffolk is especially rich in examples of domestic architecture. Helmingham, embosomed amidst "its tall ancestral trees," Hengrave, Melford, Kentwell, Parham, Flixton—with its deep glades and sportive deer, the very paragon of old English mansions,—Wenham, Roos Hall, &c., are here briefly noticed as a few of her memorials of the taste and hospitality of a race whose descent will carry us to the highest period of authenticated history.

LIST OF BIRDS RARELY AND OCCASIONALLY MET WITH IN THE
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK.¹⁷

FALCONIDÆ.

- Falco albicilla*, Cinereous Eagle, Pennant. Mention is made by Yarrell of a pair of these birds having been trapped on a rabbit warren in this county, and in 1840 a very fine female was killed at Benaere, the seat of Sir Thomas Sherlock Gooch, Bart.
- Falco Haliæctus*, Osprey, Penn. This bird is rather scarce; but a few instances have occurred of its capture in Suffolk.
- Falco Islandicus*, Gyrfalcon, Penn. Very rare; according to Yarrell, six only of this species have been killed in England. One specimen taken on Bungay Common, and preserved by W. C. Edwards, is now in the possession of John Cooper, Esq., of North Cove.
- Falco peregrinus*, Peregrine Falcon, Penn. Frequently seen along the sea-coast, but seldom obtained, on account of its great swiftness; the adult rare; one specimen in the collection of Mr. T. M. Spalding, of Broome, near Bungay.
- Falco subbuteo*, Hobby, Penn. A summer visitor, scarce and difficult to procure. A fine bird killed at Flixton in 1839.
- Falco Æsalon*, Merlin, Penn. Rarely met with adult.
- Falco Tinnunculus*, Kestrel, Penn.
- Falco palumbarius*, Goshawk, Penn. A rare species in England. Yarrell mentions a fine adult taken in Suffolk in 1833. In January, 1841, a beautiful male was shot by Mr. T. M. Spalding at Benaere, and is now in his collection.
- Falco nisus*, Sparrowhawk.
- Falco milvus*, Kite, Penn. Formerly plentiful in wooded districts, but now rarely seen.
- Falco buteo*, Common Buzzard, Penn. As in the instance of the Kite, this bird is now scarce. An old male was shot by Mr. Spalding in the spring of 1844 at Benaere.
- Falco lagopus*, Rough-legged Buzzard, Penn. Rare; two killed at Benaere in 1843. Also one shot at Westleton by S. A. Woods, Esq., 1843.
- Falco apivorus*, Honey Buzzard, Penn. Very rare; one in the possession of Mr. Spalding, killed at Gorleston in 1841.
- Falco æuginosus*, Moor Buzzard, Penn. Scarce; famous for beating rush-marshes and low lands in search of birds and reptiles; and destructive to partridges in turnip-fields.
- Falco cyaneus*, Hen Harrier, Penn. In its adult or blue plumage rare. Very destructive to game; two beautiful females killed at Benaere in 1844.
- Falco hyemalis*. Ash-coloured Falcon, or Montague's Harrier. A male in Mr. Spalding's possession was shot by him in 1842 at Benaere. It is considered scarce in England.

STRIGIDÆ.

- Strix bubo*, Eagle Owl, Penn. Extremely rare, but Mr. Yarrell mentions it as having been taken in Suffolk.
- Strix otus*, Long-eared Owl, Penn. Thinly dispersed, frequenting plantations of spruce firs.
- Strix brachyotos*, Short-eared Owl, Penn. Common in October on the coasts.
- Strix stridula*, Tawny Owl, Penn.

¹⁷ Communicated by Mr. T. M. Spalding, of Broome, near Bungay.

LANIDÆ.

Lanius excubitor, Great Shrike, Penn. Rare, three specimens killed in 1839, and two in 1844.

Lanius collurio, Red-backed Shrike, Penn.

Lanius rutilus, Woodchat Shrike. Very rare.

MUSICAPIDÆ.

Muscicapa grisola, Spotted Fly-catcher, Penn.

Muscicapa atricapilla, Pied Fly-catcher, Penn. Has been noticed in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex.

MERULIDÆ.

Turdus cinclus, Water Ouzel, Penn. Rare; killed in 1844, and in the possession of Sir E. Bowater, Sotterley Hall.

Turdus Torquatus, Ring Ouzel, Penn. Two shot by Mr. Woods at Westleton in 1840.

Oriolus galbula, Golden Oriole, Penn. Rare; a female killed at Barsham Hall in 1818 by Mr. Spalding, and preserved by Mr. Crickmore, of Beccles.

SYLVIADÆ.

Sylvia Cœnanthe, Wheat-ear, Penn. Summer visitor to our downs and commons.

Sylvia locustella, Grasshopper Warbler, Penn.

Sylvia arundinacea, Reed Warbler, Penn.

Sylvia sylvicola, Wood Warbler, Penn. Shot at Benacre, 1844.

PARIDÆ.

Parus biarmicus, Bearded Titmouse, Penn. Frequenting the beds of reeds near the sea-coast.

AMPELIDÆ.

Ampelis garrulus, Waxen Chatterer, Penn. These birds visit this country at distant periods only.

EMBERIZIDÆ.

Emberiza glacialis, Snow Bunting, Penn. It frequents the coasts of Norfolk and Suffolk, and is occasionally found inland. Mr. Balls killed five at Ringsfield in 1835.

FRINGILLIDÆ.

Fringilla montifringilla, Bramble Finch, Penn.

Fringilla montana, Tree Sparrow, Penn.

Fringilla spinus, Siskin, Penn. Autumnal visitor.

Fringilla linaria, Lesser Redpole, Penn. Not uncommon, and breeds occasionally: this occurred in 1844.

Fringilla montana, Mountain Linnet or Twite, Penn.

Linaria canescens, Mealy Redpole, Penn. This pretty bird is rather rare, and is not generally known.

Loxia coccothraustes, Haw Finch, Penn. Rare; killed near Flixton Hall, 1840.

Loxia curvirostra, Crossbill, Penn.

STURNIDÆ.

Turdus roseus, Rose-coloured Ouzel, Penn. Mr. Hoy has recorded one killed at Woodbridge, July, 1832.

CORVIDÆ.

Corvus corax, Raven, Penn.

PICIDÆ.

Picus Major, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Penn.

Picus Minor, Little Spotted Woodpecker, Penn. It has been shot in Flixton Park.

Yunx Torquilla, Wryneck, Penn. Summer visitor.

CERTHIADÆ.

Upupa epops, Hoopoe, Penn. Rare; killed at Roos Hall in 1831.

MEROPIDÆ.

Coracias garrula, Roller. Very rare. John Cooper, Esq., possesses a bird shot at North Cove, and beautifully preserved by W. C. Edwards, of Bungay.

Merops apiaster, Bee-eater, Penn. Mr. Yarrell mentions one killed at Beccles, in the spring of 1825, in the possession of the Rev. R. F. Howman.

HALCYONIDÆ.

Alcedo ispida, Kingfisher, Penn.

CAPRIMULGIDÆ.

Caprimulgus europæus, Nightjar, Penn. The locality frequented by these birds is extensive heaths and moors bordering on woods.

STRUTHIONIDÆ.

Otis tarda, Great Bustard, Penn. Still occasionally found at Icklingham.

Otis tetrax, Little Bustard, Penn. Very rare.

Otis ædienemus, Thick-kneed Bustard, Penn. To be found on the waste lands at Covehithe and Dunwich Common, yearly.

Charadrius morinellus, Dottrel Plover, Penn.

ARDEIDÆ.

Ardea caspica, African Heron, or Purple Heron, Penn. Mr. Hoy has in the 'Magazine of Natural History' for 1837, vol. 10th, stated that a Purple Heron was shot in 1835 near the mouth of the Woodbridge river.

Ardea stellaris, Bittern, Penn.

Ardea nicticorax, Night Heron, Penn.

Ardea eiconia, White Stork, Penn. Killed at Mildenhall, 1830.

Platalea leucorodia, Spoonbill, Penn. Seen at Easton Broad, in 1835.

SCOLOPACIDÆ.

Scolopax totanus, Spotted Snipe or Spotted Redshank, Penn. Rare visitant. One shot on the Poor's Marsh, Covehithe, 1844.

Tringa glareola, Wood Sandpiper, Penn. Rare. A specimen killed at Easton Broad in 1844 by Mr. Spalding.

Scolopax glottis, Greenshank, Penn. This bird is sometimes seen on the salt-marshes about Covehithe and Easton Broad, where Mr. Spalding has shot it.

Recurvirostra avosetta, Avoset, Penn. Now very rare; has been killed at Orford and Easton Broad.

Scolopax lapponica, Red Godwit Snipe, or Black-tailed Godwit, Penn. But seldom obtained; Mr. Spalding has shot it at Easton Broad, the celebrated resort of wildfowl, belonging to Sir T. S. Gooch, Bart.

Scolopax regecephala, Godwit Snipe, Penn. Visits the eastern coasts in its annual migrations.

Scolopax major, Great Snipe. Rather rare.

Tringa islandica, Red Sandpiper, or Knot, Penn.

Tringa pueilla, Little Sandpiper, or Little Stint, Penn.

Tringa temminckii, Temminck's Stint. Rare; killed at Easton, 1843.

Tringa maritima, Purple Sandpiper, Penn. Rare; shot at Easton Broad, 1840.

RALLIDÆ.

Gallinula porzana, Spotted Gallinule, Penn.

Crex baillonii, Baillon's Crake, Selby. In the catalogue of the birds of Norfolk and Suffolk, published

in the 15th vol. of the 'Transactions of the Linnæan Society,' the Authors say, "We have met with a specimen of this bird in the collection of Mr. Crickmore, of Beccles, which was shot near that town."

ANATIDÆ.

- Anas segetum*, Bean Goose, Penn. Winter visitor.
Anas albifrons, White-fronted Goose, Penn.
Anas erythropus, Bernicle Goose, Penn.
Anas bernicla, Brent Goose, Penn.
Anas cygnus, Wild Swan, Penn.
Anas Bewickii, Bewick's Swan, Selby. Rather rare. Mr. T. M. Spalding shot a specimen at Dunwich in 1838.
Anas rutila, Ruddy Goose, Penn. Rare. Mr. Yarrell says, "In January, 1834, a specimen was shot at Iken, near Orford, on the coast of Suffolk."
Anas Tadorna, Sheldrake, Penn.
Anas clypeata, Shoveller Duck, Penn. This handsome duck has been known to breed at Benacre Broad.
Anas strepera, Gadwall, Penn. Rare.
Anas acuta, Pintail Duck, Penn.
Anas querquedula, Gargany, Penn. Rare.
Anas fusca, Velvet Duck, Penn. Mr. Hoy procured this bird in Suffolk.
Anas marila, Scaup Duck, Penn. This bird has been killed at Easton.
Anas fuligula, Tufted Duck, Penn. Ditto.
Anas glacialis, Long-tailed Duck, Penn. Yarrell says, "It is considered a rare bird, but has been killed on the coasts of Kent, Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk."
Anas clangula, Golden Eye, Penn.
Mergus albellus, Smew, Penn. Rare in adult plumage.
Mergus serrator, Red-breasted Merganser, Penn.
Mergus merganser, Goosander, Penn. Sometimes obtained in hard winters.

COLYMBIDÆ.

- Podiceps cristatus*, Great Crested Grebe, Penn. To be found on the Broads, particularly those which are shallow.
Podiceps rubricollis, Red-necked Grebe, Penn.
Podiceps cornutus, Slavonian Grebe, Penn. Rare.
Podiceps auritus, Eared Grebe, Penn. Very seldom seen, particularly in adult plumage.
Colymbus glacialis, Great Northern Diver, Penn. A bird of this kind was seen on Easton Broad by Mr. Rudd.
Colymbus septentrionalis, Red-throated Diver, Penn.

ALCADÆ.

- Uria troile*, Foolish Guillemot, Penn.
Alca alle, Little Auk, Penn. Rather rare.
Alca arctica, Puffin, Penn.
Alca torda, Razor-bill, Penn.

PELECANIDÆ.

- Pelecanus bassanus*, Gannet, Penn. Sometimes seen in stormy weather.

LARIDÆ.

- Sterna Boysii*, Sandwich Tern, Penn. Summer visitor.

INTRODUCTION.

xxxix

- Sterna Dougallii*, Roseate Tern, Penn. Orford.
Sterna fassipes, Black Tern, Penn.
Larus fuscus, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Bewick.
Larus argentatus, Herring Gull, Bewick.
Larus marinus, Great Black-backed Gull, Penn.
Larus glaucus, Glaucous Gull, Bewick. Rare.
Larus cataractes, Skua Gull, Penn. Rare.
Larus parasitacus, Arctic Gull, Penn. Rare. Mr. Spalding shot this gull in 1841 at Easton.
Procellaria pelagica, Stormy Petrel.
-

RARE PLANTS FOUND IN SUFFOLK.

- Trifolium suffocatum*. On the grassy part of the sea-beach, Gorleston, Aldborough, &c.
Urtica pilulifera. Lowestoft.
Chenopodium olidum. Ditto.
Aspidium spinulosum. Fritton Decoy.
,, *cristatum*. Ditto.
Althæa officinalis. Marshes about St. Olave's Bridge.
Eryngium campestre. Beach, near Dunwich.
Euphorbia paralia. Ditto.
Veronica spicata. Bury St. Edmund's.
,, *triphyllos*. Near Bungay.
,, *verna*. Thetford and Bury.
Crocus vernus. Harleston.
,, *reticulatus*. Barton, near Bury.
Digitaria sanguinalis. Henham.
Poa bulbosa. Lowestoft.
Spartina striata. Aldborough.
Holosteum umbellatum. Bury.
Asperula cynanchica. Ditto.
Centunculus minimus. Near Lowestoft.
Sagina maritima. Southwold.
Anchusa sempervirens. Walpole, near Halesworth.
Cyclamen hederifolium. Bramfield.
Anagallis cærulea. Saxham.
Viola hiata. Near Bury.
Erythræa pulchella. Lowestoft.
Thesium linophyllum. Bury.
Chenopodium urbicum. Corton.
,, *botryoides*. Lowestoft.
Salsola fruticosa. Southwold.
Chærophyllum sativum. Near Halesworth.
Coriandrum sativum. Ipswich.

INTRODUCTION.

- Linum angustifolium.* Darsham.
Leucogium æstivum. Little Stonham.
Fritillaria Meleagris. Laxfield and Little Stonham.
Tulipa sylvestris. Near Bury.
Ornithogalum nutans. Near Bury.
Hyacinthus racemosus. Cavenham.
Convallaria multiflora. Gorleston.
Frankenia lævis. Southwold.
Rumex sanguineus. Lowestoft.
Colchicum autumnale. Little Stonham and Bury.
Alisma Damasonium. Framlingham.
Oenothera biennis. Woodbridge.
Daphne Mezereum. Laxfield.
Pyrola rotundifolia. Bradwell and Middleton.
Scleranthus perennis. Near Bury.
Silene Otites. Thetford and Barton Mills.
Sedum anglicanum. Between Yarmouth and Dunwich.
 „ *glaucum.* Near Mildenhall.
Potentilla verna. Near Bury.
Delphinium Consolida. Near Bury and Brandon.
Lamium incisum. Saxmundham.
Leonurus Cardiaca. Bungay and Cove.
Antirrhinum spurium. Frequent in Suffolk.
Scrophularia vernalis. Near Bury.
Limosella aquatica. Lowestoft.
Orobanche ramosa. Near Beccles and Mettingham.
Teesdalia nudicaulis. About Bury.
Thlaspi arvense. South end of the beach, Lowestoft.
Nasturtium sylvestre. Bungay Common.
 „ *terrestre.* Ditto.
Erysimum orientale. Bawdsey, near Orford.
Azabis hirsuta. Bury.
Geranium phæum. Ash-Bocking.
Genista pilosa. Bury and Fornham.
Pisum maritimum. On the beach at Aldborough and Orford.
Vicia lutea. Beach at Orford.
Trifolium scabrum. Near Bungay.
 „ *glomeratum.* Saxmundham.
Medicago falcata. Bury.
 „ *muricata.* Sea-bank at Orford.
Crepis biennis. Near Bury.
Hypochæris maculata. Icklingham.
Diotis maritima. Near Landguard Fort.
Artemisia campestris. About Barton Mills, &c.
Senecio paludosis. Lakenheath.
Centaurea solstitialis. St. Edmund's Hill, Bury.

INTRODUCTION.

xli

- Aceras anthropophora*. In a chalk-pit at Ickworth.
Ophrys aranifera. Bury.
Malaxis Læselii. Bogs near Tuddenham.
Typha angustifolia. Bungay.
Carex curta. Near Blundeston.
,, *teretiuscula*. Barton Mills.
,, *pendula*. Near Woodbridge.
,, *ampullacea*. Near Bungay.
Myriophyllum verticillatum. Bungay.
Salix Lambertiana. Icklingham and Bury.
,, *incubacea*. Hopton.
,, *Smithiana*. Bury.
,, *stipularis*. Bury.
Aspidium cristatum. Westleton.
-

HIGH SHERIFFS OF SUFFOLK.

A. D.

1576. Robert Ashfield, of Stowlangtoft, Esq.
 1577. John Higham, of Barrow, Esq.
 1578. Sir William Spring, of Pakenham, Knt.
 1579. Sir Robert Jermyn, of Rushbrook, Knt.
 1580. Sir Philip Parker, of Arwerton, Knt.
 1581. Sir Thomas Barnardiston, of Kedington, Knt.
 1582. Sir Nicholas Bacon, of Redgrave, Knt.
 1583. Sir William Drurye, of Halsted, Knt.
 1584. Sir Charles Framlingham, of Debenham, Knt.
 1585. John Gurdon, of Assington, Esq.
 1586. George Colt, of Cavendish, Esq.
 1587. William Clopton, of Kentwell Hall, Esq.
 1588. Francis Jermy, of Brightwell, Esq.
 1589. Philip Tilney, of Shelley, Esq.
 1590. Sir William Waldegrave, of Smallbridge, Knt.
 1591. Thomas Rous, of Henham, Esq.
 1592. Nicholas Garneys, of Kenton, Esq.
 1593. Lionel Talmache, of Helmingham, Esq.
 1594. Robert Ford, of Butley, Esq.
 1595. Thomas Crofts, of Saxham, Esq.
 1596. Sir William Spring, of Pakenham, Knt.
 1597. Thomas Eden, of Sudbury, Esq.
 1598. Sir Anthony Wingfield, of Letheringham, Knt.
 1599. Henry Warner, of Mildenhall, Esq.
 1600. Anthony Felton, of Playford, Esq.
 1601. Edward Bacon, Esq.
 1602. Sir Edmund Withipol, of Ipswich, Knt.
 1603. Thomas Estotevile, of Dalham, Esq.
 1604. Sir Nicholas Bacon, of Redgrave, Knt.
 1605. Edmund Bokenham, of Great Thornham, Esq.
 1606. Sir Thomas Playters, of Sotterley, Knt.
 1607. Anthony Penning, of Ipswich, Esq.
 1608. John Wentworth, of Somerleyton, Esq.
 1609. Lionel Talmache, of Helmingham, Esq.
 1610. { Sir Thomas Wingfield, of Letheringham, Knt.
 { Sir George Le Hunt, of Bredfield, Knt.
 1611. Thomas Tilney, of Shelley, Esq.
 1612. Sir Calthrop Parker, of Arwerton, Knt.
 1613. Sir Martin Estotevile, of Dalham, Knt.
 1614. Sir Robert Brooke, of Yoxford, Knt.

A. D.

1615. Sir Robert Barker, of Trimley, Knt.
 1616. Thomas Clench, of Holbrook, Esq.
 1617. Sir Lionel Talmache, of Helmingham, Knt. and Bart.
 1618. { Sir Edward Lewknor, of Denham, Knt.
 { Sir Charles Gawdy, of Debenham, Knt.
 1619. John Wentworth, of Somerleyton, Esq.
 1620. Sir Henry North, of Wickham Brook, Knt.
 1621. Sir William Spring, of Pakenham, Knt.
 1622. William Whettle, of Ampton, Esq.
 1623. Robert Brooke, of Nacton, Esq.
 1624. Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston, of Kedington, Knt.
 1625. Geoffrey Pitman, of Woodbridge, Esq.
 1626. Samuel Aylmer, of Claydon, Esq.
 1627. Sir John Prescott, of Hoxne, Knt.
 1628. Maurice Barrow, of Barningham, Esq.
 1629. Brampton Gurdon, of Assington, Esq.
 1630. Sir Henry Bokenham, of Thornham, Knt.
 1631. John Acton, of Bramford, Esq.
 1632. Sir Robert Crane, of Chilton, Knt. and Bart.
 1633. Sir William Soame, of Thurlow, Knt.
 1634. Sir Edmund Bacon, of Redgrave, Knt. and Bart.
 1635. Sir John Barker, of Trimley, Bart.
 1636. Sir John Rous, of Henham, Knt.
 1637. Sir Philip Parker, of Arwerton, Knt.
 1638. { Sir Anthony Wingfield, of Letheringham, Bart.
 { Edward Duke, of Benhall, Esq.
 1639. John Clench, of Creeting, Esq.
 1640. Sir Symonds D'Ewes, of Stowlangtoft, Knt.
 1641. Sir William Spring, of Pakenham, Knt.
 1642. Sir William Castleton, of Bury, Knt. and Bart.
 1643. Maurice Barrow, of Barningham, Esq.
 1644. John Colton, of Earl Soham, Esq.
 1645. Sir Arthur Jenney, of Knodishall, Knt.
 1646. Thomas Bloss, of Belstead, Esq.
 1647. Thomas Kerridge, of Shelley, Esq.
 1648. Robert Wright, of Wangford, Esq.
 1649. Sir Wiseman Bokenham, of Thornham, Knt.
 1650. Sir William Hervey, of Hengrave, Knt.
 1651. { Edward Clarke, of East Bergholt, Esq.
 { Sir Robert Coke, of Huntingfield, Knt.
 1652. Edward Wennieve, of Brettenham, Esq.
 1653. Robert Cordell, of Long Melford, Esq.
 1654. Sir John Barker, of Trimley, Bart.
 1655. Martin Salter, of Battisford, Esq.
 1656. James Calthrop, of Ampton, Esq.

A. D.

1657. Thomas Baker, of Fressingfield, Esq.
 1658. John Wyard, of Brundish, Esq.
 1659. John Wyard, of Brundish, Esq.
 1660. Sir John Castleton, of Bury, Bart.
 1661. Renold Williams, of Stoke, Esq.
 1662. Joseph Brand, of Edwardston, Esq.
 1663. Francis Theobald, of Barking, Esq.
 1664.
 1665. John Bence, of Ringsfield, Esq.
 1666. Sir Edmund Bacon, of Redgrave, Bart.
 1667. Jeffrey Howland, of Covehithe, Esq.
 1668. Samuel Blackaby, of Stowmarket, Esq.
 1669. Sir Robert Diver, of Ipswich, Bart.
 1670. John Clarke, of Bury, Esq.
 1671.
 1672. John Risby, of Thorp Morieux, Esq.
 1673. William Soame, Esq.
 1674. Francis Sherwin, Esq.
 1675. Joseph Warner, of Sudbury, Esq.
 1676. Joseph Warner, of Sudbury, Esq.
 1677. John Acton, of Bramford, Esq.
 1678. Sir Willoughby D'Ewes, of Stowlangtoft, Bart.
 1679. Sir John Rous, of Henham, Bart.
 1680. Sir Robert Brooke, of Yoxford, Knt.
 1681.
 1682. Thomas Waldegrave, of Smallbridge, Esq.
 1683. Thomas Waldegrave, of Smallbridge, Esq.
 1684. Jacob Garrett, of Creeting St. Mary, Esq.
 1685. Sir John Cordell, of Melford, Bart.
 1686. Jeffery Nightingale, Esq.
 1687. Sir John Castleton, of Bury, Bart.
 1688. John Clerke, of Bury, Esq.
 1689. Edmund Sheppard, of Campsey Ash, Esq. *
 * 1690. Sir Dudley Cullum, of Hawsted, Bart. *In an old pedigree of the Hedington family, in the possession of Ph. Bennet Esq. MP. of Rougham Hall, Roger Herington of Rougham, is stated to have been High Sheriff of Suffolk in 1690. The second part of the pedigree, in which this statement is made, was written by Ambrose Kerington in 1709.*
 1691. Sir Joseph Brand, of Edwardston, Knt.
 1692. George Goodday, of Fornham, Esq.
 1693. John Hammond, Esq.
 1694. William Cooke, of Linstead, Esq.
 1695. Daniel Browning, Esq.
 1696.
 1697. John Pack, of Stoke Ash, Esq.
 1698. John Cornwallis, of Wingfield, Esq.
 1699. Thomas Aldrich, of Hessett, Esq.
 1700. Samuel Warner, of Parham, Esq.
 1701. Henry Cooper, of Yoxford, Esq.

B

A. D.

1702. John Scrivener, of Sibton, Esq.
1703. Sir Richard Allen, of Somerleyton, Bart.
1704. Richard Phillips, of Ipswich, Esq.
1705. Thomas Kerridge, of Shelley, Esq.
1706. Leicester Martin, Esq.
1707. Thomas Macro, of Bury, Esq.
1708. Richard Norton, of Ixworth Abbey, Esq.
1709. John Sheppard, of Campsey Ash, Esq.
1710. Stephen Bacon, Esq.
1711. Thomas Bloss, of Burstall, Esq.
1712. Francis Coleman, of Hacheson, Esq.
1713. John Ewer, of Chediston, Esq.
1714. John Sheppard, of Campsey Ash, Esq.
1715. Jonathan Myles, Esq.
1716. Joseph Chaplin, of Bergholt, Esq.
1717. John Inwood, Esq.
1718. Edward Clarke, of Bergholt, Esq.
1719. Nicholas Jacob, Esq.
1720. Bartholomew Young, of Bradfield, Esq.
1721. John Pitt, of Great Bealings, Esq.
1722. Sir Jasper Cullum, of Hawsted, Bart.
1723. John Boggas, of Great Finborough, Esq.
1724. Gregory Coppinger, Esq.
1725. Hustings Wilkinson, Esq.
1726. Thomas Driver, of Earl Stonham, Esq.
1727. Robert Goodrich, Esq.
1728. Sir John Playters, of Sotterley, Bart.
1729. Tobias Bloss, of Belstead, Esq.
1730. Sir Thomas Allen, of Somerleyton, Bart.
1731. Nathaniel Acton, of Hemingston, Esq.
1732. George Dashwood, Esq.
1733. Alexander Bence, of Thorington, Esq.
1734. John Eldred, Esq.
1735. John Reynolds, Esq.
1736. John Corrance, of Rougham, Esq.
1737. Reginald Rabett, of Bramfield, Esq.
1738. Sir William Barker, of Ipswich, Bart.
1739. William Acton, of Bramford, Esq.
1740. Edmund Jenney, of Bredfield, Esq.
1741. Samuel Lucas, of Chelmondiston, Esq.
1742. Baron Prettyman, of Bacton, Esq.
1743. Sir John Barker, of Sproughton, Bart.
1744. Robert Leman, of Wickham Market, Esq.
1745. Charles Scrivener, of Sibton, Esq.
1746. Philips Colman, of Ipswich, Esq.

A. D.

1747. Robert Edgar, of Ipswich, Esq.
 1748. Lamb Barry, of Syleham, Esq.
 1749. Thomas White, of Tattingstone, Esq.
 1750. Richard Oneby, of Lowdham, Esq.
 1751. George Goodday, of Fornham, Esq.
 1752. William Naunton, of Letheringham, Esq.
 1753. Robert Sparrow, of Brandiston, Esq.
 1754. William Jennings, of Acton, Esq.
 1755. Cooke Freeston, of Mettingham, Esq.
 1756. John Canham, of Milden, Esq.
 1757. Henry Moore, of Melford, Esq.
 1758. Robert May, of Sutton, Esq.
 1759. Sir John Rous, of Henham, Bart.
 1760. Thomas Thorowgood, of Kersey, Esq.
 1761. Thomas Moseley, of Ousden, Esq.
 1762. Shadrach Brice, of Clare, Esq.
 1763. Ezekiel Sparke, of Walsham-le-Willows, Esq.
 1764. Sir John Blois, of Yoxford, Bart.
 1765. John Golding, of Thorington, Esq.
 1766. { Gabriel Trusson, of Kelsall, Esq.
 { William Wollaston, of Great Finborough, Esq.
 1767. William Chapman, of Loudham, Esq.
 1768. Osborn Fuller, of Carlton, Esq.
 1769. Hutchinson Mure, of Great Saxham, Esq.
 1770. Eleazor Davy, of Ubbeston, Esq.
 1771. John Freston Scrivener, of Sibton, Esq.
 1772. Nathaniel Acton, of Bramford, Esq.
 1773. Thomas Maynard, of Wrentham, Esq.
 1774. Edmund Tyrell, of Gipping, Esq.
 1775. Richard Moore, of Melford, Esq.
 1776. John Frere, of Bacton, Esq.
 1777. Robert Sparrow, of Worlingham, Esq.
 1778. Reginald Rabett, of Bramfield, Esq.
 1779. John Sheppard, of Campsey Ash, Esq.
 1780. Samuel Rush, of Benhall, Esq.
 1781. Charles Kent, of Fornham, Esq.
 1782. William Middleton, of Crowfield, Esq.
 1783. Robert Trotman, of Ipswich, Esq.
 1784. John Wennieve, of Brettenham, Esq.
 1785. Sir Thomas Gooch, of Benacre, Bart.
 1786. James Sewell, of Stutton, Esq.
 1787. John Meadows Theobald, of Henley, Esq.
 1788. Sir Thomas Charles Bunbury, of Barton, Bart.
 1789. Nathaniel Lee Acton, of Livermere, Esq.
 1790. Miles Barne, of Sotterley, Esq.

- A. D.
1791. Sir William Rowley, of Stoke, Bart.
 1792. Alexander Adair, of Flixton, Esq.
 1793. George Doughty, of Leiston, Esq.
 1794. Charles Purvis, of Darsham, Esq.
 1795. Jacob Whitbread, of Loudham, Esq.
 1796. John Clayton, of Sibton, Esq.
 1797. Chaloner Arcedeckne, of Glemham, Esq.
 1798. John Sheppard, of Campsey Ash, Esq.
 1799. George Rush, of Benhall, Esq.
 1800. William Beaumaris Rush, of Raydon, Esq.
 1801. Charles Streyntsham Collinson, of Sproughton, Esq.
 1802. Thomas Cocksedge, of Bury, Esq.
 1803. Sir Harry Parker, of Melford, Bart.
 1804. Sir Robert Pocklington, of Chelmsworth, Knt.
 1805. George Nassau, of Trimley, Esq.
 1806. Michael William le Heup, of Bury, Esq.
 1807. Thomas Mills, of Great Saxham, Esq.
 1808. John Vernon, of Nacton, Esq.
 1809. John Dresser, of Blyford, Esq.
 1810. Joshua Grigby, of Drinkstone, Esq.
 1811. Roger Petteward, of Great Finborough, Esq.
 1812. Richard Moore, of Melford, Esq.
 1813. Harry Spencer Waddington, of Cavenham, Esq.
 1814. Edward Hollond, of Benhall, Esq.
 1815. Charles Tyrell, of Gipping, Esq.
 1816. Sir Charles Blois, of Yoxford, Bart.
 1817. Sir Robert Harland, of Nacton, Bart.
 1818. Charles Berners, of Woolverston, Esq.
 1819. Andrew Arcedeckne, of Glevering, Esq.
 1820. George Thomas, of Woodbridge, Esq.
 1821. Philip Bennett, of Rougham, Esq.
 1822. Ambrose Harbord Steward, of Stoke, Esq.
 1823. Henry Osborne, of Branches, Esq.
 1824. John Fitz-Gerald, of Bredfield, Esq.
 1825. Sir Henry Edward Bunbury, of Barton, Bart.
 1826. John Payne Elwes, of Stoke by Clare, Esq.
 1827. John Francis Leathes, of Herringfleet, Esq.
 1828. Hart Logan, of Kentwell Hall, Esq.
 1829. John Ruggles Brice, of Clare, Esq.
 1830. { John Wilson Sheppard, of Campsey Ash, Esq.
 { Sir William Middleton, of Shrubland, Bart.
 1831. John Read, of Holbrook, Esq.
 1832. Joseph Burch Smyth, of Ipswich, Esq.
 1833. Sir Thomas Sherlock Gooch, of Benacre, Bart.
 1834. John Garden, of Redisham, Esq.

A. D.

1835. Robert Sayer, of Sibton, Esq.
 1836. Edward Bliss, of Brandon, Esq.
 1837. Sir Hyde Parker, of Long Melford, Bart.
 1838. Thomas Halifax, of Chadaere, Esq.
 1839. Arthur John Brooke, of Horningshearth, Esq.
 1840. George St. Vincent Wilson, of Redgrave, Esq.
 1841. Sir Joshua Ricketts Rowley, of Tendring Hall, Bart.
 1842. Edward Bridgman, of Coney Weston, Esq.
 1843. William Long, of Saxmundham, Esq.
 1844. Sir Philip Brooke, of Nacton, Bart.
 1845. Henry Wilson, of Stowlangtoft, Esq.

KNIGHTS OF THE SHIRE IN PARLIAMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF
 SUFFOLK.

A. D.

1542. Sir Arthur Hopton.
 1547. Sir Anthony Wingfield. Sir Thomas Wentworth.
 1553. Sir William Drury. Sir Thomas Bedingfeld.
 1553. Sir William Drury. Sir Henry Jerningham.
 1554. Sir Thomas Jerningham. Sir William Drury.
 1554. Henry Jernegan. Sir William Drury.
 1555. The same.
 1557. Sir T. Cornwallis. W. Cordell, Esq. (Speaker.)
 1559. Robert Wingfield. William Walgrave.
 1563. William Walgrave. Sir Robert Wingfield.
 1571. Sir Owen Hopton. Thomas Seckford.
 1572. Nicholas Bacon. Sir Robert Wingfield.
 1585. Sir William Drury. Sir Robert Jermyn.
 1586. Sir Robert Jermyn. Sir John Higham.
 1588. Anthony Wingfield. Arthur Hopton.
 1592. Edward Bacon. Sir Clement Heigham.
 1597. Sir William Walgrave. Henry Warner.
 1601. Sir Henry Glemham. Calthrop Parker.
 1603. Sir John Higham. Sir Robert Drury.
 1614. Sir Henry Bedingfeld. Sir Robert Drury.
 1620. Sir Robert Crane. Thomas Clinch.

A. D.

1623. Sir William Spring. Sir Roger North.
1625. Sir Edmund Bacon, Bart. Thomas Cornwallis.
1625. Sir Robert Naunton. Sir Robert Crane.
1628. Sir William Spring. Nathaniel Barnardiston.
1640. Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston. Sir Philip Parker.
1653. Jacob Caley. Francis Brewster. Robert Dunken. John Clark. Edward Plumstead.
1654. Sir Thomas Barnardiston. Sir William Spring, Bart. Sir Thomas Bedingfeld. William Blois. John Gurdon. William Gibbs. John Brandling. Alexander Bence. John Sicklemore. Thomas Bacon.
1656. Sir Henry Felton. Sir Thomas Barnardiston. Henry North. Edmund Harvey. Edward Wennieve. John Sicklemore. William Blois. William Gibbs. Robert Brewster. Daniel Wale.
- 1658-9. Sir Henry Felton. Sir Thomas Barnardiston.
1660. Sir Henry Felton. Sir Henry North.
1661. Sir Henry Felton. Sir Henry North. Sir Samuel Barnardiston, in the room of Sir Henry North.
1678. Sir Gervase Elwes. Sir Samuel Barnardiston.
1679. Sir William Spring. Sir Samuel Barnardiston.
1681. The same.
1685. Sir Robert Brook. Sir Henry North.
1688. Sir John Cordell. Sir John Rous.
1690. Sir Gervase Elwes. Sir Samuel Barnardiston.
1695. The same.
1698. Sir Samuel Barnardiston. Sir Lionel Talmache. Earl of Dysart, in Scotland.
1700. Earl of Dysart. Sir Samuel Barnardiston.
1701. The same.
1702. Earl of Dysart. Sir Dudley Cullum.
1705. Earl of Dysart. Sir Robert Davers.
1707. Sir Robert Davers. Henry Martin.
1708. Sir Thomas Hanmer. Sir Robert Davers.
1710. The same.
1713. The same.
1714. Sir Thomas Hanmer, (Speaker.) Sir Robert Davers.
1722. Sir Thomas Hanmer. Sir Robert Davers. Sir William Barker, in the room of Sir Robert Davers, dead.
1727. Sir William Barker. Sir Jermyn Davers. Sir Robert Kemp, in the room of Sir William Barker, dead.
1734. Sir R. Kemp. Sir J. Davers. Sir Cordel Firebrace, in the room of Sir R. Kemp, dead.
1740. Sir Jermyn Davers. Sir Cordel Firebrace.
1747. Sir Cordel Firebrace. John Affleck.
1754. Sir Cordel Firebrace. John Affleck. Rowland Holt, in place of Sir Cordel Firebrace, dead.
1761. Rowland Holt. Thomas Charles Bunbury.
1768. Sir T. C. Bunbury, Bart. Sir J. Rous, Bart.
1774. Sir T. C. Bunbury. Rowland Holt.
1780. Sir T. C. Bunbury. Sir J. Rous.

INTRODUCTION.

A. D.

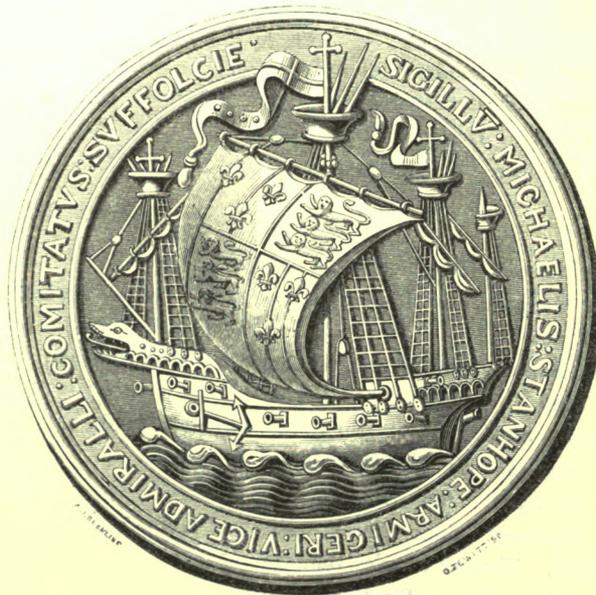
1784. Sir J. Rous. Joshua Grigby.
 1790. Sir J. Rous. Sir T. C. Bunbury.
 1796. Sir T. C. Bunbury. Lord Brome.
 1801. The same.
 1802. Sir T. C. Bunbury. Lord Brome. T. S. Gooch, in the room of Lord Brome.
 1806. Sir T. C. Bunbury. Thomas Sherlock Gooch.
 1807. The same.
 1812. Thomas Sherlock Gooch. Sir William Rowley, Bart.
 1818. The same.
 1820. The same.
 1826. The same.
 1830. Sir Henry Edward Bunbury. Charles Tyrell.
 1831. The same.

EASTERN DIVISION.

1832. Lord Henniker. Robert Newton Shawe.
 1835. Lord Henniker. Sir Charles Broke Vere.
 1837. The same. Lord Rendlesham, in place of Vere, dead.

WESTERN DIVISION.

1832. Charles Tyrell. Sir Hyde Parker, Bart.
 1835. Henry Wilson. Robert Rushbrooke.
 1837. Robert Rushbrooke. Hart Logan. Henry Spencer Waddington, in place of Logan, dead.



The Seal of Michael Stanhope, Vice-Admiral of Suffolk.—Temp. Eliz.

MEMORIALS
OF THE
ANTIQUITIES OF THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK.

THE HUNDRED OF WANGFORD.



HIS Hundred is written in Domesday Book Wanneforda and Waineforda, and takes its name from the town of Wangford, which is not now within its bounds. The fee of this Hundred being in the Crown in the reign of Edward the First, it was assigned by that monarch, with other estates to the amount of £400 per annum, to John de Claving, for life; in consideration of the settlement made by him upon the said king and his heirs, of his castle of Warkworth, and other manors in the county of Northumberland.

On the death of Sir John, the fee of this Hundred reverted to the Crown, and in the reign of Edward the Third it was returned as being "in manu W: de Norwico, Thesaur:." It afterwards fell to the Crown again, and continued part of the royal demesnes until 1822, when it was conveyed, on the 30th of April, in that year, by the Right Honourable William Huskisson, and William Dacres Adams, two of His Majesty's Commissioners of Woods and Forests, to John Garden, Esq., of Redisham Hall, who is the present possessor.

Its revenues arise from the rents of about twelve acres of land lying within its limits, together with certain quit-rents, and the goods and chattels of fugitives, outlaws, and suicides.

The Hundred is bounded on the north by the river Waveney, which divides it from Norfolk: on the west by the Hundred of Hoxne: on the south by the Hundred of Blything; part of which, and the Hundred of Mutford, bound it on the east. It contains twenty-nine parishes, of which Beccles and Bungay are market towns; and the hamlet of Hulverstreet.

It comprises three divisions, viz.: the seven parishes of Ilketshall; the nine parishes, or the township,

ANTIQUITIES OF THE

of South Elmham; and the parishes about Beccles. The nine parishes form the Deanery of South Elmham, and the rest constitute that of Wangford.

PARISHES IN THE HUNDRED OF WANGFORD.

Barsham.	St. Andrew.	} Ilketshall.
Beccles.	Bungay St. Mary.	
Ellough.	Bungay Trinity.	
North Cove.	St. John.	
Redisham Magna.	St. Laurence.	
Redisham Parva.	St. Margaret.	
Ringsfield.	Mettingham.	
Shaddingfield.	All Saints.	
Shipmeadow.	Flixton.	
Sotterley.	St. George.	} South Elmham.
Weston.	Homersfield.	
Willingham St. Mary.	St. James.	
Worlingham,	St. Margaret.	
and the	St. Michael.	
Hamlet of Hulverstreet.	St. Nicholas.	
	St. Peter.	

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

ACHESON, The Right Honorable the Lord, Worlingham Hall.
BAYNING, The Right Honorable and Rev. the Lord, Honingham Hall, Norfolk.
COLBORNE, The Right Honorable the Lord, West Harling, Norfolk.
MANNERS, The Right Honorable the Lord, Fornham Park.
NORTHAMPTON, The Most Noble the Marquis of, Castle Ashby, Northamptonshire.
NORWICH, The Lord Bishop of, The Palace, Norwich.
ORFORD, The Right Honorable the Earl of, Wolterton Hall, Norfolk.
RENDLESHAM, The Right Honorable the Lord, Rendlesham Hall.
SUFFOLK, The Right Honorable the Earl of, Cheltenham.
THURLOW, The Right Honorable the Lord, Ashfield Lodge, 2 copies.

Adair, Alexander Shafto, Esq., Flixton Hall.
Almack, Richard, Esq., Long Melford.
Alston, the Rev. E. C., Cransford Hall.
Anstruther, J. H. Lloyd, Esq., Hintlesham Hall.
Arcedeckne, Andrew, Esq., Glevering Hall.
Aplin, Captain, the Lodge, Melton.
Austen, Sir Henry E., Chelsworth Hall.
Austin, Charles, Esq., Brandeston Hall.
Bacon, Edmund, Esq., Raveningham Hall, Norfolk.
Barlee, Mrs., Duke's Bridge House, Bungay, 4 copies.
Baker, Mrs. Lloyd, Teignmouth, Devonshire.
Barlow, the Rev. G., Burgh Rectory, Woodbridge.
Barne, Frederick, Esq., Dunwich House, 2 copies.
Bartlett, Mrs., Ipswich.
Beccles Public Library.
Beck, Edward, Esq., M. D., Ipswich.
Bedingfeld, J. J., Esq., Ditchingham Hall, Norfolk.
Berney, T. T., Esq., Morton Hall, Norfolk.
Berners, the Rev. Henry Denny, Woolverstone Park.
Bidwell, the Rev. George, Stanton.
Bidwell, L. S., Esq.
Blakeley, Edward, Esq., Thorpe Hamlet, Norwich.
Blois, Sir Charles, Bart., Cockfield Hall, Yoxford.
Bland, Thomas, Esq., M. D., Melton.
Bohun, Richard, Esq., Beccles.
Boileau, Sir John, Bart., Ketteringham Hall, Norfolk.
Brewster, Cardinal, Esq., Halstead Lodge, Essex.

Brooke, F. C., Esq., Ufford Place.
 Brooke, John William, Esq., Sibton Park.
 Brown, W., Esq., Ipswich.
 Bulwer, the Rev. James, Aylsham, Norfolk.
 Bulwer, the Rev. A. E., Cawston Rectory, Norfolk.
 Bungay Book Society.
 Caius College Library, Cambridge.
 Capper, the Rev. J. L., Waltham Abbey, Essex.
 Carthew, George A., Esq., East Dereham, Norfolk.
 Clarke, Mrs. C., Beccles.
 Clarke, Mrs. S., Bungay.
 Chenery, Edgar, Esq., Eye.
 Chevallier, Clement, Esq., Beccles.
 Cobbold, the Rev. R., Wortham Rectory.
 Corner, George O., Esq., Eltham, Kent.
 Cottingham, . . . , Esq., Architect, London.
 Coyte, the Rev. James, Polstead Rectory.
 Creed, the Rev. Henry, Mellis Rectory.
 Cross, Frederick, Esq., Halesworth.
 Crowfoot, Henchman, Esq., Beccles.
 Crowfoot, William, Esq., Beccles.
 Cubitt, the Rev. F., Fritton.
 Cullum, Sir T. G., Bart., Hardwicke House.
 Cunningham, the Rev. F., Lowestoft.
 Dashwood, the Rev. G. H., Stow Bardolph, Norfolk.
 Davy, D. E., Esq., Ufford.
 Davey, Henry, Esq., Beccles.
 Day, John, Esq., Beccles.
 Deck, Mr., Ipswich.
 Deck, Mr., Bury.
 Denny, the Rev. R. C., Oulton, Lowestoft.
 Doughty, the Rev. C. Montagu, Theberton Hall.
 Edwards, Vertue, Esq., Colet Place, London.
 Elswood, A., Esq., Bungay.
 Farr, Thomas, Esq., Beccles.
 Francis, Henry, Esq., Beccles.
 Fitch, W. S., Esq., Ipswich.
 Folkes, Sir William Browne, Bart., Hillington Hall, Norfolk.
 Ford, the Rev. J., Navestock, Essex.
 Fowler, the Rev. F., Gunton.
 Garden, John, Esq., Redisham Hall.
 Garnham, Mr., Beccles.
 Golding, Samuel, Esq., Walsham le Willows.
 Gooch, Sir Thomas, Bart., Benacre Hall.
 Gooch, Mrs., Woodton, Norfolk.
 Gurney, Daniel, Esq., North Runcton Hall, Norfolk.
 Gurney, Hudson, Esq., Keswick, Norfolk.

Hills, R., Esq., Colchester.
Hill, . . . , Esq.
Hobler, Francis, Esq., Canonbury Square, Islington.
Howes, the Rev. F. G. F., Belton Rectory.
Howman, the Rev. A. E., Shiplake, Oxfordshire.
Howman, the Rev. G. E., Barnsley, Gloucestershire.
Howman, the Rev. E. J., Bexwell Rectory, Norfolk.
Howman, Miss, Beccles, 2 copies.
Hughes, Mr. William, London, 25 copies.
Humfrey, Rev. J., Wroxham Hall, Norfolk.
Hunt, William P., Esq., Ipswich.
Ipswich Public Library.
Jermyn, Rev. Edward, Carlton Rectory.
Josselyn, J., Esq., St. Edmund's Hill, Bury.
Kerrison, Sir Edward, Bart., Oakley Park.
Kett, George, Esq., Brooke House, Norfolk.
Leathes, the Rev. F., Reedham Rectory, Norfolk.
Lillingston, Alfred, Esq., the Lodge, Southwold.
Lillistone, Mrs., Beccles.
Livening, the Rev. H., Bedfont Vicarage, Middlesex.
Longe, John, Esq., Spixworth Hall, Norfolk.
Loudon, Miss Caroline, Bedford Place, Russell Square.
Malden Public Library.
Margitson, I. T., Esq., Ditchingham House, Norfolk.
Marsham, R., Esq., Stratton Strawless Hall, Norfolk.
Maynard, J., Esq., Orford.
Metcalf, Henry, Esq., Hawstead House.
Metcalf, . . . , Esq.
Middleton, Sir W. F., Bart., Shrubland Park.
Millers, the Rev. George, Canon of Ely Cathedral.
Muskett, Mr. Charles, Norwich, 2 copies.
Nicholas, Rev. G. F., Hadiscoe Rectory, Norfolk.
Norman, John, Esq., Southwold.
Norris, the Rev. D. G., Kessingland Rectory.
Norwich Chapter Library.
Norwich Literary Institution.
Norwich Public Library.
Palmer, . . . , Esq., Yarmouth.
Parker, T. H., Esq., Oxford.
Pawsey, Mr. Frederick, Ipswich.
Percival, Richard, Esq., Highbury Park, Middlesex.
Peto, S. Morton, Esq., Somerleyton Hall, 2 copies.
Randall, W. E., Esq., Southtown.
Read, H., Esq., Worlingham.
Rede, the Rev. Rede, Ashman's.
Rix, S. Wilton, Esq., Beccles.
Rodwell, W., Esq., Ipswich.

Rolfe, the Rev. S. C. Neville, Heacham, Norfolk.
 Safford, the Rev. J. C., Mettingham Castle.
 Scott, John B., Esq., Bungay.
 Scott, P. N., Esq., Norwich.
 Scott, the Rev. C. J., Shaddingfield Hall.
 Scrivener, Pike, Esq., Ramridge Park, Hants, and Sibton Abbey.
 Sharpin, E., Esq., Beccles.
 Sheriffe, the Rev. T., Henstead Hall.
 Skoulding, Mr., Ringsfield.
 Sloman, Mr., Yarmouth, 2 copies.
 Smith, John, Esq., Ellingham Hall, Norfolk.
 Speare, the Rev. J., Elmsett Rectory.
 Steward, Charles, Esq., Blundeston.
 Stone, Mrs., Beccles.
 Suffolk, the Ven. Archdeacon of.
 Thompson, Mr. George, Bury St. Edmund's, 4 copies.
 Thornhill, Thomas, Esq., Riddlesworth Hall, Norfolk.
 Thurlow, the Hon. Thomas Hugh Hovell, Capt. 7th Royal Fusileers.
 Thurlow, the Hon. John Edmund Hovell, Capt. 85th Light Infantry.
 Thurtell, the Rev. A., Privy Council Chambers, Whitehall.
 Tippell, Mr., Norwich, 2 copies.
 Tollemache, J., Esq., M. P., Helmingham Hall.
 Turner, the Rev. S. Blois, Halesworth.
 Turner, Dawson, Esq., Yarmouth.
 Turner, Francis, Esq., Lincoln's Inn.
 Tyrell, Charles, Esq., Polstead Hall.
 Wade, the Rev. Ellis, Blaxhall Rectory.
 Waddington, H. S., Esq., M. P., Cavenham Hall.
 Westhorp, the Rev. S. M., Sibton Vicarage.
 Whewell, the Rev. Dr., Master of Trinity College, Cambridge.
 Wilson, Henry, Esq., Stow Langtoft Hall.
 Wood, John, junior, Esq., Woodbridge.

* * * The Author has to apologize to very many of his patrons whose names do not appear in the preceding list, he not having been favoured with their address, in compliance with the request contained in his advertisements in the public papers.

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK.

Beccles.

THERE is no subject more pleasing to the thoughtful mind than a contemplation of the changes wrought by time on the face of nature—and few places present a more ample field for such retrospective meditation than the site of Beccles. The spectator beholds from the bold promontory on which it stands a wide and fertile valley, smiling beneath the industry of man. He sees churches, villages, and mansions, thickly studded along its wooded banks, and a winding silvery stream bearing on its bosom the peaceful sail of commerce. Here and there appears the silken pennon of the pleasure-boat fluttering in the breeze, or the patient angler pursuing his “contemplative recreation.” A spacious church, encircled by a thriving, well-built town, bounds the nearer view, and completes the picture of the present day.

In remoter ages how different was the scene. Then this tranquil valley lay buried beneath a broad impetuous arm of the sea, whose mighty tides bore along the hostile bark of the ruthless Dane, intent on violence and plunder. The Christian temple—the Beata Ecclesia—which has since given name to the spot, was then unbuilt—but a rude and lofty watch-tower occupied the site;¹ which, commanding a seaward view of the turbulent estuary, blazed forth the fearful notice of invasion to a beacon placed on the peninsula at Bungay. This in turn communicated with a third at Homersfield; and thus the intelligence was speedily passed along the valley of the Waveney, and into the heart of East Anglia.

The watch-tower at Beccles was, probably, defended by a ditch and rampart of earth; and the protection these afforded to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood in times of peril and alarm, gradually drew together a few simple habitations, which the security of the place, and its advantageous position for the herring-fishery, rapidly increased in numbers and importance: hence the origin of Beccles. In the year 960 the manor of this rising town was granted by King Edwy to the monastery of Bury; a circumstance which doubtless conduced to its prosperity, for the monks were far advanced beyond the barbarous manners of the times in which they lived, and were the depositaries of every useful art and science.

Under the mild rule of these ecclesiastics, who as landlords were less arbitrary than the feudal warriors, Beccles gradually progressed in population and wealth, and its flourishing state was further increased in the reign of William the Conqueror by the arrival of twenty-four burgesses who fled from Norwich to escape the penalties of Earl Guader's conspiracy.² These merchants brought with them a considerable share of the herring-fishery, then an important branch of trade both at Norwich and Beccles, and thus rendered these towns in some measure rival marts. In the course of a century from the grant of King Edwy, the commerce of Beccles had doubled, for at the period of the Domesday Survey the tale of 30,000 herrings, which had been paid to King Edward the Confessor as a fee-farm rent for the manor, was raised by the Conqueror to a tallage of 60,000. The town then contained twenty-six burgesses, besides inhabitants of an inferior grade. All who possessed property in it, could alienate their houses and lands, a privilege, at that time, not generally enjoyed. There was also a market, in which the Abbot had three parts, and the King one. It was one leuca in length, and eight furlongs in breadth, and paid 16*d.* gelt. It also possessed a church, endowed with twenty-four acres of glebe.³ Roger Bigot took care of an estate for the King of about two hundred acres of land, with the profits arising from the fourth part of the market, as before stated. This appears to have been then held as a separate manor, but it soon after fell into the possession of the Abbot, and was united with his principal lordship.⁴ It was probably the manor called in ancient deeds the manor of Endgate, and which was returned in the reign of Edward I. amongst the estates of the Abbot of Bury.

The situation of Beccles at this period must have been bleak, for there was wood sufficient for the maintenance of only eight swine; while the river had receded so slowly that the Abbot's manor contained but ten acres of meadow.⁵

The early importance of Beccles is further confirmed by the 'Monasticon,' which, referring to the citizens of Norwich, says, "They had not before the Conquest, nor for a hundred years or more after it, any coroners or bailiffs from among themselves; but they had one bailiff only, who, in the King's name, held courts and collected amercements, as was done in *Beccles*, and *Bungay*; or in other towns where merchandize is sold."⁶

King Stephen confirmed to the Abbot the previous grants of King Edwy, reserving to himself "the pleas of the Crown."⁷

By an ancient inquisition, sans date, it was returned that "the Abbot and Convent of St. Edmund hold the town of Beccles of the gift of Stephen, once King of England;

² Domesday Book.

³ Domesday.

⁴ *Id.* Terra Regis.

⁵ Domesday.

⁶ Mon. Ang. vol. i. p. 408.

⁷ Mon. Ang.

and therein they claim to have the view of Frankpledge, &c.; they know not by what authority; and the Abbot comes and says that himself and his predecessors have held the manor of Beccles, with the liberties aforesaid, from the time of King Edwy, before the conquest of England; and he says that in the book which is called Domesday, it is stated that in the time of King Edward, St. Edmund held the aforesaid town of Beccles: and of this he vouches to warrant the aforesaid book, called Domesday.”

The Abbot, as Lord of the Manor, had a right of free-warren in Beccles, but whether this was exercised by grant or prescription does not appear. He also possessed the right of free-fishery in the waters of the Waveney, from Gerard's fleet to Beccles bridge;—a privilege which was afterwards extended as far as St. Olave's;—with a Leet, or power of electing officers for the management and control of the fishery—for the fixing the size of the meshes of the fishing-nets used in the above waters; and for preventing nuisances committed therein. This right of free-fishery, which was obtained by the Abbot in 1268 from John le Bigot, does not seem to have been an exclusive grant, but extended to all the inhabitants of the town; they being subject to the regulations of the Leet.

The words of the grant are as follows:

“Anno 53 Hen. 3. John le Bigot legavit finem Abbati de Bury, et hominibus de Beccles communis piscariæ in aquâ de Beccles a ponte de Beccles usque ad Gerards fleet.”⁸

The Abbot had also a Swannery in these waters, to which belonged a swan-mark, being “a squire and an ollyett: the squire upon the right side of the beak, and the ollyett on the left; and if any swan with an overlaid marke happen to be found in the common streame called the water of the Waveney between the flecte called Gerard's fleet, and St. Olave's bridge, the same belongs to the Lord of the Manor of Beccles in right of the said manor.”⁹

In the 26th of Edward III., the Abbot obtained an exemplification of his liberties between “Coppoliston et molendinum de Werlingham,” and in the town of Beccles.¹⁰

In the year 1448, there was a suit between the Abbot and the Lord of the Manor of Roos Hall, to determine whether Jerard's Hill belonged to the manor of Beccles or Roos Hall, which seems to have been determined in favour of the latter.¹¹

The revenues arising from the manor of Beccles were granted by King Edwy to purchase vestments and shoes for the monks of St. Edmund.

The manor and advowson of Beccles remained with the Abbots of Bury till the

⁸ MS. Brit. Mus.

⁹ Jermyn MSS. Brit. Mus.

¹⁰ Records in the Tower of London.

¹¹ Claus. 27 Hen. 6. n. 19.

dissolution of that monastery in 1539, and were granted on the 6th of February, 1541, to William Rede, citizen and mercer of London. This gentleman enjoyed his grant but one year; for by an inquisitio post mortem taken at Ipswich on the 6th of April, 34th of Hen. VIII., he was found to die on the 10th of February in that year, seized of this property.

The manor and advowson seem then to have passed to his second son, William Rede, who, dying in 1552, left his widow a life interest in the same. She afterwards married Sir Thomas Gresham, the founder of the Royal Exchange in London; who in right of his wife presented to the church. By an extent and survey of the manor taken in 1587, when Dame Anne Gresham was again a widow, it was determined by a water-leet then held, "that if any fisherman whatever do fyshe in the sayde water (of Beccles) from the sayde fleete unto the sayde bridge (of Beccles) with any manner of nett, the shale or meshes thereof not being in wydnes two inches and an half of the rule (grounde netts, wherewith they take eles only excepted), every such nett is forfeite unto the Lord of the Manor abovesaid, over and above twentye shillings in the name of a payne; and all the fish taken in the same unlawful nett." These salutary measures seem to have been strictly enforced by subsequent lords; and the fines inflicted on several offenders are recorded in the court-books at no very distant period; but it is much to be regretted that a water-leet has not been held for the manor since the 18th of November, 1797.

In 1673, Sir Robert Yallop was Lord and Patron. From the Yallops the manor and advowson passed to the family of Bence, of Henstead, and from the Bences, by marriage, to the Sparrows, of Worlingham Hall. On the death of the late Robert Sparrow, Esq., in 1822, they descended to his daughter Mary, the wife of Archibald Acheson, Earl of Gosford, and in consequence of her decease are now held by the said Earl of Gosford, and Dawson Turner, Esq., of Yarmouth, in trust, to the use of the Earl for life, with remainder to Lord Acheson, his son by the said Mary Sparrow, in fee.

That portion of the manor called Beccles Fen, which was returned in Domesday as containing only ten acres, became in process of time, by the gradual withdrawing of the waters, of considerable extent. At first, perhaps, it merely supplied rushes for the use of the inhabitants of the town; and not being considered of much value by the Abbot, they were allowed to apply the produce to themselves. However, in 1391 the townspeople took possession of the fen or common, and began to exercise this permission as a right; but were soon compelled to yield to the claim of the Abbot. By a verdict, in an action of novel disseisin, 15th of Richard II., between William, Abbot of Bury, demandant, and Roger Atte Lee, and ten others, all described as inhabitants of Beccles, defendants, the rights of the said Abbot William, and his

predecessors, were fully established; and the Abbot recovered seizin of the pasture land or fen, which then contained fourteen hundred acres.¹²

“Although the precise nature of the tenure by which the fen was held, or of the regulations for the management of it, cannot be positively ascertained, the general purport and intent of them may be collected from the proceedings in a Chancery suit instituted by the Corporation against John Rede, in the reign of Elizabeth, now remaining amongst the evidences of the Corporation; in which it is stated, that in the beginning of the reign of King Henry VI., the Abbot and Convent of Bury did, by a deed under their convent seal, grant, demise, and confirm unto divers persons by name, then inhabitants of Beccles, ‘a certaine greate ground of marshe, fenne, and pasture, called and knowne by the name of Beccles Fen, or Beccles Common, then, or long time before, beyng parcell of the manor of Beccles, parcell of the possessions of the said late dissolved monastery, contayning by estymacion 1400 acres.’ To hold to the said persons, named in such deed, and their heirs for ever, to the intent that the fen should thenceforth be and remain as common feed and pasturing, for the beasts of the inhabitants, and tenants of the said Abbot within the town of Beccles: with the privelege of taking thack, rushes, and other commodities thereof, renewing for ever; paying to the said Abbot, and his successors, the yearly rent of £ 6. 13s. 4d.”—
“Thus, although the fen was indisputably parcel of the manor of Beccles, there is no evidence to authorize a supposition, that it was ever part of the waste of the manor, or a common on which the tenants had any legal right of commonage; but on the contrary, a sole and exclusive ownership appears to have been exercised by the Abbot and Convent; and that ownership supported by a trial at law with the inhabitants.”¹³

The only memorial now in existence in the archives of the Corporation of any transaction between the Abbot and the inhabitants, is the following receipt:

“Thys bylle made the ij de day of Septembyr the iij de yer of Kyng Henry the viij te wytnessyth, that I Herry Furmage, syrvente of Mr. Chambryer of the Monestery of Bury Seynt Edmond, hath receyved of John Waters, John Herryng, John Thorn, and Richard Buk, fenrevys of the town of Beckelys for the yerly ferme of ther fen, x marck of good and lawful mony to the use and be hofte of hys seyde maystyr. In wytnesse here of I the seyde Herry have set to my seal and subscrbyd my name wyth my hand the day and yer a bove seyde. P’ me HENRICU FURMAGE.”

From this document it appears, that a yearly rent of ten marks was paid to the Abbot for the fen, and that it was governed by four Fenreeves, in the same manner probably as by the second grant of Henry VIII.

¹² Harl. MSS.

¹³ Account of the Corporation of Beccles Fen.

In the transactions which took place upon the dissolution of the monastery, relative to the procurement of a grant of the fen from the king, there seems to have been much misunderstanding and contention among the inhabitants. These disputes continued for a number of years to be maintained with much acrimony, and on one or two occasions, with bloodshed; and as they occasioned great expense in law proceedings, they were the original cause of enclosing parts of the common, and demising them for terms of years, in order to defray these expenses. The first grant of Henry VIII. was made in the year 1540, to William Rede, merchant, and his heirs, in trust, for the benefit of himself and others, inhabitants of the town of Beeceles. The sum paid for this grant, to the king's use, was £120. Now there seems to have been in the hands of Mr. Rede, the sum of 400 marks, arising from the sale of lands and sheep at Blofield, belonging to a gild in the town; besides a further sum, arising from the sale of plate belonging to the said gild. This money had been placed in Mr. Rede's hands by the 'gildermen,' who by this sale anticipated the king, and left but little for him to seize at the dissolution of the fraternity, which soon after took place. They had before taken upon them to discharge the Abbot's annual fee-farm of ten marks; and it was now determined, that from the fund produced by the sale of their property, the expenses attending the procurement of the grant should be defrayed. It was the application of this fund which gave rise to all the subsequent disputes. The inhabitants charged Mr. Rede with the embezzlement of a part of the money; while he asserted, that he had expended the whole of it, together with other money of his own, on account of the grant. It was, however, at length finally accorded, by an indenture drawn up by Mr. Sergeant Gawdy, of Gawdy Hall, between William Rede, of Beeceles, in the county of Suffolk, on the one part, and Thomas Rede, son and heir of the said W. Rede, and John Thorn, churchwardens of Beeceles, and others, on the other part; "That whereas the seid Will'm Rede hath purchased of o'r seid sov'reign lord ye comen of Beeclis—to ye use and comodite of the seid towne for the inh'tants of the same, for the payment and p'chase whereof it was in variance betwyne the said p'ties whether the money wherwith ye seid comen was purchased were the p'per monye of the seid Will'm Rede or ye stock or monye of ye seid inhabitants, whereupon hath risen and growne moche variance and contention, wherefore it is now fully concluded graunted assented and agreed &c. and alsoe it is confessed by the seid Will'm Rede and ye seid other p'ties that the seid comen was purchased indifferently with the money of the seid Will'm Rede and ye moneye of ye seid inhabitants beyng in the custodie of the seid Will'm Rede to ye use of the seid inhabitants, by reason of w'ch seid p'chase there is no money remaynyng in the hands and possession of the seid Will'm Rede. And the seid chirchwardens and inhabitants by thes pt's do dyscharge the seyd Will'm Rede and his executors of and for all and syngler soms of money &c. And it is also

further agreed &c. that it shall be lawful to the seyd inhabitants and evry man ells to sey that the seyd comen was bought and p'chased with the money of the seyd Will'm Rede and the money of the seyd inhabitants, remayning in the possession of the seyd Will'm Rede to th'use of the seyd inhabitants without offendyng of the seyd Will'm Rede, and yt the seyd Will'm Rede shall not be offendyd wyth the seid report but be content therwith and not to sue or troble eny man for so seying."

Still it appears great jealousies existed in the breasts of a majority of the inhabitants, on account of the exclusive power which was given by the letters patent to the family of Rede, of making rules and constitutions for the government of the fen; a power which does not seem to have been very temperately exercised. The townsmen therefore, three years afterwards, (1543) procured a revocation of the former grant, on the ground of non-performance of certain conditions, and obtained a new grant to *themselves*, by virtue of which the fen was to be governed by four Fenreeves, chosen annually from among the inhabitants. This gave satisfaction for a time, as it was nearly what they had been accustomed to under the abbots. But considerable expense had been incurred, to defray which, it was resolved to resort to the former expedient of enclosing and demising; and this led the way to fresh disputes, and a renewal of the quarrel with the family of Rede.

For the space of forty years these animosities were kept up with the utmost rancour on both sides; during which time, various suits at law were prosecuted, which proved very expensive and decided nothing. The peaceable householders (for in the whole body of the householders of the town was vested the right of choosing the four Fenreeves) refused to attend at the annual election, on account of the desperate affrays which usually took place on that occasion; and therefore ordinances were made to compel their attendance. At length the authority of the Fenreeves was set at defiance, and every one seized such of the archives as he could possess himself of, and either retained or destroyed them. The latter fate seems generally to have attended them; for notwithstanding an order or constitution, "touching bringeinge in of the evidence," made a few years after, in which heavy fines and punishments were denounced against all such as should refuse "to bring in the said evidences, writeings, accounts, books, rolls, leasses, and all other nots and writeings aforesaid, undefaced and uncanceled, or in as good case as the same now be," very few of these documents are at present to be found.

It would be useless to detail the particulars of these disputes, even if the memorandums of them which remain rendered it possible to do it with impartiality. The issue of them was, a surrender of the fen, with all the rights, &c., to Queen Elizabeth, by an act of the inhabitants in general, assembled at the *church*, January 26, 1584; the instrument of which surrender was subscribed by the *churchwardens* and

other inhabitants, and sealed with the common seal of the *town*. But although this surrender seems to have been sanctioned by a majority of the inhabitants, there was still a large party in opposition to the measure, who endeavoured by false reports, and groundless insinuations, to render the promoters of it unpopular. The lower classes were made to believe that their rights were to be done away, and that certain individuals were about to purchase the common to themselves and their heirs: in consequence of which, fresh riots and disturbances arose every day; the pound, gates, &c., were destroyed, and the windows of the guild-hall demolished. The measure, however, which met with so much opposition, was the most prudent that could possibly have been pursued. The instrument of surrender set forth, that it was made to the intent and purpose that the fen might be granted again, in a more effectual manner, to a select body of the inhabitants, who were to be incorporated under the name of the Portreeve, Surveyors, and Commonalty of the Fen of Beccles, in the county of Suffolk. Letters patent were accordingly granted, bearing date on the 2nd July, 1584, by which the Corporation was erected and constituted in the form which it still retains, and to whom the fen was re-granted in as ample a manner as it had been granted by the former letters patent of Henry VIII.

In the year 1605, the charter granted by Queen Elizabeth, and afterwards confirmed by her, was still further confirmed by James I., on the 19th of May. Some attempts were made, about the twenty-first of James I., to invalidate the charter, by one Lockington, and also by a Mr. Vaughan, the rector of Beccles, but they only tended to ratify and strengthen it. Some issues also appear to have been tried about this time, tending to ascertain the magisterial jurisdiction of the Portreeve; when it was found, that his authority extended no farther than to the affairs of the fen, and to enforcing the laws made for the government of it.

In 1652, an order was received by Mr. Joseph Cutlove, the Portreeve, from the Committee for Corporations, then sitting in the Queen's Court at Westminster, to appear before the said committee, with the charter, on the 30th of December, in conformity to an order of parliament, of the 14th of September, in that year, "touching the alteration and renewing of the severall and respective charters of this nation; when, after serious debate had thereon, it was judged most agreeable with and suitable to the government of a commonwealth, that they be held from and under the authority of the same." This order created no small alarm to the Corporation, since, at all events, it would prove an expensive business; and they feared also, lest they should lose their present charter, and receive in return another, which, under a change of the present unstable government, might not prove equally valid and secure. They therefore obtained, by the mediation of certain members, who were friends of the Portreeve, an extension of the time fixed for their attendance on the committee; and this ex-

tension was renewed from time to time, under various pretexts, till the business was forgotten. Thus, by the good management of the Portreeve and his friends, the charter of King James remained safe and unaltered in their possession, as it still continues.¹⁴

By the charter of James I., the inhabitants of Beccles were constituted a body corporate, by the name of the Portreeve of the Fen of Beccles in the county of Suffolk, and the Surveyors and Commonalty of the said Fen. They had a grant of a common seal, with a power to plead and be impleaded, to purchase, give, grant, and demise; to have, hold, and enjoy, the aforesaid fen for ever, by fealty, and a rent of 13*s.* 4*d.* to be paid annually at the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, in lieu of all services, exactions, and demands whatsoever. And for the good government of the fen and the inhabitants, the Portreeve, Surveyors, and Commonalty of the said fen, and their successors for ever, were to have the assistance of Common Councilmen selected out of the inhabitants of the town, composed of two classes, called the twelves, and the twenty-fours. The Portreeve to be annually elected out of the twelves, and to continue in office one year. The first Portreeve thus elected was John Baas. They were also empowered to build a council-house, to be called the guild-hall; to erect a prison; to call assemblies; to make laws and rules and by-laws, touching the good rule and government of the fen; and to dispose of the profits for the common utility and benefit of the inhabitants; and other pious and charitable uses. The Portreeve and Surveyors to be chosen on the Monday after Lady-day, and new elections to be made in case of death or displacement within twelve days. The date of this charter is May 19th, the second of James I.

The government of Beccles is now vested, under the Municipal Reform Act of 1835, in a Mayor, four Aldermen, and twelve Councillors. The borough is co-extensive with the parish. It has no commission of the peace, but the Mayor is a magistrate in right of his office, and during the year subsequent to his mayoralty.

The old seal of the corporation bears the date of 1584. On it is a representation of the town gaol, in front of which is a pound enclosing three oxen. The legend is

SIGILV̄ : COĒ : NOVE : INCORPORACŌIS : & : BECCLES : FFĒNE.

It is flatly cut, and is now disused, being superseded by that of the present corporation. On the new seal is a very fair delineation of the south porch of the parish church; which, though an exquisite piece of architecture, is an inappropriate symbol of the temporal government of the town. Both these seals are deficient in that picturesque effect which distinguishes those of what modern arrogance has been pleased to call the barbarous ages.

The ancient commerce of Beccles was confined to the herring-fishery. Myriads

¹⁴ Extract from a small book entitled 'an Account of the Corporation of Beccles Fen.'

of these fish must have frequented the estuaries of the Yare and Waveney at that early period; for besides the tale of 60,000 paid annually to the Crown as a fee-farm rent for Beccles, Domesday records many similar imposts payable by the several villages and towns along their shores, varying in quantity according to the wealth and population of the places. For the convenience of those buying and selling this article of merchandize in Beccles, a chapel was erected on the west side of the market-place, and dedicated to St. Peter, he being the patron of fishermen, and a fisherman himself.

In the year 1205, the Abbot of Bury obtained a grant for a fair to be held here for eight days, commencing on St. Peter's day, the 29th of June; which grant is recorded in the Pipe Rolls of that reign in the following terms:

“ Abbas de Sc^o Edm^o r: comp: de j marc p: habend: j feria viij dies apud Beccles.”¹⁵

In the reign of King Edward I., the Commissioners appointed by that monarch to inquire into the abuses committed in the kingdom during his absence in Palestine, reported that at this fair, the Rural Dean had for thirty years past unjustly taken tolls, without any warrant whatever.¹⁶

As the waters receded from the valley of the Waveney, the herring-fishery gradually declined, and the chapel of St. Peter became less frequented, and finally fell into disuse. Divine service, however, was performed in it as late as the year 1470, for William Symonds by will, dated the 15th of December in that year, leaves “ fabricæ ecclesiæ de Beccles vj^d: capellæ Seti Petri de Beccles iij^d.”¹⁷

Dr. Tanner says, “ St. Peter's chapel was never under the cure of the Rector of St. Michael, yet it was no parish church, and no chantry, and had no monks, canons, or friars belonging to it; and yet several persons were buried therein.”¹⁸

This chapel was seized by the King on the dissolution of religious houses, and granted with the manor and advowson of Beccles in 1541 to William Rede, who disposed of it to be held by copy of court-roll; for in the will of Margaret Thurston, dated the 20th of December, 1595, she deviseth “ one ground or yard of copyholde with the houses, buildings and appurtenances called St. Peter's church-yard, or known by that name, in Beccles.” And in 1583, it is recorded that “ Margaret Thurston, widowe, holdeth to her and to her heirs, by copy of court-roll of the xxvj of her Majesty's

¹⁵ Rot. Pip. de A^o 7 R. Johan.

¹⁶ Rotuli Hundredorum. These valuable records contain inquisitions taken in pursuance of a special commission issued under the Great Seal in the second of Edward I. They furnish evidence of almost every family of importance at that time, and of many facts of high interest from the year 1274 to 1317; and the assistance they afford the genealogist and topographer may be estimated by the indexes of names, which contain references to about 70,000 persons.

¹⁷ Jermyn MSS.

¹⁸ Tanner's MSS. pen. Epis. Norwic.

reign, all that the olde chirche-yarde at the west end of the olde markett-place, of ould tyme called St. Peter's chirche: the footpaths taken out of the same only excepted; and payeth therefore by year." ¹⁹

The site of this chapel and cemetery is indicated by Mr. Webster's house and garden. Upon the decay of the herring-fishery, the old part of the town which had principally occupied the low site near the bridge, became gradually deserted. Houses sprung up on the higher ground, and streets were progressively extended to the south of the church-yard. Hence the market-place became inconveniently situated, and a new area was selected for that purpose. This movement seems to have been simultaneous with the rebuilding of St. Michael's church; for in 1379, which is a few years after that noble fabric was commenced, it was returned that Reginald Hakoun and John Fittelle had enclosed certain parcels of land near the flesh-stalls in the new market of Beccles, which were valued at *Sd.* per annum. "Quasd: p̄cellas terr: juxta le Fleshstalls, ad nō an Mercat: ville de Bekeles, &c." ²⁰

The bridge mentioned in 1268, when the Abbot of Bury obtained his grant of free-fishery "a ponte de Beccles," was probably of timber. The present bridge was begun about the year 1437; for in a will dated that year is a legacy "ad fundationem pontis de Beccles," and in another, dated 1452, we find a bequest "ad facturam novi pontis de Beccles." ²¹

The low spring of the centre arch—for those on the sides are of a later construction—shows that the river has altered very little in expanse and depth since the period of its erection. There was formerly a hermitage and a chapel attached to it, at the foot of this bridge, dedicated to St. Mary, wherein an anchorite, who subsisted by the contributions of passengers, performed divine service. The erection of small chapels on or near the foot of ancient bridges was very frequent in early times, and the most beautiful specimen existing, or perhaps that was ever erected of its kind, is that on Wakefield bridge, built about the time of Edward III. Of the style or elegance of this at Beccles it is now impossible to speak, but it seems to have been rebuilt in the year 1500, when we meet with a legacy "to the new chapel of St. Mary;" and in 1523, William Best, by will, gives to the chapel at the bridge *xx.* ²²

The site of this little establishment is pointed out by a modern public house, called the Hermitage, and is the property of St. Michael's church, its rents being appropriated to the repairs of that fabric. These are at present almost nominal; a lease of the premises having been granted some years since to Thomas Farr, Esq., who covenanted to erect a substantial house thereon. The full value of the estate will revert to the use of the church in 1852.

¹⁹ Jermyn MSS. Brit. Mus.

²⁰ Plac. 3 Ric. 2.

²¹ Tanner's MSS.

²² Idem.

The participation of Beccles in the horrid persecutions for Religion's sake, which disgraced the reign of Queen Mary, has been already detailed. The scene of these barbarities was the old market-place. Besides the three victims who were burnt to death, Richard Fletcher and Matilda his wife, Richard Knobbing, and many others, were compelled by threats or torture to abjure their faith.²³

The most serious temporal calamity on record which ever visited Beccles, occurred on the 29th of November, 1586. On the eve of St. Andrew, in that year, a fire broke out in the chimney of one of the smaller houses in the town, which, being fanned by a violent gale of wind blowing at the time, rapidly increased to an awful conflagration, which it was found impossible to arrest, as the river, though so early in the season, was hard frozen. It raged with greatest violence in the vicinity of the new market. The roof, seats, and wood-work of the church were consumed, though the walls and the stone-work of the windows escaped destruction. The lower part of the steeple remains blackened with smoke in a very remarkable degree to the present day.

Above eighty houses fell a sacrifice to the flames; and goods and property were damaged, and stolen in the confusion, to the amount of £20,000, as even then estimated. If we multiply this sum by five or even four, to bring it to proportionate modern valuation, we shall obtain a vivid picture of the wealth and flourishing condition of Beccles at that day.

A ballad, written by Thomas Delone, entitled 'A proper new Sonnet, declaring the Lamentation of Beccles,' &c., was printed in commemoration of this event; a copy of which, in black letter, has been recently discovered in the library of the Royal Society; having been used in the binding of an old Italian work, printed in 1584. Its merits as a composition are trifling, but it has become a valuable record of this awful calamity. Contributions, in aid of the sufferers from this fire, were raised throughout the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk. Blomefield mentions a sum of money as having been collected in the parish of Harpham "for the burning of Beccles." In the book of the Mayor's Court at Norwich, in the reign of Elizabeth, is this entry connected with our subject. "William Fleming, preacher of Beccles, raised in court of Mr. Mayor, £30. 10s. 8d., which was collected in this city towards the re-edifying of Beccles church, which was lately burnt."²⁴

In 1590, Nicholas Moss, of Southwold, gave to the town of Beccles £20, towards repairing the church.²⁵ Many legacies for the same purpose were left, and one as late as the year 1600.

In 1662, the town was again damaged by fire. The old manor-house, situated in a back street near the House of Correction; and an ancient timber building in the

²³ Fox.

²⁴ Jermyn MSS.

²⁵ Tanner's MSS.

new market-place, with a few others in the obscurer parts of the town, escaped these conflagrations. The extent of this second disaster must have been considerable, if we may judge from the number of dwelling-houses erected in the style which marks this era. These may be instantly recognised by their semicircular gables, which, following a still older fashion, front the streets.

There was also a third fire in Beccles in 1667; and a fourth, and very considerable one, in 1669.²⁶

Before the Reformation there were six guilds or fraternities of craftsmen, in this town.

1. The Guild of the Holy Ghost, to which fraternity William Smith, of Weston, by will, dated 27th of October, 1504, gave as follows: "Item, I bequeathe to the Holy Ghost Gilde in Beccles, lxx^s. viij^d. Thomas Leeke, of Beccles, bequeathed, in 1503, to the same guild xx^s. William Brett, in 1533, gave the same guild vi^s. viij^d. Tanner says a piece of land appertained to this fraternity called Holy Ghost Close, and was lately a part of an estate of John Crispe; or else his lands joined it.

2. St. Michael's Guild, which belonged to the present church. In 1504, William Smith, of Weston, gave to this guild x^s.

Thomas Leeke, who was instituted Rector of this parish in 1467, and died in 1503, also gave vi^s. viij^d.

3. The Ascension Guild, which seems to have been but a small society. William Brett, in 1533, gave to this guild xii^d.

4. The Guild of the Holy Trinity.

5. The Guild of the Holy Name of Jesus.

6. The Guild of St. Nicholas.²⁷

At a meeting held on the 8th of March, 1760, the Corporation of Beccles granted ten pounds "for y^e p^r curing of farthings for y^e com^on utility of y^e poore." Dies were accordingly procured, and farthings struck off, and circulated about the town. These were all called in about two years after they were issued, by the command of the Crown. The dies are preserved in the corporation chest, and from them the impressions were obtained in wax, which furnished drawings for the following engravings.



²⁶ Tanner's MSS.

²⁷ Idem.

In 1726, the Quarter Sessions, which are held here for this division of the county, were removed from Beeceles to Lowestoft, and held alternately in these towns; but after a few years were restored to Beeceles. In the same, or the following year, the present Town-Hall was built, at a charge of £423. 8s., towards which the inhabitants contributed £71. 19s. 6*d.* The materials of the old Hall and Cross sold for £87. 10s., and the remainder seems to have been paid out of the county stock, by order of Sessions.²⁸ It would be absurd to criticize the character of a building professing to be an imitation of the pointed architecture, erected at the period in question, when the genius of that bewitching style lay consigned to unmerited neglect. It will be sufficient, therefore, to observe, that in accommodation it is found deficient, and that it is contemplated to replace it by a more commodious structure at no distant period, though nothing definitive is at present determined on.

On the 2nd and 9th of January, 1813, the following order for the alteration of the day for holding the market appeared in the 'Ipswich Journal.'—"At the request of the inhabitants of the town of Beeceles and its neighbourhood, I, Robert Sparrow, Lord of the Manor of Beeceles, do hereby order and direct, that after Saturday the 23rd of January next, the above market shall be held and kept in the new market-place in Beeceles aforesaid, on Friday in every week, in lieu of Saturday, the present market-day. Given under my hand this 26th day of December, 1812. ROBT. SPARROW."

In consequence of this notice, Beeceles market was held on Fridays for about three months; when the alteration having been found inconvenient, it was restored to the old time, and continues to be held on Saturdays as heretofore.

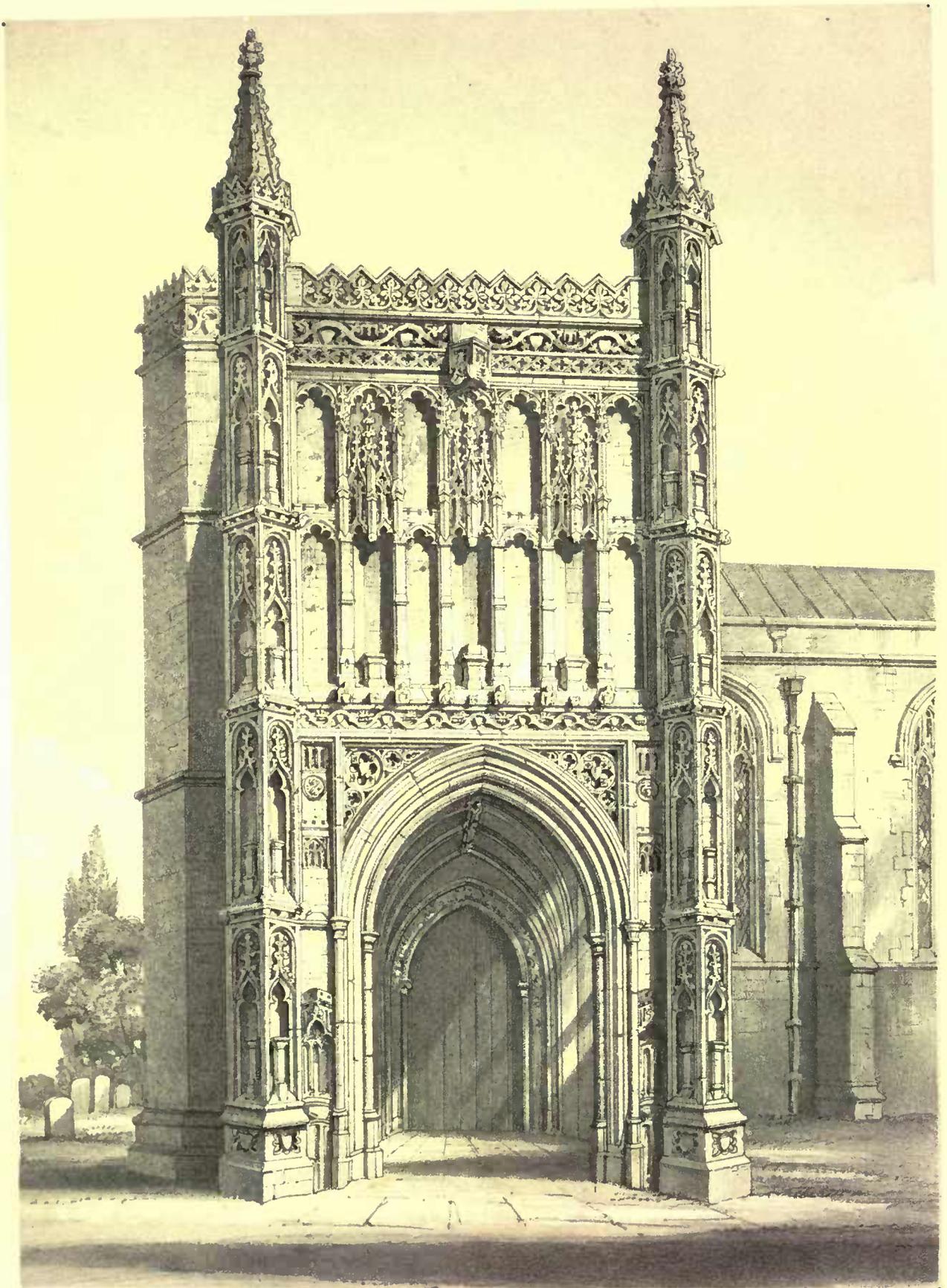
THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL.

There was a church at Beeceles, at the time of the Domesday Survey, endowed with twenty-four acres of glebe. This was, no doubt, the structure raised by the Abbot of Bury, which gave name to the town. The present church occupies the site of this foundation, and was erected about the middle of the fourteenth century. A will, in the Bishop's office at Norwich, dated 1369, contains a legacy "ad fabricam novæ ecclesiæ de Beeceles;" soon after which period it was probably completed, as in 1374, Reginald de Ikelyngham leaves by will to the altar of St. Michael's church of Beeceles, *vj^s viij^d*.²⁹ William Symonds de Beeceles, by will dated 15 Dec. 1470, "legat fabricæ ecclesiæ de Beeceles, *vj^d*."³⁰ As the manor and advowson of Beeceles formed part of the possessions of Bury Abbey, its architect was, without doubt, a monk of that establishment; and

²⁸ MS. Blowers.

²⁹ Will Book, Heydon.

³⁰ Harl. MSS.



from the mixed and broken materials employed in its walls, it is evidently, in part, constructed out of the older fabric.

We cannot contemplate the entire mass of this edifice, including its tower, without discovering a majestic air about it, well suited to the sacred purposes of its destination, yet it does not possess an exact symmetry of component parts, and is meagre throughout in the distribution of ornament. Its greatest fault is want of elevation; a requisite of ecclesiastical beauty, in which it is vastly exceeded by many of the churches in Suffolk, and it exhibits a heavy and mean clerestory very unusual in buildings of its era. It is of a simple ground-plan, comprising a nave and chancel of equal width and height, being 148 feet long, and $61\frac{1}{2}$ wide, by interior admeasurement, with two aisles extending the entire length of the fabric; and a north and south porch; though before the Reformation it possessed also two small cross aisles or chantry chapels. The two expanded windows opposite to each other in the aisles, whose enlarged dimensions differ so strikingly from the other lights, were originally arches only, without tracery, and being open to the level of the ground, gave access to these oratories. The filling up by masonry of the arch on the south side, to the level of the other window sills, is too obvious to require pointing out. That on the north side is better wrought, but a careful examination will show that a like operation has been effected there.

One of these transept chapels was probably dedicated to St. Mary, for Reginald de Ikelynghan, already mentioned, in addition to his legacy to the High Altar of the church, leaves a donation of XL pence to the Altar of St. Mary.³¹

But the finest feature of Beccles Church is its almost unique porch. The effect it produces, arising from its bold projection and octangular turret, is very picturesque; and the delicate taste displayed in the conception and arrangement of its enrichments—the minute finish of its parts—and the excellency of its masonry, will ever command admiration. The style of its composition and ornaments is an unfailing evidence of its date, which is somewhat later than that of the body of the church; an opinion confirmed by a will preserved in the Archdeacon's office, dated 1455, wherein the testator gives to the building of the new porch xx^s. On its front are the arms of Bury Abbey, and a profile of St. Edmund.

All the enrichments of this elegant porch were originally painted and gilt, agreeably to the usual practice; and fragments of these decorations existed in considerable profusion till about forty years since, when two artizans scraped from its niches and tabernacle-work sufficient lapis-lazuli to render their journey from London, made for this purpose, a profitable speculation.

The room over this porch was formerly used as the Scriptorium of the church,³²

³¹ Will Book, Heydon.

³² Jermyn MSS.

which accounts for the collection of old books kept there till the last few years. It has a small lattice which commanded a view of the interior of the church, till intercepted by the erection of the organ.

The detached situation of Beccles steeple gains for it many a look, which its majestic proportions might otherwise fail to arrest. And yet a detached bell-tower is not of very unusual occurrence. Without noticing those beyond the limits of the county, it may be sufficient to instance two, near at hand; those at Bramfield and Bury St. Edmund's.

Beccles steeple was begun soon after 1500, and occupied nearly forty years in building. I will not say completing, for it is even yet unfinished. The first legacy given to it is by a will bearing date in 1515, and from that time till 1547 there are many legacies towards building "Beccles Steepul."

The state of incompleteness in which we find this noble pile has an easy solution in the ruin of Bury Abbey, which was dissolved while the upper portion was yet in progress.

The proportions of this tower are a base of 40 feet, by an elevation of 92; and its excellency consists in a broad commanding mass rising firmly from its foundations. Besides the arms of Garneys, Rede, and Bowes, benefactors towards its construction, there are three niches in its western, or principal front, which probably contained the same effigies as were placed in the front of Bury Abbey; namely, St. Edmund, Our Saviour, and the Virgin Mary; or possibly St. Michael, to whom the church is dedicated. The three former figures were in front of the Abbey gate.³³

The tower contains a clock with chimes, and ten bells, some of which are not in very excellent condition.

The erection of the tower in its present situation was in consequence of the fear that its weight might carry away the cliff, had it been placed at the west end. There is no doubt, that although its foundations were not laid till long after the church was completed, its site was determined on from the first, as none of the pillars in the church are of sufficient magnitude to sustain so ponderous a mass.

At the end of the chancel, beneath the exterior of the great east window, are the arms of Bury Abbey, and Garneys, with "St. Michael, ora pro nobis," inlaid in flint. In a small niche here formerly stood an image of Our Saviour; for in the will of Osbert Deering, dated August the 12th, 1558, his body is ordered to be buried within the church-yard of St. Michael of Beccles, "at the este end of the said church, against the picture of Christ, standing in the same church wall."

On the sides of the west door are St. Edmund's crowns and arrows cut in several places, and the popish device of the arms of the Holy Trinity. One of the leaves of this door escaped the great fire of 1586.

³³ Jermyn MSS.



Alfred Suckling, Del. Feb. 1845

F Bedford Litho. London.

BECCLES CHURCH, FROM THE N.E.

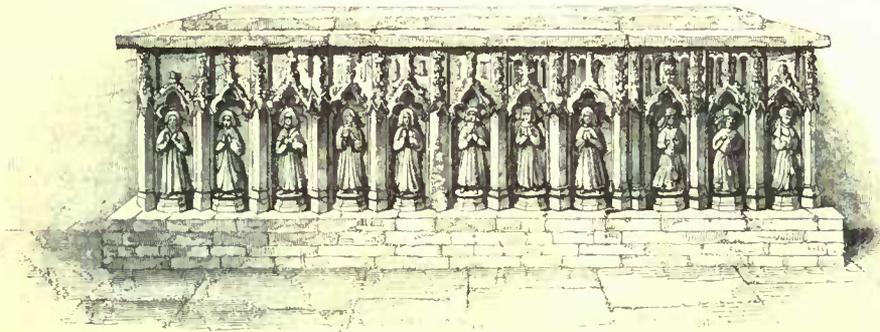
London, John Weale, 1845.
Printed by Standidge & Co.

On entering the interior of this spacious edifice, the pleasure experienced from contemplating its vast proportions is damped by the evidences of neglect and tastelessness which pervade it. A wretched gallery is placed against part of the south wall of the aisle, which is already drawn from the perpendicular, by the injudicious practice—no longer permitted—of digging graves abutting upon the exterior. A regard for the stability of the fabric, if none be yielded to taste, demands the removal of this excrescence. An ill-drawn representation of the Crucifixion, in very opaque coloured glass, disfigures the east window; and urns with flames of fire—emblems of any thing but a Christian's hope—should be removed from the vestry screen. The roof, and the corbels which support its beams, were erected probably soon after the great fire: the latter are ornaments in accordance with no period of the pointed style.

A noble organ occupies the entire western end of the nave. Its position is to be regretted, which blocks out a large window, that in former days diffused a flood of glowing light through the length of the interior.

There are few internal decorations. The font by its style evidently belonged to the older church, and is small and plain. It was repaired in 1470, at the expense of William Symonds, of Beccles, who by his will gave to the reparation “*magni fontis de Beccles iij^s. iiij^d.*”

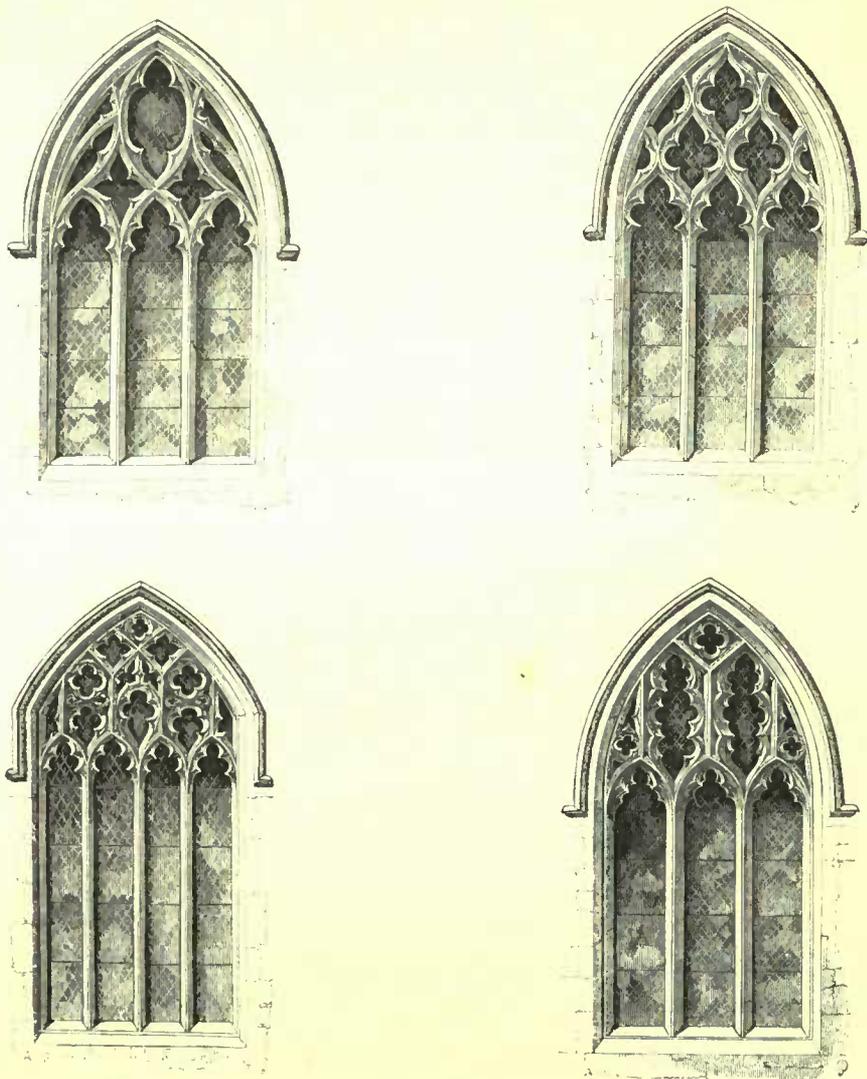
An altar-tomb, sculptured with some effigies of children, and somewhat mutilated, stands against the wall of the south aisle of the chancel, though this is not its original situation.



It is said to commemorate the family of John Rede, Mayor of Norwich, who died in 1502, though the number of children, placed on the tomb, does not exactly accord with that inscribed on his gravestone, which lies in the chancel, though now covered with pews. On the tomb are represented eight sons and three daughters, while the epitaph says, “*John Rede, Mayor of Norwich, dyed the xi of Novr. in anno MDII. Joan his wyffe, with viij sons and iiij daughters, which Joan dyed in anno MDIII.*” This number of daughters is confirmed by the pedigrees of Rede recorded in the *Heraldic Visitations*,

and as there are no armorial bearings on the tomb, it remains a matter of uncertainty to what family it belongs. A splendid screen of oak, which divided the nave from the chancel, the design probably of some monk of Bury, perished in the fire of 1586.

The windows of this church exhibit a great variety of tracery, much of which is very elegant, though inferior to the still more graceful forms fashionable in the preceding generation. The exuberance of fancy displayed in these may possibly be accounted for, by supposing each to be the gift of some pious individual, who, while he perpetuated his munificence, marked also his taste and ingenuity.



The vault under the south aisle, now used as a charnel-house, was probably a crypt of the older church; as few sacred buildings of an early period were erected without a

subterraneous chapel or undercroft. By the Norman architects they were considered an essential and constituent part of every church, and were possibly first constructed to commemorate the practice of the early Christians who worshipped “in dens and caves of the earth.” No part of the masonry, however, which can be discerned in this vault, is older than the superincumbent mass; and the conjecture that it was formerly a chapel originates in the circumstance, that in 1509 a legacy was given to the reparation of Our Lady’s chapel in the Arch, which would seem to allude to this crypt; because in 1528, and again in the following years, are various bequests to a chapel of St. Mary in Beccles church-yard.³⁴

On the 6th of April, 1643, this church was visited by William Dowsing, who was by no means inactive here. His journal details his proceedings at Beccles thus.—“Jehovahs between the church and chancel, and the sun over it: and by the altar ‘my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed,’—and two crosses which we gave orders to be taken down; one was on the porch; the other on the steeple: also many superstitious pictures; the number about forty. Six several crosses; Christ’s, Virgin Mary’s, St. George’s, and three more: thirteen crosses in all. Jesus and Mary in letters, and the twelve apostles.”

In 1672, a license for a seat in this church was granted to Robert Batho, and is probably the only faculty pew in the edifice. The following return of sittings which this church contains was made to the Bishop by the Rural Dean, in July, 1844.

Sittings occupied by	
Professional gentlemen	163
Tradesmen	384
Labourers	288
Free and Sunday schools	194
Private boarding schools	77
Servants	66
Singers	40
Total	1212

The parish registers are not very ancient, as they do not commence before 1586.

In 1460, William Neve, by his will, desires to be buried in Beccles church, and the following monumental records, which have now disappeared, recorded the interments of several members of the Garneys family:

Robert Garneys, Esq., died xiiij Maij 1411. Kateren his wyef 1405. Peter Garneys died 1413. Edward Garneys died May 3, 1485. Thomas Garneys died 1527.³⁵

³⁴ Tanner’s MSS. pen. Epis. Norwic.

³⁵ MSS. Wm. Le Neve.

On old stones now covered by the floors of modern pews are the following memorials :

William Rede of Beckelles and Margaret his wyef, which Margaret dyed in anno MDXL, and had v sons and vij daughters.

On a stone near the vestry door are the arms of Leman, Az. a fess between three dolphins embowed arg, quartering Suckling, Per pale, gules and az. 3 bucks trippant, or. The inscription is now covered by the floor of a pew, but the stone commemorates the decease of Leman, Esq., or his wife, daughter of Charles Suckling, Esq., of Bracondale, who died of the great plague in 1666.

Among many modern memorials these are briefly recorded :

Robert Davy, late Master of the Free School, died May 10, 1797, aged 54.

Charles Chaston Assey, Surgeon to the Hon. East India Company Service, died at Kidderpore in Bengal, aged 41.

William Crowfoot, Gent., died 25 March, 1793.

Sir Robert Castleton, descended from Sir Wm. Castleton, Bart., of Stuston Hall in Suffolk, died Feb. 9, 1715, aged 59.

Joseph Arnold, M.D., Surgeon R.N., and Fellow of the Linnæan Society of London, and of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh, born at Beccles in 1784, died in Sumatra, July 19, 1818.

The Rev. Bence Bence, Rector of Beccles, died 20 Sept. 1824, aged 77. His wife, daughter of Wm. Ehny, Esq., died June 9, 1815, aged 56.

Catharine, widow of Nicholas Starkie, Esq., of Frenchwood in Lancashire, and youngest daughter of Robt. Edgar, of Ipswich, Esq., died 10th of April, 1814, aged 47.

Sebastian Pitfield, died 1692. Renaldo Pitfield, died 1700.

Isaac Blowers, Gent., died Nov. 1819, aged 93.

RECTORS OF BECCLES.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Robert filius Rogeri .	1291	Abbot of Bury.
Henry de Bromleye .	1314	Id.
Gilbertus de Ilkeshall .	1319	Id.
William Mareschall .	1323	Id.
Stephen de Holecote .	1323	Id.
Johannes de Stantone .	1326	Id.
William Mitchell . .	1331	Id.
Edmond de Welle . .	1375	Id.
William de Ely . .	1397	Id.
Johannes Brampton .	1403	Id.
Johannes Atte Gate .	1405	Id.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
William Aslake . . .	1419	Abbot of Bury.
William Olton, LL.B. . .	1422	Id.
Johannes LL.B.	1457	Id.
William Osgodby . . .	1458	Id.
William Ascogh . . .	1461	Id.
Johannes Plente . . .	1467	Id.
Robert Pevesey . . .	1467	Id.
Thomas Leek, A.M. . .	1467	Id.
Thomas Rede . . .	1504	Id.
Thomas Yaxley . . .	1543	Anthony Rouse, Esq., by purchase of the Abbot.
Thomas Garnett . . .	1546	Sir Thomas Gresham and wife.
Ralph Newton . . .	1552	Id.
Thomas Whitby, S.T.P. . .	1554	Id.
Ralph Newton . . .	1555	Id.
John Balkey . . .	1562	William Rede, Esq.
George Buckley . . .	1574	Sir Thomas Gresham and wife.
Thomas Nuce . . .	1575	Id.
William Fleming . . .	1583	Id.
John After . . .	1583	Dame Anne Gresham.
— Vaughan . . .		
Richard Mileson . . .	1638	The Crown.
John Cowe . . .	1640	Mr. Bence.
Thomas Armstrong . . .	1671	Id.
Thomas Page . . .	1715	R. Sparrow, Esq., and wife.
Peter Routh . . .	1764	Id.
Bence Sparrow . . .	1774	Id.
Hugh Owen . . .	1823	Earl of Gosford.

Estimatio eccle xxxii marc: Synodalia p^r an: xii^d Denarij S. Petri, xij^{ob}.

THE HOSPITAL OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE IN BECCLES.

This Hospital, which was appropriated to the use of persons afflicted with the loathsome disease of leprosy, was dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene and St. Anthony, and stood on the south side of the town upon the spot now known as St. Mary's Hill. The date of its foundation is not exactly ascertained, but the establishment is mentioned in an escheat roll of Edward III., dated 1362, wherein Sir Richard Walkfare, Knight, Ralph de Hemenhale, Thomas Savage, John de Ulnestone, and Alexander de Brusyard, parson of Barsham, gave to the hospital of St. Mary Magdalene at Beccles xx shillings annual rent, issuing out of the manors of Barsham and Herst.

Tradition relates that one Ramp, who was very much afflicted with leprosy, was

perfectly cured of his disorder by accidentally bathing in a spring of water near this spot, where he soon after erected an hospital for the benefit of persons so affected.³⁶

It was governed by a Master who, probably, officiated as Chaplain. Several wills in 1367, and 1374, contain bequests "leprosis hospitali de Beceles."³⁷

According to the manuscript of Le Neve, Henry Beudes gave a stipend of four pounds to this hospital, but the donation is not confirmed by any existing document. This establishment was not dissolved by Henry VIII.; for Edward VI., in the fourth year of his reign, granted license to Edward Lydgate, a brother of the hospital, to beg daily for the Lazars' house at Beccles. And by a deed, dated 18th day of May, 17th of Queen Elizabeth, "between Humphrey Trame, master of the hospital of St. Mary Magdelin at Beccles, and the bretherne and system of the said hospital, on the one part, and Margaret Hury of Yoxford, on the other part, it is witnessed, that the said Humfry and the brethern and system, of their godly love and intent have not only takyn the sayd Margaret into the said hospytall beinge a sore diseased p̄son wythe an horyble syckness, but also have admytted and made the seyde Margaret a syster of the same hous during her naturall lyff, accordinge to the auneyent custom and order of the same; trustynge in our Lord God, wythe the helpe and devocon of good dysposed people, to prepare for the same Margaret, mete, drink, clothinge, washinge, chamberinge, and lodginge, good and holson, duringe the naturall lyff of the said Margaret, mete for such a p̄son."

The above-mentioned Humphrey Trame, by his will, dated A. D. 1596, gave to this hospital "one bible, one service-book, and y^e desk to them belonging, to go and remain for ever, with the hospital of St. Mary Magdalen, to the intent that the sick then and there abiding, for the comfort of their souls may have continual recourse unto the same."³⁸

Soon after this period, it appears that the hospital fell into great disorder and mismanagement; for in 1619, William Stedman, then Master, was compelled to resign his mastership, in consideration of an annuity of £10 to be paid him and his wife for the term of their natural lives, "because that it doth now appeare that the said hospitall is not imployed according to the true intent and meancinge of the said ffeoffament, in respect of the undue disturbance of some of the said ffeoffees in the placinge of a govnor who do not only abuse the poore here, but also keepe great disorder in the said hospitall." The charges of misconduct laid against Stedman, who in another deed is called a "ffisherman," are of too scandalous a nature to be repeated. It is expressly stated, that even the chapel appertaining to the establishment was the frequent scene of the lewd

³⁶ Jermyn MSS.

³⁷ Will Book, Heydon.

³⁸ Will Book, Archdeacon's Office, fol. 45.

debaucheries of himself and his profligate associates. By a subsequent deed, however, dated 29 June, 1622, new feoffees were appointed, and Stedman replaced in the mastership.

In 1673, a petition was drawn up by Mr. John Denney, Portreeve of Beccles, and others of the corporation, for presentation to the Bishop of the Diocese, requesting his Lordship, by any means which he shall think fit, to obtain a grant from His Majesty for investing the hospital lands, with its appurtenances, in the corporation of Beccles, for the use of the poor inhabiting the said town.

Tanner relates that he saw, in 1730, a grant, amongst the muniments of the corporation, whereby Charles II., in 1675, granted the aforesaid hospital, with its lands and appurtenances, to the Portreeve, &c., of Beccles, for the maintenance of the poor for ever. This grant, however, is now lost.

In a small book, drawn up in 1807, for the use of the corporation of Beccles, and reprinted in 1826, a translation of a long grant is given, dated 1674, whereby King Charles conveys the lands, tenements, rents and hereditaments, &c., of this hospital, to the Portreeve, Surveyors, and Commonalty of the fen of Beccles, to have and to hold them for ever, paying to the King and his successors, out of the said premises, four shillings of lawful money of England, on the feast of St. Michael the Archangel. In this deed, the chapel and hospital are mentioned as "now wasted;" and yet, which is very remarkable, on February the 12th, 1676, two years subsequent, it is ordered, "y^t y^e *capital* house now standing upon the hospitall lands be pulled downe and removed unto one other peece of y^e said hospitall ground on y^e other side of y^e way over against it, to make so many severall rooms as may be there conveniently placed for the habitations of such poore people as y^e governors thereof shall think fitt for to place there, and doe appoint the p^rsent officers, and their successors, to see the same done accordingly; and the monies disbursed for doing of the same shall be discharged upon their accounts."

There can be no question that the income of this property was intended to be appropriated to the use of the poor of the town of Beccles, although the grant makes use of the word 'Corporation;' and accordingly it is stated, in an order for a lease of part of those lands, to Mr. Crane, in 1675, that "the lands belonging to the Hospital of Beccles, were lately granted to this corporacon, for the use of the poore people of Beccles, and intrusted to the hands of the said corporacon, for the best advantage for them." And again, in 1679, an order was made, that the revenues of the hospital lands should be disposed of for ever thereafter, to the sole use and benefit of the poor inhabitants of the town, according to the King's grant, and that the officers should not dispose of such revenues for any other purpose whatever, without the consent of the corporation. The account of the income of this property was kept distinct from the general account of the Portreeve, until the erection of a parish workhouse in 1684, when the profits of these

lands were directed to be appropriated, with other money of the corporation, for the use of the poor therein.

On the 31st March, 1788, a lease was granted by the corporation, to Mr. Thomas Rede, of the Hospital Hill, which is therein stated to contain four acres; and of a messuage and buildings, standing near thereto, for a term of 200 years; commencing from the 5th July following, at the rent of £13 per annum, subject to a fee-farm rent to the Crown, and to a quit-rent to the manor of Barsham, amounting together to 4s. 8d. per annum, which Mr. Rede undertook to discharge. By this lease power was given to Mr. Rede to take down the buildings then standing on the land: and he covenanted to leave, at the end of the term, some houses or buildings, which shall at that time be of the full value of £200.³⁹

In conformity with the Statute de leproso amovendo, this hospital or lazar-house had a burial ground attached to the chapel, wherein the lepers were buried by themselves. Many human bones, and twelve entire skeletons, were discovered by the labourers employed in preparing the ground for the foundation of the present house, erected by Mr. Rede on the site of the old buildings. Their bones were deposited in the charnel-house under St. Michael's church. This burial ground was used by the hospital till the year 1590, after which period the corpses of persons dying here were interred in the parish church-yard.

ENDGATE.

The brief history of the manor of Endgate, which, like the parish itself, has merged into that of St. Michael, has been already detailed, and the patronage of its church, which seems to have accompanied the manor, became simultaneously vested in the Abbot of Bury.

The church, which was a rectory, dedicated to St. Mary, and valued in the King's books at £7. 6s. 8d., stood on the south side of the town. It was taken down by order of Queen Elizabeth, "for that the parishes of Beccles and Endgate had been for many years so blended together, that the bounds and limits of them could not be known in A. D. 1419; when a legal agreement was made by the Bishop, Patron, and Rector of both parishes, that the Rector of Beccles should have the whole tithes of both parishes, and pay the Rector of Endgate £6. 13. 4. pr. an: so that the inhabitants of Endgate have, time out of mind, been esteemed parishioners of Beccles."

³⁹ Beccles Corporation Book.

The order for taking down Endgate church is dated the 25th of April, 1577, and was granted on the following considerations, viz.—“ that in commiseration of the charge the men of Dunwich sustained by the loss of their port, the said Queen Elizabeth gave, or lent, them the money arising by the sale of bells, lead, iron, glass, and stone of Ingate church, in the county of Suffolk, which, it appears, were valued at three-score sixteen poundes cyghtene shillings and four pence.”

No traces of this church are discoverable on its site, but some fragments which have been worked into Beccles bridge, in the course of its reparations, prove it to have been an elegant structure, probably surpassing in embellishment, though not in magnitude, the church of St. Michael. A capital of one of its columns has been used for many years as a horse-block, at the King’s Head Inn. This fragment is octangular, with a plain moulding.

Peter Garneys, of Beccles, Esq., by will dated the 20th of August, 1450, desires his body to be buried in the north aisle of St. Michael’s church, where he had placed a stone for his sepulchre; and bequeathed to the reparation of the high altar of the church at Endgate x marks.

RECTORS OF ENDGATE.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Adam Peverey, de Winton	1305	Abbot of Bury.
John de St. Edmund .	1309	Id.
John de Fretenham . .	1348	Id.
William de Nassingweeke .	1361	The King: the Abbacy vacant.
Hugo de Kelibe . . .	1361	Id.
Richard de Irtilingburgh .	1371	Abbot of Bury.
William Bright . . .	1376	Id.
John Wayte	1377	Id.
William Moraunt . . .	1381	The King: Abbacy vacant.
John Stowe	1401	Abbot of Bury.
Robert Cavell	1453	Id.
John Palling		
Robert Salwys	1479	Id.
Thomas Swayn		
William Bradshaw . . .	1502	Id.
Robert Barker	1504	Id.
William Reede	1531	Id.
John Gymlyn	1550	Assignees of Sir Thomas Gresham.
Robert Norton	1572	The Queen.
William Fleming	1580	Ead.
Brian Warde	1613	The King.
William Bacon	1641	Id.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Charles Maryveil . . .	1680	The King.
Thomas Armstrong . . .	1682	Id.
Samuel Batho . . .	1717	Id.
Walter Symonds . . .	1722	Id.

There seems to have been no presentation after this period to the church at Endgate. In 1764, when the Rev. Peter Routh took the living of Beccles, a sequestration of Endgate was granted; and again in 1774, when the Rev. Bence Sparrow was instituted to the parish church of St. Michael.

THE MANOR OF ROOS HALL IN BECCLES.

This lordship is entitled in the court-books the Manor of Roos Hall and Ashmans with the members; but no separate court is held for Ashmans, neither are the limits of the latter defined. The chief part of its copyholds are in Beccles, as is the mansion or hall-house; though I am inclined to believe the manor was included in Domesday Book under Barsham, and held at that time by Warin the son of Burnin as tenant of Robert Malet, Lord of Eye; and possibly the estates which Earl Gurth and Bishop Almar then held in the same parish have been subsequently united with it.

The manor was, however, very early considered to lie in Beccles, but by an inquisitio post mortem of Thomas Garneys, Gent., taken on the 6th of May, 1566, it seems to have been then held by him of Thomas Playters, as dependant on his manor of Sotterley, but the service does not appear.⁴⁰ On the 6th of February, 1575, it was determined by a jury to be held of the manor of Beccles, as appears by an ancient deed of that date in the possession of the writer.

In the presentments of the Hundred Rolls, made to King Edward I., the names of Henry Asheman, Reginald Ashman, and William Asseman, are mentioned as land-owners in the neighbourhood; and it was from this family, in all probability, that the manor obtained its second appellation.⁴¹

The family of Roos appeared as lords of this manor in the previous reign of Henry III. William de Roos was at the siege of Kaerleverock, in Scotland, in 1300, where he displayed much valour, and was afterwards created a Knight Banneret. The family were Lords of Roos Hall, Ringsfield, Sibton, and Redisham, in the eighth of Edward II.⁴² In 1321, Sir Robert de Roos was one of the founders of the monastery of the Carmelite Friars at Blakeney in Norfolk, and probably resided at Roos Hall. "They were not only very ancient," says Sir Richard Gipps, "but also

⁴⁰ Harl. MSS.

⁴¹ Rotuli Hundredorum.

⁴² Harl. MSS.

very great, as appears from their several intermarriages with the best families in the county." In the reign of Edward III., Elizabeth, daughter of William Roos, married William de la Zouch, Baron of Harynworth.⁴³

Roos bore, Gules 3 water-bougets, or.

Roos Hall descended to Sir William de Roos, the younger of the two sons of Thomas Roos, who lived in the reign of Richard II. Sir William married Agnes, daughter and heiress of William de Nairford, and by her obtained the manor of Wisset, which passed again with the manor and estate of Roos Hall to Sir Roger de Willington, who married Joan, daughter and heiress of Sir William de Roos. The family of Willington thus became possessed of Roos Hall in 1427. They were of ancient descent, and long seated at Barsham, as they held a third part of the manor of Barsham Hall so early as the ninth of Edward II.⁴⁴ They were also Lords of Blithworth in the tenth of Henry V., and of Wisset in the fifth of Henry VI. John de Willington was a Knight Banneret in the time of Edward I., and was at the tournament of Dunstable, in the second of Edward II.⁴⁵ He bore, Gules, a griffin segreant, or.

Roos Hall passed by purchase from the Willingtons to the family of Garneys. In 1566, Thomas Garneys died seized of this manor and Redisham. They were valued at twenty marks per annum, and were bequeathed, with other lands, to his executors for the term of twenty years, for certain uses specified in his will. He also held forty acres of land, fifty of meadow, eighty of pasture, sixty of bosc, and £19 rent in over Redisham, nether Redisham, Ringsfield, Weston, Worlingham, Beccles, &c. This Thomas Garneys left one daughter, Elizabeth, aged three years, at the time of his death.

Thomas Colby next occurs as Lord of Roos Hall: he was the fourth husband of Ursula, daughter of Edward Rede, and appears as defendant in a Chancery suit against Sir Thomas Gresham, who in right of his wife Anne, relict of William Rede, Esq., was Lord of the Manor of Beccles.

The Colbys were of an ancient house in Norfolk and Suffolk, and bore, Sable, a chevron between three escallop shells arg.; within a bordure engrailed of the second.

John Colby, of Brundish, married Alice, daughter and heiress of John Brewse, of Hardwick, Esq., by whom he had issue John, who died childless; and Thomas, Francis, and Christopher. Thomas, the eldest surviving son and heir, was seated at Beccles, and married first, Beatrice, daughter of Thomas Felton, of Playford, and had issue Thomas, and several other children. His second wife was Ursula Rede, relict of Sir John Brand, Knight, by whom he had no issue. Thomas Colby, his eldest

⁴³ Naunton Pedigree, pen. Rev. R. Rede.

⁴⁴ Harl. MSS.

⁴⁵ Collec. Sir R. Gipps an. 1661, Brit. Mus.

son and heir, lived at Beccles, and married Amy, daughter of Thomas Brampton, of Letton in Norfolk, and had issue, Thomas, son and heir, Frances, Philip, Amy, Penelope, Elizabeth, Susan, and Mary.⁴⁶

Thomas Colby, who married Ursula Rede, built the present venerable mansion called Roos Hall, which he probably finished about 1583, as his initials, T. B. C. with that date, remain on the water-pipes of the roof. It is a fine old house of red brick, situated like almost all the residences of former days in low grounds, and was encompassed by a moat, which, in part, remains. It seems never to have possessed

“The lofty arched hall”

which our ancestors considered almost indispensable to their mansions, and where

“Their clanging bowls old warriors quaff’d,”

but it is furnished with a wide and rather primitive staircase, each step of which is formed of a solid block of oak; and it contains some good and lofty apartments. One of the lower rooms retains its huge and pedimented mantel, and several of the chambers are fitted with the wainscot, divided into small compartments, which succeeded the hangings of tapestry previously employed by our forefathers to cover the walls of their apartments. Its turrets and chimneys are distinguished by richly moulded brick-work, and the entire pile is lofty, imposing, and well constructed.



⁴⁶ Jermyn MSS.

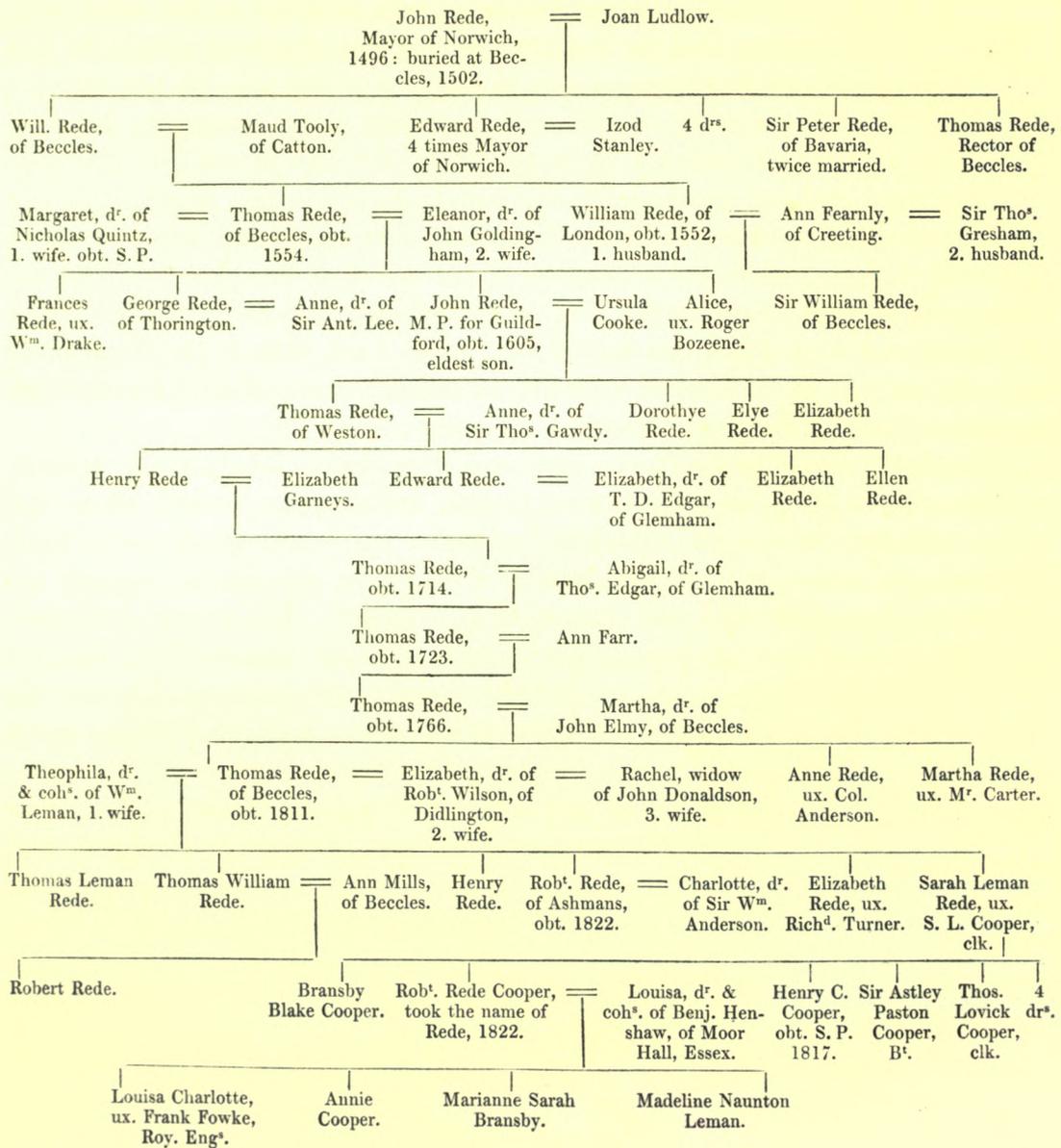
The tenure of the Colbys was very short, for soon after the year 1600, the manor of Roos Hall was purchased by Sir John Suckling, Knight, Secretary of State, and Comptroller of the Household, to King James I. Sir John occasionally resided here, and at his death bequeathed it to his widow for her life, with remainder to his eldest son, Sir John Suckling, the cavalier poet. Lady Suckling afterwards marrying Sir Edwin Rich, Knight, carried the estate into that family by a transfer which is not very clear. Sir John Suckling had purchased the manor of Barsham Hall in 1613, and charged the manor of Roos Hall with £1000, which he had borrowed to complete the purchase of the former estate; leaving the fee of both lordships to his eldest son; his widow enjoying Roos Hall for her life. In his will, Sir John alludes to this settlement in these words: "Item, I give to my very loving wife, all her apparell, pearles, rings, and jewels, which she now weareth, or hath in her possession; save only one chayne of diamonds, which I lately bought by the help of one Mr. Hardnett, a jeweller, and paid one hundred fifty-five pounds for the same; which is by her to be repayd to my executors within one yeare next after my decease, unless my eldest sonne and she agree about the redemption of the manor of Rose Hall." What the arrangement between these parties was, is not evident; but Sir Edwin Rich died in possession of Roos Hall; and by his will, dated April 24th, 1675, charged this manor for the term of five hundred years with an annual payment of £20, for charitable purposes in favour of the poor of Thetford, his native town.

Roos Hall was sold by Sir Charles Rich, and Mary Frances Rich, his wife, in 1805, to Thomas Rede, Esq., of Beccles, for £12,160, including the timber; whose son, Robert Rede, Esq., afterwards of Ashmans, succeeded, and dying without issue in 1822, left the manor of Roos Hall, after the decease of his widow, who survived him only two months, to his nephew, the Rev. Robert Rede Cooper, a younger son of the Rev. Samuel Lovick Cooper, of Yarmouth, by his wife, Sarah Lemman Rede, daughter of Thomas Rede aforesaid, the purchaser of this estate. This gentleman assumed the surname of Rede by Royal license, upon his uncle's decease, and is the present owner of Roos Hall.

The family of Rede has been settled at Beccles for several centuries, but seems to have emigrated from Norwich. Blomefield, the historian of Norfolk, says, "the first of this family from whom any regular account can be deduced, was John Rede, Sheriff of Norwich in 1488, and Mayor in 1496; he was buried at Beccles." The Heraldic Visitations for Suffolk, and the manuscripts in the British Museum, all confirm this statement of Blomefield.



Rede.



In the above pedigree Sir Peter Rede, Knight, of Bavaria, is entered as the son of John Rede, Mayor of Norwich, on the authority of Blomefield; but I rather take him to be the son of Edward Rede by Izod, daughter and heiress of Sir Humphrey Stanley. If so, he married Joan, daughter of Anthony Cooke, of Quarendon in Bucks, and left an only daughter, Isabella, who died unmarried. Dame Anne Gresham left a son, Sir William Rede, by her first husband, who married Gertrude, daughter of Erasmus Paston, Esq., whose son and heir, Sir Thomas Rede, Knight, married Mildreda, second daughter of Thomas Cecil, Earl of Salisbury, and died without issue. There was also a Sir Robert Rede, Knight, Chief Justice of the King's Bench in the reign of Henry VII. He was probably brother to John Rede, Mayor of Norwich, who died in 1502, but his name is not recorded in the Heraldic Visitations.

THE SCHOOLS.

From Dr. Tanner's papers it appears that a school was supported in Beccles by the Monastery of Bury, and that the Chamberlain of that establishment had the appointment to the mastership. By a deed, dated at Bury, on the first day of June, 1395, William Bray, Camerarius, in virtue of his office, derived from ancient custom, appoints Reginald Leeke to the mastership of Beccles School, on the condition that he exercises the duties thereof in person, and does not depute them to an assistant.

This school failed altogether on the dissolution of Bury Abbey, in the sixteenth century. But in 1631, Sir John Leman, Knight, devised by will, his messuage and garden, situated in Bally-gate Street in Beccles, with about thirty acres of land in Barsham, and other lands in St. Andrew Ilketshall, Ringsfield, Gillingham, and Geldeston, for the foundation and support of a free school. He wills that forty-eight boys shall be taught English reading, writing, and arithmetic: whereof forty-four shall be inhabitants of the town of Beccles, two of Gillingham, and two of Ringsfield. The whole of the property produces nearly £200 per annum. A license of mortmain was procured by Sir John's executors, and is preserved among the records of the corporation. The school-house is a substantial and commodious building, well adapted to the purpose for which it was erected, and stands on the left hand of the entrance of the town from Bungay.

Henry Fauconberg, LL.D., by his will, dated May 3rd, 1712, bequeathed all his real estates in Corton and the villages adjoining, subject to certain life annuities, upon trust; and devised the rents and profits thereof, after reparations deducted, to make a provision for ever for the encouragement of learning, and the instruction of youth in Beccles: and he desired that whenever a person should be nominated to teach in Beccles—"he being well learnt and experienced in the Latin and Greek tongues, so

as to capacitate youth fitting for the university,"—such person to have the rents and profits of the said premises after repairs, &c., deducted, during his teaching in Beccles, and so from time to time for ever. The estates, conveyed and settled pursuant to the testator's will, consist of a house, outbuildings, and 77 acres, 2 roods, and 14 perches of land in Corton; and a cottage and 55 acres, 1 rood, and 16 perches of land in Corton and Flixton. Dr. Fauconberg desires the trustees to receive the rents; who, after making the necessary deductions, are to pay the residue to the master, who is to be elected, from time to time, by the Bishop of the Diocese, the Archdeacon of Suffolk, and the Rector of Beccles.

Dr. Fauconberg died on the 29th of October, 1713, aged 78 years; and is buried beneath a handsome altar-tomb of marble, near the chancel door of Beccles church. He was Chancellor of St. David's, Registrar of the Faculty Office, and Commissary and Official of the Archdeaconry of Suffolk. He resided many years at Beccles. By his arms, cut on his tomb, he challenges descent from Walter de Fauconberg, summoned to Parliament as Baron Fauconberg in 1295: a bordure engrailed being added to the coat of that ancient line.

The minor charities in this town are, £2. 12s., left by Ward, to be distributed annually in bread; and £3 per annum, left by Robert Girling in 1672, for apprenticing poor boys belonging to Beccles to some business.

Beccles is well built, and stands amidst very pleasant environs. The Rev. George Crabbe, the eldest son and biographer of the poet, calls it "the gem of the Waveney." It has a very handsome assembly-room, and a spacious corn-hall, converted to that use from a theatre, and thrown open on Saturday, January 4, 1845.

The public library contains about 2500 volumes, including some ancient works, formerly kept in the apartment over the church porch. Among these are Polyglot Bibles of 1656, (a large paper copy;) and 1655-7, six volumes folio, by Brian Walton; the edition which in solid usefulness is superior to every other.

There is, also, in two volumes folio, the Lexicon Heptaglotton of Dr. Castell, 1669; a work of profound erudition, upon which the author laboured for seventeen years. Five hundred copies of this work brought but £7, though a single copy has since fetched forty or fifty guineas. In 1839, an exhibition, consisting of 182 paintings in oil and enamel, with specimens of geology, medals, prints, and miscellaneous articles, amounting altogether to 654, was opened to the public for the extension of the funds of this institution. The various articles having been entrusted to the committee on loan, by their respective proprietors, much responsibility devolved on the gentlemen forming this department; but, fortunately, every specimen was returned to its owner uninjured. Many of the subjects exhibited were of rare merit. In the winter of 1842 and 1843, the library was further augmented by the proceeds of a series of Lectures on Geology,

Botany, Light, the Human Eye, Architecture, Literature, Painting, Ruined Cities, and Zoology, delivered by the gentlemen of the town and its vicinity.

The most important event in the modern history of Beccles was the rendering the river Waveney navigable for sea-borne vessels from the mouth of Oulton Dike to Beccles bridge; for which purpose an Act of Parliament was procured; and the Royal Assent obtained on the 22nd of April, 1831. A second Act, to amend the powers and provisions of the previous Act, received the sanction of the Crown on the 10th of May, 1844; the object of which was to lower and equalize the former heavy port-dues. Shipping of a small description are now enabled to discharge and receive their cargoes at commodious wharfs near the town.

A very considerable trade in malt, corn, coals, and shop-goods, is also carried on in small craft or wherries, of most admirable construction, averaging about twenty tons, which convey their cargoes to and from the shipping at Yarmouth.

The present Town-clerk, and Steward of the Manors of Beccles and Roos Hall, is Edward Colby Sharpin, Esq., the compiler of a small volume entitled 'Death Scenes,' printed for private circulation only, to which he has affixed a short but singularly modest and well-written preface. This gentleman is of Norfolk descent, being the son of the Rev. Edward Sharpin, of Swaffham, but the family is of German extraction, being probably derived from the Scharfens or Scharpfens. If this descent can be made good, Mr. Sharpin is entitled to these arms.



Joseph Arnold, M.D. and F.S.A., whose monument has been mentioned in Beccles Church, the author of several detached subjects in the Philosophical and Physical Journals, and a very distinguished naturalist, was a native of Beccles. He died in the cause of science at Padang, in the island of Sumatra, July 26th, 1818, in the 35th year of his age.

In 1224, Alan de Beccles was the fourth Archdeacon of Sudbury, and the eighth Chancellor of Norwich. He was, probably, a native of Beccles. He died in 1243, leaving behind him the character of a learned, wise, and upright man.⁴⁷

⁴⁷ Matthew Paris.

Odo de Beccles was Bailiff of Norwich in 1246. He was prosecuted and fined for encroaching on the King's ditch, belonging to his castle of Norwich.⁴⁸

In 1466, John Beccles and John Roos were Sheriffs of Norwich.

The descendants of Timothy Buck, Master of the Science of Defence, whose successful encounter with the athletic James Miller forms the subject of the Paper in the Spectator, No. 436, are inhabitants of Beccles.

In the Gentleman's Magazine for 1804, p. 305, are notices and an engraving of a curious silicious stone found in a gravel-pit upon Beccles race-course; the surface of which is covered with noduli, much resembling the seeds of the *Malva communis*: part of a cornu ammonis, and two specimens of Button stone, were found in the same place.

The population of Beccles amounted in

1789 to	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2565
1796	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2440
1801	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2788
1811	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2979
1821	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3493
1831	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3862
1841	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4086

In or about the year 1804, the corporation sold to Robert Sparrow, Esq., 54 acres of land, called Hills and Doles, part of Beccles Fen, for the sum of £3000 (which money was applied by the corporation towards defraying the expense of paving the town of Beccles); but being desirous of purchasing other lands, in lieu of, and equal in value to those which were sold, an annual sum of £400 was ordered to be invested in the funds, in the names of Trustees, to accumulate for that purpose.

A sinking fund was accordingly established, and continued until the year 1824, when, in consequence of a very great advance in the price of Government funds, the Trustees were ordered to sell out all the stock composing the sinking fund, and pay the proceeds to the Portreeve, who was directed to apply the same in discharge of certain bond and other debts, due from the corporation, which were principally contracted for paving the town, and in aid of the poor's-rates, and amounted to about £3000. The old fund was in consequence broken up, and appropriated to the discharge of those debts.

But the corporation, deeming it wise and expedient to continue a sinking fund until they should be enabled by purchases to possess themselves of land equal in quantity and quality to that which they sold to Mr. Sparrow, ordered (8th April, 1824,)

⁴⁸ Blomefield's Norfolk.



LORDS OF THE MANOR OF BARSHAM.



Vaux.

Atte-Tye.

Echingham.

Blennerhafset.

Suckling.



BRASS IN BARSHAM CHURCH.

that the sum of £100 shall be yearly laid out in the 3 per cent. consols, or other Government security; and that the same, with the interest and income thereof, shall accumulate, and be applied as a sinking fund, until such time as the object of the corporation in re-purchasing land, be fully and completely effected.

The first sum of £100 was accordingly laid out in the 3 per cents. on the 8th April, 1824, in the names of Mr. Crowfoot, Mr. Fiske, Mr. Sharpin, and Mr. F. W. Farr, the Trustees appointed for that purpose, who signed a deed declaratory of their trust, 13th April, 1825.

This "first sum of £100" has been augmented by the accumulation of its interest only. The Fen estate has been reduced by the above, and previous sales, to about 950 acres of land.

Barsham.

BARSHAM signifies the residence of Bar. Siward Bar is mentioned in Domesday Book as holding East Beckham in Norfolk of the Conqueror; and Sier Bar had the lordship of Sheringham, in the same county.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, Leustann, the priest, held Barsham under Gurth, the brother of Harold; but at the time of the Norman survey, the manor and advowson were the property of Robert de Vallibus, or Vaux, who held them of Roger Bigot, as capital lord.

The manor is described as one leuca and a half in length, but only half a one in breadth. As a wide tract of meadows was at that period covered with water, and consequently not included in the survey, this mensuration accords with the present extent of the upland portion of the manor; taking the leuca at a mile and a half. It appears to have been a flourishing village; its value had doubled since the time of Edward the Confessor: it had a mill, a well-endowed church, and paid 30^d. gelt, while Beccles was rated at only sixteen.¹

The family of Vaux was long enfeoffed of this lordship, and held a large estate in the neighbourhood; for in 1235, Henry de Vallibus had free-warren in his manors of Barsham, Ringsfield, and Ilketshall.²

¹ Domesday Book.

² Carta, 48 Hen. III.

Soon after this period the lordship of Barsham passed to a family that assumed its surname from the village. In 1274, when Beccles was returned to the Crown as belonging to the Abbot of Bury, Radulphus, the son of Robert de Barsham, was one of the jury empaneled.³ This family appears to have obtained some degree of eminence, for the arms of Sir William de Barsham were placed, among others, in the great east window of the chancel belonging to the conventual church of the Austin Friars in Norwich. About this period Oliver de Tintamet possessed a small estate in this parish, for which he rendered homage.⁴

In 1321, Robert de Barsham, and Robert his son, presented to the church, and were the last of their family who held any interests here.

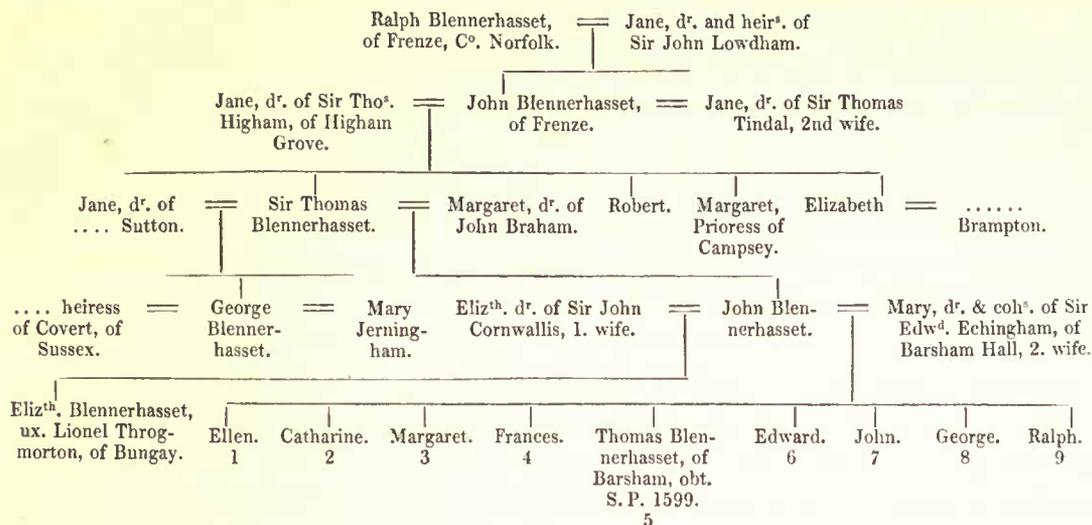
In 1342, Laurence Mounk presented, but if he were lord, his tenure must have been brief; for in 1348, we find Sir Peter atte Tye, or Sir Peter at the Eye, or island, lord and patron. He married Dionesia, widow of Sir Edward Charles, of Kettleburgh. He does not appear to have resided at Barsham, though his widow, who survived him, presented to the church in 1373. She held this patronage with the manor for life, of which she was enfeoffed by her husband; except the meadows called the Park at Barsham, which he "bequeathed to Robert Charles, as it was ordained by feoffees. The manor afterwards to go to his sons to be born; his wife being then with child; and if there were no son, to go to his eldest daughter." This lady, by her will, dated in 1375, desires her body to be buried before the church door of the Holy Trinity in Barsham, and bequeaths to her son Edward Charles, 100^s. per annum, out of her manor of Kessingland. To Sir Robert atte Tye, her eldest son, by her second marriage, who succeeded her in the manor of Barsham, she devises the lordship of Hoo in Monewden; in order to purchase the patronage of some church of the value of £ 20 per annum to appropriate to the cathedral church of Norwich, for the purpose of finding two secular priests to sing Mass for the souls of John de Hoo, her father, and Dionesia his wife; William their son, and all the faithful. She died in 1375, or the following year.

Sir Robert atte Tye, son of Sir Peter and this Lady Dionesia, made his will in the sixth of Richard II., 1382. He therein desires his executors to enfeoff Elizabeth his wife, with the lordship of Barsham, and all his lands in the Hundred of Wangford, and in Kessingland, together with the advowson of the latter parish, for life. This knight was the last of the Tyes who held the manor of Barsham, but his successors possessed the lordship of Kettleburgh Hall, in the Hundred of Loes, for several generations. He was buried in Barsham church, as appears from the will of Elizabeth his widow, proved in 1385, wherein she desires her body to be buried there by the side of her late husband.

³ Rot. Hund.

⁴ Testa. de Nevill, p. 283.

In 1396, Robert Ashfield presented to the rectory of Barsham, from whom the manor and advowson passed to the family of Echingham. Thomas de Echingham was lord in 1424, and with his descendants this property continued till 1523, the fifteenth of Henry VIII., when John Blennerhasset, Esq., married Mary, the youngest daughter of Sir Edward Echingham, the last of that ancient and knightly race; and thus became possessed of this estate, as the following pedigree will show.



In the ninth of Henry VII., John Blennerhasset, Esq., held Bovelands of the King, one half lying in Norfolk, and the other half in the county of Suffolk; and in the twenty-fifth of Henry VIII., George, son and heir of Thomas Blennerhasset, held the same lands.⁵ Anno twenty-third of Elizabeth, Thomas Blennerhasset held the manor of Barsham.

On the 17th of July, 1613, Sir John Suckling, Knight, third son of Robert Suckling, of Woodton, Esq., purchased the manor and advowson of Barsham. Sir John, at that time, resided at Roos Hall; and it appears from family papers that the newly acquired property was valued at £ 240 per annum. Sir John says, in a letter to his brother, Charles Suckling, of Woodton, dated July 23rd, 1613, "I am now gone thorough for Barshame, and have had a fine and recoverie acknowledged to my use, before my Lord Hubbard, and tomorrowe the indentures and all other assurances are to be sealed. For the lettinge of it, I am resolute not to lett the house and demeanes thereof under £ 240, and I hope that by your care and diligence in providinge me a good tenant, I may have £ 250 p. ann. I am confident that ere longe landes will

⁵ Harl. MSS. codex 370.

bear a better and a higher prise; and therefore my purpose is, not to grant any lease above seaven yeares: beside I meane to keepe all the royalties and the fishing in myne own handes; and upon these tearmes if you can find me out an honest man that will hire it, I will thinke myself behouldeinge unto you. It is a thinge that lyes more convenient for me, by reason of the vicinity of Rosehall, then it doth for you, or any els, but had I broken of for it, I had rather you had it than any els. It is nowe myne, and I trust that the name of the Sucklings shall inheritt and possess it, when I am dead and rotten."

It appears by "a p̄ticulir of the Manor of Barsham Hall," drawn out at the time of this transfer, that while the whole estate produced but £240 per annum, "the fishing, swannes and swanne game, fowling and other royalties," were valued at £10^s a year. How highly, therefore, these privileges were estimated—which every man now seems to look upon as his own right—will be further apparent by contrasting this valuation with the income of the rectory of the parish at the same period, which, in the p̄ticulir referred to, is set at £120 per annum.

Sir John Suckling was Secretary of State, Comptroller of the Household, and Privy Counsellor to King James I. and his unfortunate successor, and Member of Parliament for Dunwich. He was also an aspirant to still higher preferment, for in the 'Sidney State Papers' is a letter written by Lord Leicester to his son, in September, 1621, wherein he says, "It is not known who shall be Chancellor of the Exchequer, now my Lord Brooke doth give it over: it is between Sir Richard Weston and Sir John Suckling." The appointment was obtained by Sir Richard Weston. He married Martha Cranfield, sister to Lionel, Earl of Middlesex, by whom he had Sir John Suckling, the poet, Lionel Suckling, and four daughters.⁶ Sir John charged the manor of Barsham Hall with £18 per annum for ever, to be expended in the reparation of the monument of himself and his first wife, placed in St. Andrew's church at Norwich, and for annual sermons to be preached in that city.

On his decease, in 1627, this property descended to his eldest son, Sir John Suckling,

⁶ Three of these daughters are buried in Pangbourne church, Berks, beneath a monument thus inscribed.—"Within a vault, under the marble stones hereunto adjoining, resteth the bodies of three sisters; Martha, Ann, and Mary; the daughters of the Right Honourable Sir John Suckling, of Whitton, in the county of Middlesex, Knight—who died Controulor of the Householde, and one of the most honourable Prive-Councell unto King Charles the first. Martha was first marryed unto Sir George Sowthcott, of Shillingford, in the county of Devon, Knight; and dyed the wife of William Clagett, of Isleworth, in the county of Middlesex, Esquire. She dyed at the Bathe, the 29th of June, 1661. Anne was marryed unto Sir John Davis, sonne of Sir John Davis, both lords of this mannor, and dyed the 24th of July, 1659. Mary Sucklinge dyed a virgine, the 17th of October, 1658." Elizabeth, the youngest daughter, died at an early age, unmarried.



Vandyke pinx!

Ja^s Thomson, sculp!

SIR JOHN SUCKLING,

THE POET,

In the Author's possession.

Published by John Weale, 59, High Holborn, London, 1846.

the poet, whose gay and easy ballads are familiar to every lover of poetry, and have out-lived the memory of his political abilities. Sir John died at Paris in 1641, in the thirty-fourth year of his age, having fled the kingdom to escape the penalties of a charge of high treason preferred against him by the popular party; and which the power of the Crown was too feeble to avert. His works have passed through seven editions, the last of which was printed in 1836. Though Suckling is best known in the annals of literature as a poet, his prose writings are calculated to raise a yet higher opinion of his talents. His 'Letters to several Eminent Persons' abound in wit and spirit; though marred, it must be allowed, by a dash of gallantry, more free than modern refinement will admit:—the fault of the time in which he lived, not of the individual. His 'Account of Religion by Reason,' and his 'Letter to Mr. Jermyn,' afterwards Earl of St. Alban's, on the dispute between the Court and the nation, are unrivalled by the compositions of that age, for soundness of argument, depth of observation, and purity of expression. These afford a presumption that he was no stranger to those reflections which elevate the human character; and that if his life had been prolonged, it would have been devoted to pursuits most useful to the State, and honourable to himself.

Sir John sold this property to his uncle, Charles Suckling, of Woodton, probably for the purpose of raising his regiment of horse for the King's service; for in 1640, the year succeeding the battle of Dunse, Charles Suckling appears as lord, with whose descendants the manor and advowson remain.

The family of Suckling claims a Saxon origin. Suckling, or, as the name was anciently written, Socling, signifies in the Saxon language, a person holding his estate by socage, or the tenure of the plough.

In 1274, Robert Suckling is returned in the Hundred Rolls as holding a small estate; and Walter Suckling, of Sapiston, in Suffolk, is also mentioned, from whom Richard de Ayswell, and John de Boxford, incumbent of that parish, had unjustly extorted seven shillings: a considerable sum at that period.⁷ There are other incidental notices of this family in the public records, but no regular or authentic chain of descent can be deduced from them before the year 1348, when Thomas Esthawe, the Socling, was admitted to certain copyholds held of the manors of Langhall and Woodton, in Norfolk.

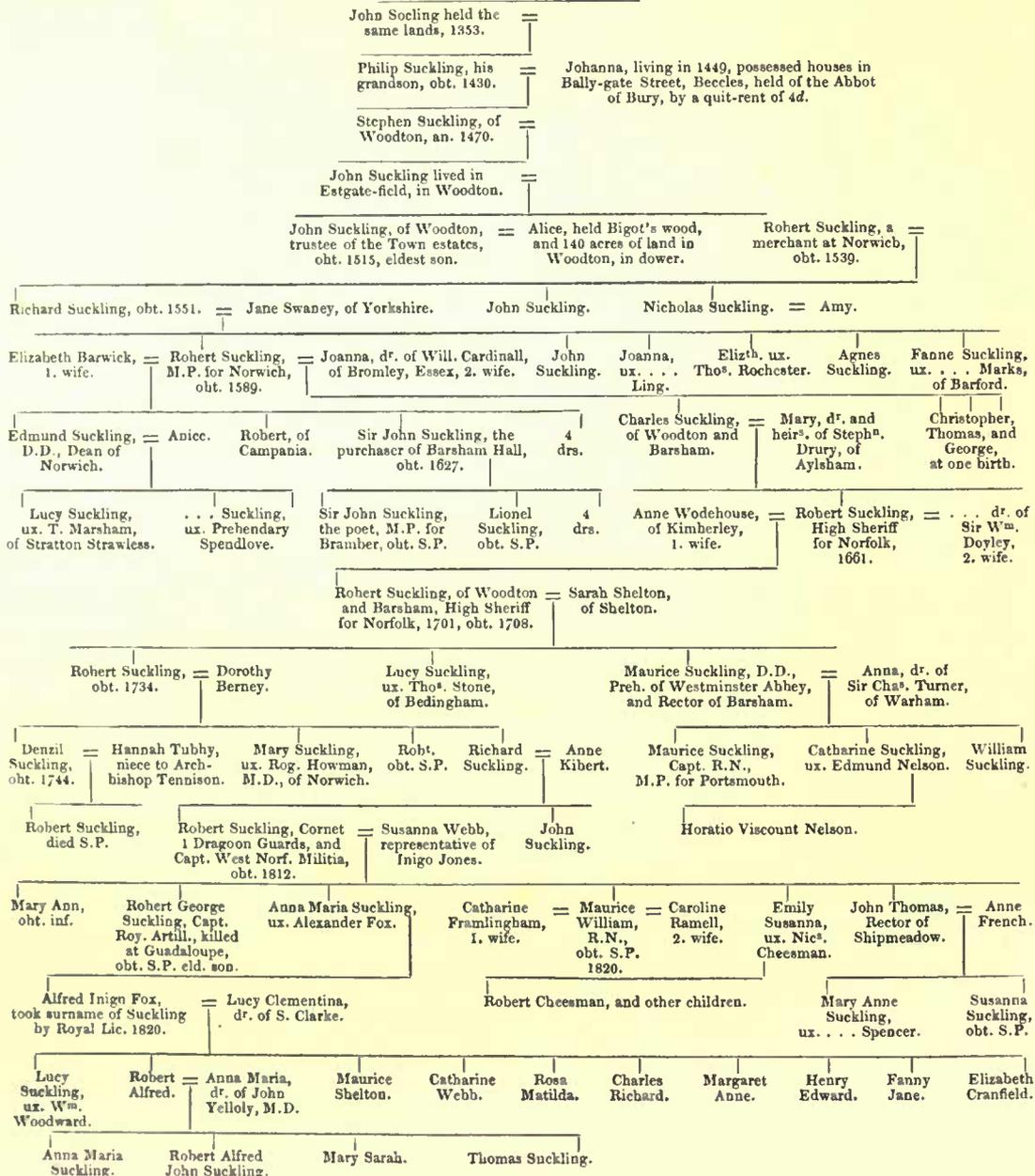
⁷ "Robtus Suckling tenet unū mesuag: &c. Ita dicūt q^d Ricūs de Ayswell, Joes de Boxford, cler: ej: Walterus de Culing extorserūt de Walto Sucling de Sapiston injust: vij^s p. pot." Rot. Hund.

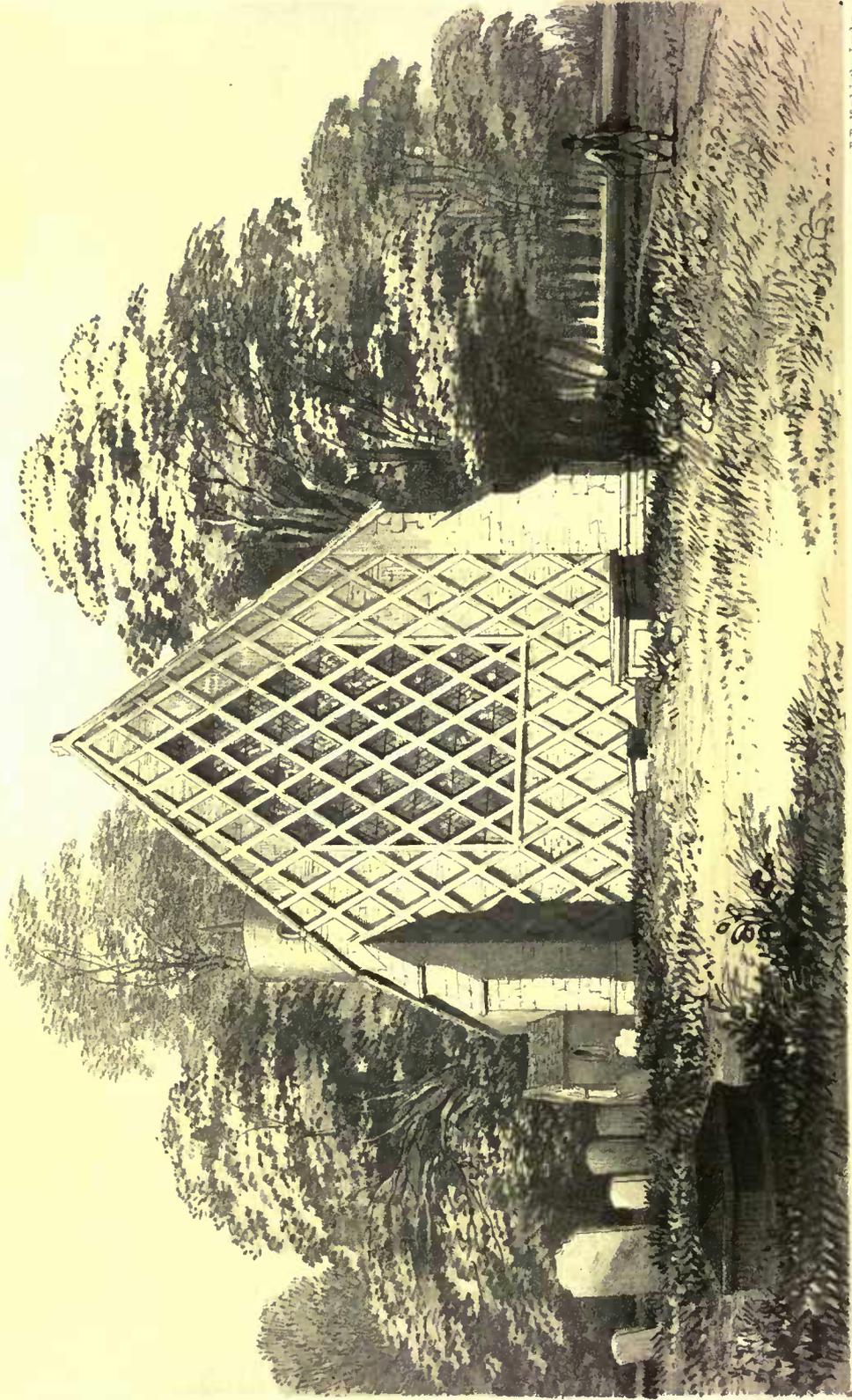
ANTIQUITIES OF THE



Suckling.

Thomas Soeling, of Woodton and Langhall, admitted to certain estates in 1348.





F. Bedford Litho. London

A. T. Stocking Del. Feb'y 1845

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY'S

London, John Weale, 1845.
Printed by Sandridge & Co.

The first crest of this family was a Stag courant azure, attired and unguled, or. The colour of the animal was afterwards changed to gules; and it is so borne on several of the family monuments; but Queen Elizabeth, when on her 'Progresses' through Norfolk, granted unto Robert Suckling, and his heirs, for a crest, a Stag courant, or: and taking into consideration the good and loyal services of the said Robert Suckling, as well then displayed, as at all times heretofore, gives him, as an augmentation to his said crest, a sprig of Honey-suckle proper, to be borne in the Stag's mouth.

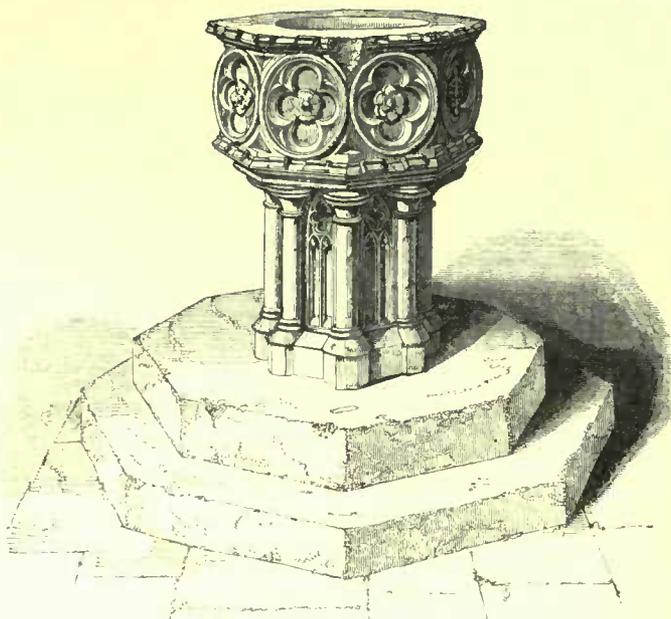
THE CHURCH.

There was a church in Barsham, at the time of the Domesday Survey, to which belonged twenty acres of glebe, valued at 3s. The patronage was appended to the manor at the above period, and has never been disunited.

The church is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and comprises a nave and chancel of the same width: the latter is covered with red tiles, but the former, which is somewhat loftier than the chancel, is thatched with reeds, and there is a south porch covered with lead. A small north aisle or chapel was taken down about sixty years since, the removal of which has materially injured the stability of the fabric. At the west end of the nave stands a round tower, in which hangs a small solitary bell, though there were three at no very distant period.

The edifice is probably raised upon the site of that mentioned in the Domesday Book, but has no claims to Norman antiquity. The oldest feature discernible in it is a lancet window in the south wall of the chancel, near its junction with the nave, at the lower part of which is a lychnoscope, now plastered over, though the original and massive hinges are visible. The other windows, except that at the east end, are in the style which marks the reign of Edward II., and contain each a single shaft, with here and there a fragment of ancient painted glass. A screen of oak divides the body of the church from the chancel, which must have been erected about the time of James I., if we may judge of its age by the fashion of its design—a bold step at a period so shortly subsequent to the Reformation, and one which must have subjected the Rector to the charge of abetting popery. This incumbent was Joseph Fleming, who held the rectory from 1617 to 1636, and who, as appears by his arms, carved on a corbel, raised the present substantial but inelegant roof of the chancel in 1633. To him, also, I attribute the construction of the eastern window—the most remarkable feature in the edifice. This is formed by stone ribs or mullions, which cross each other diagonally; producing a series of lozenge-shaped lights. On the exterior face of the wall, the diagonal ribs are extended throughout; the interstices, beyond the limits of the glass, being filled with squared flints. The effect is very singular, and in design has, most probably, no parallel.

The font, which is coeval with the church, stands in an open space at the west end of the nave.



The Font at Barsham Church.

On the floor of the chancel lies the brass effigy of a warrior, in the military costume of the latter part of the fourteenth century. There are no armorial bearings attached to this monument, and the circumscription is lost, but it must, without doubt, have been placed to the memory of Sir Robert Atte Tye, who was buried here, soon after the year 1380; and whose widow, by will, proved in 1385, desires to be buried in Barsham church, by the side of her late husband. The costume strictly agrees with this appropriation. The present parish clerk, a very aged man, relates a tradition connected with this monument. He says, when this warrior died, four dozens of wine were drank, according to his last directions, over his grave, before the coffin was covered with earth. Strange as such a relation may sound to our ears, it is, in all probability, true. For in the will of James Cooke, of Sporle, in Norfolk, made in 1506, it is ordered, "I will that myn executors, as sone as it may come to ther knowleg that I am dede, that they make a drynkyng for my soul to the value of vi^s, viii^d, in the church of Sporle." The drynkyng was accordingly held in the middle aisle.

An altar-tomb of richly moulded brick stands against the north wall of the chancel. It bears no inscription, but most likely covers the remains of Thomas Blennerhasset, Esq., who was buried in May, 1599.

There are likewise several floor-stones commemorative of former Rectors, and one

which especially attracts attention by the variously coloured marbles of which it is composed. It is placed to the memory of the Rev. Thomas Missenden, who died in 1774, after an incumbency of thirty years.

Dr. Maurice Suckling, Prebendary of Westminster Abbey, and Rector of Barsham, was buried here in 1730.

Benjamin Solley, Rector, died Dec. 6, 1714.

Horace Suckling, Clerk, Rector, died April 12, 1828, æt. 57.

There are also monuments to the following persons :

Horace Suckling, youngest son of Robert Suckling, of Woodton, Esq., died August 15, 1751.

William Suckling, Esq., died Dec. 15, 1798, aged 68.

Elizabeth Flavell, eldest daughter of the Rev. Horace Suckling, died July 30, 1833.

Samuel Lillistone, Esq., of Beccles, died June 26, 1829, aged 72.

Eliza Lane, died June 10, 1831.

John Eachard, three times Bailiff of Great Yarmouth, died June 24, 1657. His wife died in the same year.

The Lady Dionesia Atte Tye was buried in the church porch, according to the directions given in her will, in 1375, where a very ancient gravestone, robbed of its brass effigy and armorial bearings, covers her remains.

The register books of Barsham commence in 1558, and down to 1615 were kept in English, and are badly written. After this period another hand occurs, by which the entries are very neatly made, and in Latin. There are a few breaks in the succeeding books, which seem to have been much neglected. In "1559, Thomas, son of Edwarde Tye, was baptized, on the 22nd of Marche." In all probability this was a descendant of the ancient race, formerly Lords of Barsham.

"Anno Dni 1584. The olde ladie Itchingham was buried the 30th of Julie." The age of this lady is not recorded, but it must have been very advanced, as her *youngest* daughter, Mary, married John Blennerhasset, Esq., in 1523; and supposing her to have been only forty years old when her youngest daughter was married, she must even so have reached her hundred and first year: but the probability is she was ten or fifteen years older. She was, therefore, with justice called the "olde ladie" Echingham. A good proof this of the salubrity of Barsham Hall, notwithstanding the lowness of its site.

The tithes of the parish have been commuted for £463, and the glebes set at the same time at £160 per annum. These amount to rather more than eighty acres, the land tax on which is redeemed. The churchwarden holds a piece of land producing about 30s. per annum, given for the benefit of the poor, by a benefactor whose name is not recorded.

RECTORS OF BARSHAM.

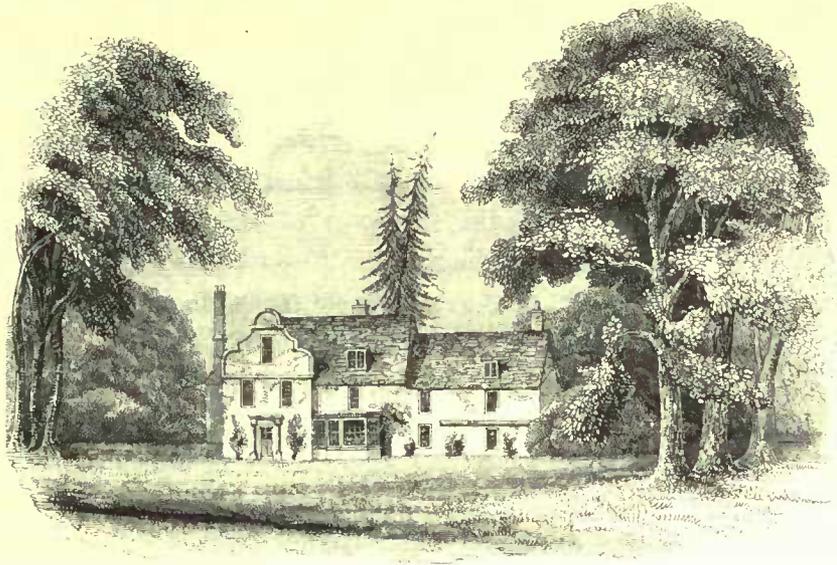
Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
John de Redenhale . . .	1321	Robert de Barsham.
William de Welyngton . . .	1342	Laurence Mounk.
Alexander de Brusyard . . .	1348	Peter Atte Tye, Miles.
Thomas Ryvet	1373	Dña Dionesia Atte Tye.
John Bray	1380	Robert Atte Tye.
Henry Barneby	1396	Robert Ashfield.
Thomas Wase	1424	Thomas de Echingham.
James Cobald	1450	Thomas de Echingham.
Thomas Bryghtyere	1460	Richard Echingham.
Radulphus Colyn	1488	John Echingham.
Thomas Say	1498	John Echingham.
William Parker	1502	John Echingham.
Robert Watts	1510	John Echingham.
William Gele	1514	John Echingham.
William Wilbore	1516	Edward Echingham, Miles.
Robert Hume	1533	Assignees of Sir Edward Echingham, defunct.
Christopher Batty	1554	John Blennerhasset, Esq.
John Christian	1564	John Blennerhasset, Esq.
Richard Firbank	1568	John Blennerhasset, Esq.
Joseph Fleming	1617	Sir John Suckling.
George Cock	1636	Sir John Suckling, Jun.
Benjamin Solley	1673	Robert Suckling, Esq.
Maurice Suckling, D.D.	1714	Robert Suckling, Esq.
Matthias Earberry	1730	Robert Suckling, Esq.
Robert Clipwell	1735	Dorothy Suckling.
Thomas Missenden	1740	Denzil Suckling, Esq.
Edward Holden	1774	Executors of Denzil Suckling.
Horace Suckling	1797	The Crown, on lunacy of Robert Suckling.
John Lillistone	1828	Alfred Suckling, Clerk.
Alfred Suckling	1839	Alfred Suckling, Clerk.

Estimatio ecclesiæ xxij marc : Synodalia p : an : ii^s. viij^d. Denarij Sancti Petri, xxij^d.

About thirty years since an ancient gold ring was discovered by a woman weeding on Barsham Hall farm, on which is engraved the standard-bearer of the tenth legion leaping into the sea, and exciting the Roman soldiers to land and attack the Britons. It weighs two pennyweights, two grains and a half, and is in the possession of the writer.

The Rectory House is an old but commodious mansion, erected about the time of James II., and stands near the church, amidst its own grounds, which contain many re-

markably fine evergreens and forest trees, of considerable magnitude, which are very harmoniously grouped.



Here, in an old-fashioned and low, but cheerful apartment, was born, on the 27th of May, 1725, Catharine Suckling, the mother of Nelson; and in the same chamber Maurice Suckling, her brother, first saw the light. He was the early patron and professional tutor of the great Admiral, his nephew; and when in command of the *Dreadnought* of 60 guns, attended by the *Augusta* of the same class, and the *Edinburgh*, 64, fought an action off Cape François, in 1757, paralleled only by his nephew's own achievements. With these three ships, carrying only 184 guns, and 1232 seamen, he defeated a French squadron bearing 366 guns of much heavier metal, and worked by 3440 men. This action was fought on the 21st of October; and it is not a little singular that the great victory of Trafalgar was gained on the same day of the month; and to this coincidence Nelson alluded at the commencement of that memorable engagement.⁸ Capt. Suckling was returned to Parliament for Portsmouth, and made Comptroller of the Navy, and one of the elder Brethren of the Trinity House, soon after this brilliant exploit. He married Mary Walpole, niece of the first Earl of Orford, but died without issue, and was buried at Barsham, July 27, 1778, in the chancel, near his father.

Laurence Echard, author of a 'General Ecclesiastical History,' which Dean Prideaux recommends as the best of its kind in the English tongue, was born at Barsham, in 1671. His biographers state that his father was Minister of Barsham, which is incorrect. Echard

⁸ Southey's Life of Nelson.

was Prebendary of Lincoln, which he held with Rendlesham, and other preferment in Suffolk. His family were settled in this village for several generations, as many tombstones in the church-yard record. Echard bears Ermine, on a bend Sab: three chess-rooks arg.

Barsham Hall, now converted into a farm-house, was formerly a spacious mansion containing many lofty and noble apartments. It was built by the Echingshams, but retains few of its original features, having been principally pulled down by the grandfather of the writer, who, however, well remembers its original state. From a ground plan, made before its demolition, it appears that the great hall was 44 ft. in length, by 28 in width, and rose to the entire height of the house. Through this was a staircase lighted by windows of stained glass. The court-room was 28 ft. by 18, and the chamber above 24 by 18. Adjoining the hall was a withdrawing-room 32 ft. by 28: all these apartments were 16 feet high. The house enclosed a quadrangle, whose exterior walls were 142 feet each way, and near the entrance, which was over the east side of the moat, stood a lofty tower, ascended by a spiral staircase. Some of the apartments, which are now converted to cow-houses and stables, retain wide and antique fire-places, and over a door, leading into one of them, are the arms of Blennerhasset, carved in stone, with the date of 1563. Upon the transfer of the manor to Sir John Suckling, this house was valued at £4000, which appears a most enormous sum for that period.

The meadows around the hall, which formed a park as early as the fourteenth century, are now divided into small enclosures, but stags' horns are occasionally found, when new ditches and drains are dug.

The right of free-fishery and swannery in the river Waveney, belonging to this manor, extends from a certain part of the river, now known as Moll's locks, to Roos Hall fleet, and the Swanmark, as preserved on an old roll, bearing date 1498, and now in the writer's possession, is a diagonal cross on the left beak of the bird, with a blot on the upper part of the lower angle.

The cellarer of Norwich Priory had three shillings rent; and the Prioress of Bungay an estate of twelve acres of meadow, in Barsham. The parish contains 1871 acres of land, with a population, according to the last census, of 250 souls.

The manor of Roos Hall with Ashmans extends over 328 acres of land in this parish. An elegant mansion called Ashmans, from its locality, was erected on this domain in the beginning of the present century, by the late Robert Rede, Esq. It stands on a rising ground, just within the limits of the parish, and commands pleasing views of Beccles, with its meandering river, and the adjacent country. Mr. Rede survived the completion of this residence but a short time, dying on the 13th of August, 1822, in his 59th year. He is buried, with his widow, who was the fifth daughter of Sir Charles Anderson, Bart., under an altar-tomb in Barsham church-yard.

North Cove.

NORTH COVE is a small village traversed by the high road from Beeceles to Lowestoft, and containing, at the time of the census in 1841, 219 inhabitants. It is so called to distinguish it from South Cove, in Blything Hundred; and these two parishes are designated in ancient deeds, as Cove Magna, and Cove Parva; North Cove being Little Cove. The parish is not accounted for in Domesday Book under its present name, but is probably the "Hetheburgfeld" therein mentioned, which paid an annual tale of herrings, and formed part of the great possessions of Earl Hugh.

There is no manor of Cove to the present day, the lordship being styled the manor of Wade's, or Wathe's Hall; which appellation it obtained from Robert de Watheby, of Westmoreland, who was enfeoffed of this estate in the time of Henry II. This manor was held of the King by fealty, and 4s. rent, paid to his Hundred of Wangford.¹

Robert de Watheby left a son, Thorpine de Watheby, whose daughter and coheirress, Maud, marrying Hubert Fitz-Jernegan, carried this manor into that family. Sir Hubert was a knight of large estates, and gave a considerable sum of money to King Henry II., which he paid into the Exchequer in 1182. He was witness to a deed in 1195, by which divers lands were granted to Byland Abbey, in Yorkshire.² In the third of King John, he paid £20 fine for three knights' fees and a half, which he held of the honour of Brittain.³ The King granted the wardship of all his large possessions, and the marriage of his wife and children, to Robert de Veteri Ponte, or Vipount; so that he married them without disparagement to their fortunes.⁴ He died in 1203.

Notwithstanding the manor was thus conveyed to the family of Jernegan, scions of the old stock still flourished in Cove, and held lands there for several generations. In 1309, Matilda, the widow of Radulphus de Wathe Carpenter, grants to William her son, and his heirs, two pieces of arable land, of which one piece lies in "Campo de Cove," amidst the lands of Alan le Mey de Wathe; and held of Alan de Wathe, her son. Her seal is attached to this deed, bearing her name, and a cross of eight points, patonce.⁵ This mention of the Campum de Cove, which also occurs in other deeds of this period, seems to have reference to the Heathburg-field of Domesday Book.

There was a family possessed of considerable property in this parish before the year 1300, who resided in South Cove, whence they assumed their surname, which they pro-

¹ Jermyn MSS.

² Regist. Byland Abbey, fol. 102.

³ Rot. Pip. p. 3. John, Rot. 16.

⁴ Blomefield.

⁵ Jermyn MSS.

bably transferred to their lands here. In 1373, Master John de Cove, an advocate in the Norwich Consistory, was buried in St. Luke's chapel, in the cathedral of that city, by brother Nicholas de Brampton, late prior thereof. He gave a cup to the altar of St. Botolph, at North Cove, and legacies to Sir Surion, Rector of St. Mary in the Marsh; to John de Ely, Rector of Acle; and Robert de Theberton, Rector of Alderford, in Norfolk.⁶

In the thirty-fifth of Edward III., a family, named Boresd, (soon after spelt Borhed,) held an estate in North Cove. In that year, Roger Boresd granted to John, Henry, and Alan, his brothers, and to Robert Boresd, a piece of land lying "in Campo de Northcove." In the third of Edward IV., Robert Borhed, clerk, son and heir of William Borhed, late of Westhall, and nephew and heir of Roger Borhed, late of Blythborough, granted to Robert Banyard, Esq., of Spexhall, and John his son; to Richard Fulmerston, of Framlyngham ad Castrum; to William Fulborne; John Hoo, of Blythborough; and John Waley, of the same parish, a certain meadow in North Cove, which had descended to him, as heir-at-law of the aforesaid Roger Bohir, his uncle. He seals with Sab: a boar's head couped arg.⁷

The manor of Wathe Hall still continued with the Jernegans. In 1406 they had a charter of free-warren in this lordship. In 1465 John Jernegan was residing at Cove, and by his will, dated in 1473, and proved December 9, 1474, he desires his body to be buried by the side of his wife, in the chapel of St. Mary, in the priory of St. Olave's, at Herringfleet. He bequeaths the manor of "Little Wirlingham," which he had lately purchased of William Cove, to his son Osbert, for life; and also his manor of Wattle, or Wathe Hall, in North Cove. On the 6th of January, 1515, Sir Edward Jernegan, his grandson, died seized, inter alia, of the manor of Wathe Hall.

This lordship has since passed through the families of Yallop, Bence, and Sparrow, and is now the property of Archibald, Earl of Gosford.

In a parish book, dated 1675, it is stated, that the Constables for North Cove ought to be chosen at the lect of Worlingham, the 1st day of October, yearly.

The old manorial residence of the Jernegans, at Wathe Hall, is entirely demolished, but traces of its site remain, marked by an extensive moat, and an inner rampart of earth. The area is an oblong enclosure, measuring about sixty paces by fifty, close upon the edge of the marshes, and rendered highly picturesque by the presence of several majestic oaks, which "wreath their old fantastic roots" amidst the foundations of the mansion. Bricks of that flat and peculiar form, which mark the workmanship of an early period, are discovered in considerable quantities; but with the exception of a rude key, dug up at the time of the writer's visit to the spot, few, if any, relics of by-gone

⁶ Blometfield.

⁷ Brewster MSS.

days have been brought to light. The vast extent of the area occupied by this mansion, and the traces of a decoy, for the supply of wild-fowl, which is led some hundred yards into the higher grounds, are existing evidences of the rude state and hospitality once exercised here. The present residence called Wathe's Hall is a good and substantial farm-house, erected to the south of the ancient site, and is, probably, two hundred years old, though recent plastering and repairs have covered every antique feature.

THE CHURCH.

The church at Cove is a rectory in the gift of the Crown, dedicated to St. Botolph, and was probably erected by the Jernegans, if not by the Wathebys, as the doors of the nave may claim as high an antiquity. That on the south side, which is the most elaborate, would exhibit a good specimen of Norman architecture, if its incrustations of white-wash were removed.



The fabric is inelegant and badly proportioned, being 96 feet long, and only 16 wide. The interior is clean, and reputedly kept, though barbarously disfigured by a huge and ugly altar-piece of nondescript architecture, which covers the entire east end; but, at the same time, happily conceals the fact, that the chancel window is unglazed, and stopped with masonry. There is a good octangular font at the west end, in excellent preserva-

last-mentioned gentleman was a magistrate, and deputy-lieutenant for the county. *Farr impales Lee*, az. 2 bars or; over all a bend counter-compone gules and erminois.

In the church-yard is an altar-tomb covering the remains of Richarda, daughter of Dr. Anthony Sparrow, late Bishop of Norwich, who died the 20th . . . 1700.

But by far the most ancient monumental records connected with this parish, are two gravestones, lying half sunk in the sod, near the above altar-tomb. They are coped, or "en dos d'âne" tombs of the eleventh century, and perhaps memorials of the *Jernegans*.

The custom of placing crosses on the tombs of the deceased is extremely ancient, for among the laws of Kenneth, King of Scotland, who flourished in the ninth century, we meet with this command,—“Esteem every sepulchre sacred, and adorn it with the sign of the cross, which take care you do not so much as tread on.”

Among the Rectors of Cove was the Rev. Henry Harington, D.D., Prebendary of Bath and Wells; Rector of North Cove with Willingham St. Mary annexed; and of Haynford, in Norfolk; and Assistant Minister of St. Peter's Mancroft, in Norwich. He died in that city, December 25, 1791, aged 37 years. He was admitted of Queen's College, Oxford, where he proceeded A.M., in 1777. He was the son of Dr. Harington, of Bath, and the original editor of the '*Nugæ Antiquæ*,' from the papers of his ancestor. Sir John Harington, the poet, of Kelston, near Bath; and married Esther, second sister of Serjeant Lens.

Charities in North Cove.—£ 4 per annum are given to the poor in coals, arising from about three acres of land, lying in Ellough, and a small piece in Cove.

RECTORS OF NORTH COVE.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Hugo de Novo Castro . . .	1284	The King.
Robert Gilling . . .	1301	Id.
Ralph de Ichington . . .	1307	Id.
Clement de Lek . . .	1317	Id.
Robert Dannis . . .	1349	Id.
John le Clerc . . .	1354	Id.
John de Pulham . . .	1361	Id.
John Blakeney . . .	1394	Id.
Henry Drayton . . .	1395	Id.
John Atte Wall . . .	1398	Id.
Ralph Wade . . .	1413	Id.
William Fraunceys . . .	1414	Id.
Edmund Pelse . . .	1418	Id.
Robert Huneworth . . .	1420	Id.

ANTIQUITIES OF THE

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas Eppe . . .	1427	The King.
John Dash . . .	1455	Id.
John Walson . . .	1468	Id.
William Wyghell . . .	1476	Id.
William Wra . . .		Id.
John Smith . . .		Id.
Thomas Heerd . . .	1494	Id.
Thomas Bingley . . .		Id.
Peter Hewet . . .	1522	Id.
Thomas Whitton . . .	1554	The Bishop, by lapse.
William Guybons . . .	1557	The Bishop, by lapse.
John Darley . . .	1567	The Crown.
Thomas Yarner . . .	1580	Id.
Anthony Blaxter . . .	1595	Id.
Gabriel Honifield . . .	1611	Id.
Thomas Loftus . . .	1612	Id.
William Hynde . . .		Id.
Thomas Draper . . .		Id.
Jacobus Bell . . .	1646	Id.
Laurence Echard . . .	1678	Id.
Timothy Strange . . .	1696	Id.
James Carter, Jun. . . .	1724	Id.
James Carter . . .	1743	Id.
John Soley . . .	1779	Id.
William Leech . . .	1780	Id.
Henry Harington . . .	1790	Id.
George Beevor . . .	1792	The Archbishop: the See being vacant.
George Beevor . . .	1797	Instituted a second time by the Crown.
Richard Gooch . . .	1810	The Crown.

Ellough,
OR
Willingham All Saints.

DR. TANNER says, "Ellough appears to have been the chief name of this village for at least three hundred years, because in one of the Institution Books, prior to the date of 1400, it is called Elgh, quasi alio nomine Willingham omnium sanctorum."

It is a small retired village, lying off the main road, and comprising only 1052 acres of land, the tithes of which have been commuted for a rent charge of £ 300 per annum, exclusive of the value of the glebes.

In Domesday Book it is written Elga, and is therein stated to have been the property of Burchard, a wealthy Saxon, in the days of Edward the Confessor. It was granted after the Norman conquest to Ralph Guader, Earl of Norfolk, who lost it by rebelling against the Crown, when it passed to Roger Bigot, and was held under him by Robert de Vallibus, at the time of the Survey.

In the ninth of Edward I., Ellough was again the lordship of the Crown, though in the thirty-first of the same reign, Sir Walter Mouncey presented to the church. The manor then passed to the family of Berry; Hugo de Berry being lord in 1322; with whose descendants it remained about a century, and was then transferred by marriage to Sir Thomas Bardolph. In the thirty-third of Henry VI., William Bonds conveyed to John Southwell, and Alice his wife, relict of Sir Thomas Bardolph, and heiress of Berry, the manors of Ellough and Pakefield.¹ The date, however, of the above transfer, as fixed by Blomefield, is not strictly correct, as Southwell presented to the church in 1452. In 1477, the manor was with Thomas Aslack, Esq., from whose descendants it passed by a female heir to Thomas Playters, Esq., of Sotterley. In 1541, Thomas Playters presented; and by an inquisitio post mortem, taken on the 20th of October, anno 1583, William Playters, of Sotterley, was found to die seized, inter alia, of the manors and advowsons of Sotterley, Uggeshall, and Ellough; and the reversion of the manor of Brusyard. He died June the 6th, in that year, and Thomas was found to be his son and heir. The Playters family held the lordship for above two hundred years, when it was sold, in 1787, to Robert Sparrow, of Worlingham, Esq., and has since descended, with his other estates in the neighbourhood, to the Earl of Gosford, his son-in-law, who is the present proprietor.

¹ Blomefield, vol. x. p. 276.

By a rental of the manor of Ellough for the year 1685, it appears to have extended at that time into the following parishes: Weston, Shaddingfield, Redisham, Brampton, Sotterley, Henstead, Nutford, Rushmere, Kessingland, Gisleham, Pakefield, North Cove, Worlingham, and Beccles.²

In Dr. Tanner's notes, 1745, it is stated that the Rector of Ellough, alias Willingham All Saints, hath some glebe lands within the bounds of Willingham St. Mary, which the Rector of the latter parish claims the tithes of, and which claim the Doctor seems unable to determine.

THE CHURCH

at Ellough stands upon the ridge of what is termed in Suffolk a hill; and, though occupying a rather bleak and naked site, looks down upon a rich but narrow valley, in which the rectory-house and garden are situated.

The preferment is a rectory dedicated to All Saints, and comprises a nave and chancel, without aisles, and a square tower containing three bells, open to the former by a good and lofty arch, the archivolt mouldings of which die into the abutments; a fashion very prevalent in the early part of the fourteenth century.

The body of the church is covered with lead, supported by fine oak timbers, which were originally adapted to a higher pitch; but having been shortened on the principles of modern church economy to a flatter angle, they produce an anomalous effect, not very agreeable to the eye of taste. The chancel is covered by a roof of slate, sustained by a light frame of deal.

The nave is entered through a south porch of red brick, built in 1602, by private liberality, as we learn from the following inscription placed over the external face of the arch.

**This church porch was builded at the onely coste and charges of
Thomas Lobe of this parishe, anno Domini 1602.**

There is an octangular font, ornamented with rosettes and shields, at the west end of the nave; and part of what must once have been an elegant screen forms a partition between pews in the nave and chancel. Some open seats in the latter, finely carved in oak or chestnut wood, appear to have been long consigned to a neglect which neither their excellence nor solidity deserve.

On the 6th of April, 1643, this church was visited by the puritanical reformer, William Dowsing, who says in his journal, "we brake down twelve superstitious pictures,

² Jermyn MSS.

and the steps to be levelled, and a cross to be taken off the chancel, which they promised to do." If this purifier of our churches were now to visit Ellough, he would find little embellishment to condemn; if we except a small unpretending piscina, which occupies the usual position in the south wall of the chancel.

Edmund Besylham, of Ellough, by his will, dated January 4, 1476, desires his body to be buried in the church of Ellough. His will was proved in January, 1498, but Alicia, his wife, who survived him, did not take out letters of administration.³

At the time of the Reformation, there was a guild of St. John the Baptist in this church.

The registers of Ellough are very defective; the oldest bearing a date not higher than 1720.

Monuments.—There is a small brass effigy of a female, placed within the communion rails, the lines of which are nearly obliterated. The inscription, in more perfect condition, commemorates "Margaret Chewt, the faythfull loving wyfe of Arthare Chewt, gentleman, daughter to Christopher Playters, Esquer, who died at thage of 85, in februarye, 1607."

At the head of this effigy are the arms of Playters, Bendy-wavy of six, arg. and az., on the dexter or husband's side; while those of Chewt occupy the contrary position. Chewt, or Chute, bears Gules, three swords bar-wise, arg. hilted or.

2. Hic jacet Anna Gostling, uxor Gulielmi Gostling, generosi; obiit vicesimo die mensis Januarij Anno Dñi, 1612.

Gostling's arms are a chevron between three crescents.

3. A large floor-stone in the chancel bears a long and not inelegant Latin epitaph to Thomas Symonds, A.M., twelve years Rector of Ellough, who died October 12, Anno Dñi, 1748, aged 38 years.

At the top are the arms of Symonds; Sable, a dolphin embowed, gorging a surall fish, both argent.

The poor of this parish have an allotment of about five acres of land, for which they are allowed six hundreds of fagots annually.

By the census of 1841, the population of Ellough was 155.

³ Harl. MSS.

ANTIQUITIES OF THE

RECTORS OF ELLOUGH.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
William Goudewyn	1302	Walter Mouncey, Knt.
Robert de Elmham		
Peter de Pakefield	1322	Hugo de Berry
Thomas de Spiney	1326	Id.
Thomas de Drayton	1335	Id.
Thomas Greneford	1339	Id.
Robert le Spencer	1343	Id.
John le Well	1371	Alicia de Berry
Thomas Kemp	1393	Alicia de Berry
Richard Marshall	1401	Edmund Berry, Knt.
John Robin	1426	Id.
Thomas Thelnethan	1432	Id.
John Crace		
Richard Athow	1443	Sir Thomas Bardolph.
Robert Herring	1443	Id.
Reginald Smethe	1452	John Southwell, Esq.
John Canterbury		Id.
William Wra	1477	Thomas Aslack, Esq.
Robert Pury	1479	Id.
Edmund Woodrove	1480	Id.
Robert Bumpstede	1482	Id.
William Woodyard	1492	Id.
Robert Blunderston		
Christopher Lacebe	1541	Thomas Playters, Esq.
William Richardson	1552	Id.
William Reddiswaye	1554	The Bishop, by lapse.
William Rigway	1579	The King, by lapse.
Thomas Jellis	1595	Thomas Playters, Esq.
Joseph Fleming	1610	Assignees of Thomas Playters, Knt.
Christopher West	1618	Sir Thomas Playters.
John Moore		
Edward Warner	1680	Sir Lionel Playters, Bart.
John Stewkley	1706	John Playters, Esq.
James Bedingfeld	1711	Id.
William Schuldham	1714	Id.
Thomas Symonds	1737	Thomas Page, clk. p. h. v.
John Leman	1748	Sir John Playters, Bart.
Robert Leman	1749	Id.
Joseph Dixie Churchill	1799	Robert Sparrow, Esq.
Clement Chevallier	1810	Id.
Richard Aldous Arnold	1830	Earl of Gosford, and Dawson Turner, Esq.

Estimatio ecclie xvij marc. Synodalia pr. annum xvij. Denarii S. Petri, ix^d.⁴

⁴ Norwich Domesday Book.

HULVERSTREET.

HULVERSTREET is a hamlet of Henstead, a parish in the Hundred of Blything, where its history will be detailed.

Great Redisham.

THIS is a district of heavy but fertile land, not more than four or five miles south-west of Beccles; but being approached by cross roads only, and containing no object of peculiar interest, is little known. It appears, to a passing stranger, a lost and half-deserted village, for which its early appropriation to Butley Priory, and its consequent incapacity to maintain a resident pastor, will, in great measure, account.

The appropriation of the revenues of the secular clergy by the religious houses, was, to say the least of it, an impolitic and unjustifiable measure; but the subsequent occupation of ecclesiastical property by laymen, is a blot on the Reformation, and an augmentation of the robbery at first committed by monastic rapacity.

Great Redisham, which is also called, in ancient writings, Upredesham, was held at the period of the Norman Survey by Robert de Curcum, under Roger Bigot, the capital lord; and afterwards belonged to Hugo de Berry.¹ It then became the lordship of a family which assumed its surname from the village; for in the fifty-first of Henry III., Walter Redisham had free-warren in Redisham, Upredesham, Stanfield, Weston, and Ringsfield.²

In the ninth of Edward I., Roesia de Redisham was lady of the manor, which soon after passed to Sir John de Norwich, who, in the thirty-first of Edward III., obtained a charter of free-warren for all his demesne lands in this town. He bequeathed it, with his other estates, to John his grandson, who left it to his next heir, Katharine de Brews, who released to John Plaice, Sir Robert Howard, Knt., and others, all her right in this manor, &c.,³ which was settled on the college in Mettingham Castle, where it remained till the dissolution of that religious establishment.

By an inquisitio post mortem, taken at Ipswich, on the 6th of April, thirty-fourth of Henry VIII., William Rede, citizen and mercer of London, was found to die on the 10th of February in that year, seized of the manor of Redisham, held of the King, as of his Hundred of Wangford, and valued at £12. 13s. 4d.⁴

¹ Mag. Brit.

² Cal. Rot. Charta, p. 94.

³ Harl. MSS., No. 971, p. 177.

⁴ Cole's Esch. vol. ii. p. 37.

By a like inquisition, taken at Bury, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, it appears that Robert Bumpstede held three acres of pasture in Great Redisham, late parcel of the lands of Mettingham College, now dissolved, of the value of three shillings; and of the lady of the manor, in capite, by service of a tenth part of a knight's fee, a messuage, four cottages, thirty acres of land, thirty of pasture, twenty of meadow, and five acres of wood, in Redisham Magna, Redisham Parva, Ringsfield, &c.

The lordship afterwards became united with those in Little Redisham, and is now the property of John Garden, Esq., of Redisham Hall. The Priory of Butley possessed rents here.

THE CHURCH

of Great Redisham was appropriated by the Convent of Butley, about the middle of the thirteenth century, by the permission of Walter Suffield, Bishop of Norwich.⁵ The impropriation was granted in the twentieth of Elizabeth, to John Hery, and John Hayward. The tenure of the rectory is of the King, in capite, at the yearly rent of £1. 0s. 4d., and the impropriators are bound to provide for serving the church. There is a mortuary here, by custom, of 6s. 8d., to be paid upon the decease of any person dying, having an estate worth⁶ The church-yard seems to belong to the impropriator; for in 1678, Thomas Andrews held by agreement for two years, from Michaelmas of the above date, the parsonage-house, the church-yard, and two glebe "pytles" adjoining the said house, and other lands hereafter mentioned, "being parcell of the manor of Redisham aforesaid." These two glebe pightles, with the church-yard adjoining, contain about five acres.⁷

The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and is now a perpetual curacy of the returned yearly value of £ 50. It pays 9d. synodals, and 4d. Peter-pence, and is in the gift of the Earl of Gosford, who is the impropriator.

It is a small edifice, comprising simply a nave and chancel. On visiting this church in April, 1842, the writer found it in a most deplorable condition: the walls cracked, and swerving from the perpendicular; the tower fallen; the old bell, with the date of 1621, split in two; the roof of the nave defective, and the interior lined with a mass of dank green mould. The feeling of damp and unwholesomeness consequent on this neglect is past description; and yet the zeal and taste of olden times shone out through all this desolation in the carved oak benches, the handsome font of stone, and the elaborate portals of the nave. It is only justice, however, to add, that the fabric has since been made proof against the elements; the walls secured; a new roof raised, and covered with slate; and a small bell-turret placed on the gable of the nave.

⁵ 'Ex concessione Walteri Suffield Episc. Norwic. ad solatium et reereationem Infirm.'—Kalend: Buttele, M.S. 46.

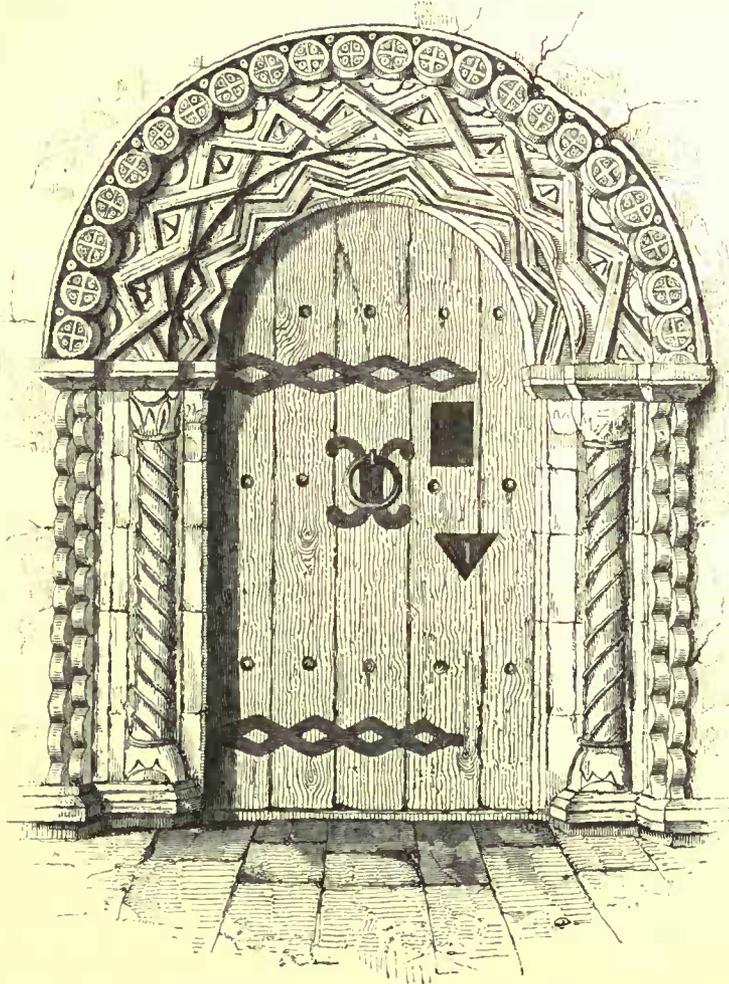
⁶ Jermyn MSS.

⁷ Idem.

The interior fittings of the church remain in sad condition; but it is consolatory that so much has been done in these days of architectural apathy, when the spirit of Nehemiah's appeal appears unheeded,—“Why should not my countenance be sad, when the place of my fathers' sepulchres lieth waste?”

The chancel, in better repair than the nave, is lighted by an elegant east window, having a single shaft, with tracery in the style fashionable in our first Edward's reign; and also by two lancet windows, simply cusped.

The nave, with its circular doorways, is of a date considerably anterior, and that on the south side affords a good example of the rude Norman architecture so prevalent in



the Suffolk village churches. The archivolt mouldings of the chancel arch are raised about a yard above their capitals, but the arch itself has never been completed.

The font is octangular, with carvings of rosettes and shields in alternate compartments, and stands at the west end, near some good old oak benches, two of which, nearest the font, have backs freely carved with open quatrefoils. The elbow rest of another, now enclosed by a paltry deal pew, is finished with a spirited figure of a dog drinking from a tub, his head and neck being completely immersed. There are no armorial designs or monumental inscriptions in the church.

The register books, preserved in the parish chest, commence in 1713, though some are in private hands, beginning in 1540. By what means they have been withdrawn, and at what period, is unknown. They contain, among many others, the following entries.

“Sir John Grimlyn, Parson of Gt. Redsham, buried 6th of August, 3 and 4 Phil. and Mary.

“Lyonell Playters, of Ellough, Esq., S. M., and Martha Castell, daughter of Talmash Castell, of Raveningham, in Norfolk, S. W., married 22 May, 1673.”

Will. Dowsing thus records his visit to Great Redisham church. “April the 5th. A crucifix and three other superstitious pictures, and gave order for Mr. Barenby, the parson, to levell the steps in the chancel. He preach but once a day.”

The subjoined brief list of incumbents contains all the institutions recorded at the Episcopal office in Norwich, and forms another unaccountable fact in the history of this “deserted village.”

INCUMBENTS OF GREAT REDISHAM.

Incumbents.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas Page . . .		
Peter Routh . . .	1764	Robt. Sparrow, Esq., Anne his wife, and Mary Bence.
Bence Sparrow . . .	1774	Robt. Sparrow, Esq., and others.
James Safford . . .	1786	The same, and Mary Bence.
William Spurdens . . .	1805	Robt. Sparrow, Esq.
Bence Bence . . .	1814	Id.
Hugh Owen . . .	1824	Archibald, Earl of Gosford.
Richard Aldous Arnold . . .	1830	Id.

£ 9. 6s. 8d. per annum are applied to the support of a Sunday school in this parish, bequeathed in 1805, by Mrs. Mary Leman.

Population in 1841,—165.

The ancient family of De Redisham appears to have been of knightly degree, and bore argent, six fleurs-de-lis gules, 3. 2. 1. Their name and property became finally vested in the line of the Heveninghams, one of whom married Elizabeth, the sole heiress of the Redishams; but in what reign this occurred I have not yet ascertained.

Little Redisham.

LITTLE REDISHAM was, probably, severed at a very early period from the manor of Great, or Upredesham. It contains the three lordships of Strattons, Elyses, and Redisham Hall.

In the reign of Edward III., the two former of these appear to have been part of the extensive property of Sir John de Norwich, the founder of Mettingham Castle, the rent-roll of whose tenants is now in the possession of John Garden, Esq.

By a deed dated at Ilketshall "in festo purificacōis bte Marie Virginis," anno 1422, William Goneld, son of Margery Belstede, releases to Thomas Croftes, of Beccles, and others, his manors of Strattons and Elyses, with other lands and hereditaments in Norfolk and Suffolk, which he inherited of Thomas Goneld, his father. He seals with a rude representation of a wheatsheaf.

In 1428, Margery Belstede, by deed dated from Ilketshall, "in purâ viduatate" releases to Thomas Belstede, her son, all her claims which she now has, or ever had, in the manors of Strattons and Elyses, lying in the parishes of Ilketshall and Redisham Parva.

The family of Crofts retained possession of these manors but a few years; for in the seventeenth of Edward IV., (anno 1476,) Thomas Crofts, Esq., Edwarde Jenny, Henry Rous, Esq., Thomas Banyard, of Spexhall, and Thomas Goche, clk., released them, with all their appurtenances, to Thomas Duke. Five seals are attached to this deed: Crofts seals with a lion rampant; Jenny uses his hawk and jessies on a gauntlet; Rous seals with a rosette; Banyard, a trefoil; and Goche appends the letter G, surmounted by a ducal crown,—the employment of which bearing over an initial letter is very frequent in ancient deeds, by persons who were not entitled to armorial ensigns.

Thomas Duke held his first court-baron for these lordships, August 8th, 1476.¹

In April, 1613, Thomas Goodwyn, and Thomas Duke, Esq., held the manors of Strattons and Elyses, as guardians of Edward Duke, Esq., son and heir of Ambrose Duke, Esq., deceased. The Dukes remained owners of these estates about two hundred and fifty years, when Sir Edward Duke, Bart., son of Sir John Duke, dying childless, in 1732, bequeathed them, with other estates, by his will, proved on the 23rd of October in that year, to Edmund Tyrrell, Elizabeth Braham, Jane Braham, and Arabella Taylor, his nephew and nieces, his heirs-at-law: and thereupon the said Edmund Tyrrell became

¹ Jermyn MSS.

entitled to all the estates devised to him by the will of Sir Edward, his uncle, subject to the payment of the said testator's debts, and the legacies thereby given.

In 1742, Thomas Tanner, clk., Rector of the united parishes of St. Edmund the King, and St. Nicholas Acons, in the city of London, purchased these manors of Mr. Tyrrell, for £9957. 12s. Tanner married Mary, daughter of John Potter, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, who covenanted to pay £3000 down on the day of marriage, as his daughter's portion; and £500 within one month of the birth of her first child.

Tanner settled the manors of Strattons and Elyses upon this lady and her issue, which was an only daughter, Mary Elizabeth, afterwards married to Richard Mills, Esq., who, in her right, became lord. Dr. Tanner died in 1786.

On the 7th of October, 1808, John Garden, Esq., of the city of Westminster, purchased the manors of Redisham, Ilketshall, Elyses, and Strattons, of Mr. Mills, whose son, John Garden, Esq., is the present possessor.²

THE MANOR OF REDISHAM HALL

was transferred in the year 1394, by Robert Francis, of Shaddingfield, and Robert Berchem, of Brampton, in the county of Suffolk, to Robert Garneys, of Heveningham, Esq. Peter Garneys, son of the above Robert Garneys, was encoffed of the manor of Redisham Hall, in Little Redisham, in 1407; and in the same year, Robert Garneys, and Katharine his wife, settled it on William their son. This William Garneys married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Ralph Bigot, Knight, of Stockton; and died in 1428, seized, in fee, of the manors of Geldeston, Kirby-cane, and Stockton, held of the Abbot of Bury.

In 1450, Ralph Garneys, his son, died without issue of his body, whereon the manors of Redisham Hall, Weston, &c., passed to his uncle, Peter Garneys, of Beccles, who by his will, proved on the 5th of February in the following year, bequeathed them to his son, Thomas Garneys.

About the middle of the sixteenth century, this estate was held by Nicholas Garneys, son of John Garneys, of Kenton, and, eventually, heir to his elder brother, Thomas Garneys.

Nicholas Garneys, of Redisham Hall, was High Sheriff for Suffolk in 1592. He built Redisham Hall, lately demolished; and his estates in this parish, Kenton, Mourningthorpe, Ringsfield, &c., exceeded £1200 per annum: a noble income at that day. He married Ann, daughter of Charles Clere, of Stokesby, in Norfolk; and dying in the year 1599, was buried at Ringsfield, where there is a handsome monument placed to his memory, which will be noticed hereafter.

² MSS. pen. J. Garden, Esq.

Nicholas, his fifth son, inherited the manor of Redisham, which he devised to Frances and Elizabeth, daughters of his brother, Edward Garneys.

By indentures of lease and release, 30th and 31st of July, 1700, Frances Garneys, then Frances Jacob, of Beccles, widow, conveyed her moiety of the manor of Redisham, called in the rolls Little Redisham, to Sir John Duke, Bart., for £1204. 7s. 6d.; and by a like transfer, bearing date the 3rd and 4th of January, 1706, George Pretyman, of Bacton, in the county of Suffolk, gentleman, and George Pretyman, his son and heir, by Elizabeth, his late wife, daughter of Edward Garneys, conveyed the other moiety to Sir Edward Duke, the son of Sir John Duke.³

The manor of Redisham Hall thus became the property of the owner of Strattons and Elyses, and passed with them to their present possessor, John Garden, Esq., of Redisham Hall.

The ancient, once wealthy and wide-spreading family of Garneys, whose long tenure of Redisham has just been detailed, is now represented by Charles Garneys, Esq., of Bungay. Their principal seat, for many generations, was at Kenton Hall, in Suffolk; but as Redisham was their earliest possession, I have introduced their pedigree here, which I have compiled from every accessible source; the principal of which consist of ancient and veritable family documents, entries in the Herald's College, heraldic visitations, and family monuments.

The representative of this ancient line is descended from John Garneys, lord of the manor of Hamonds, in the parish of Mickfield, second son of John Garneys, of Kenton; and it is difficult to say how Nicholas Garneys, his *younger* brother, became heir to the bulk of the family property, to the prejudice of the elder branch. Nicholas not only inherited Redisham the earliest, but also Kenton, the principal seat of the family, and eventually enjoyed the estates of Richard Garneys, of Boyland Hall, in Norfolk, a remote relative, who died childless in 1571.

There is abundant evidence to show that John Garneys, of Mickfield, was married, though the name of his wife is not recorded; and that he was succeeded in that parish by John, his son, and Nicholas, his grandson.

The crest usually borne by this family is a mermaid attiring herself in the sea, proper; though the old and true cognizance is a cubit arm erased, grasping a scymitar embued, all proper,—the hilt and pommel of the scymitar or.⁴

³ MSS. Garden.

⁴ Harl. MSS. 1560.



Garneys.

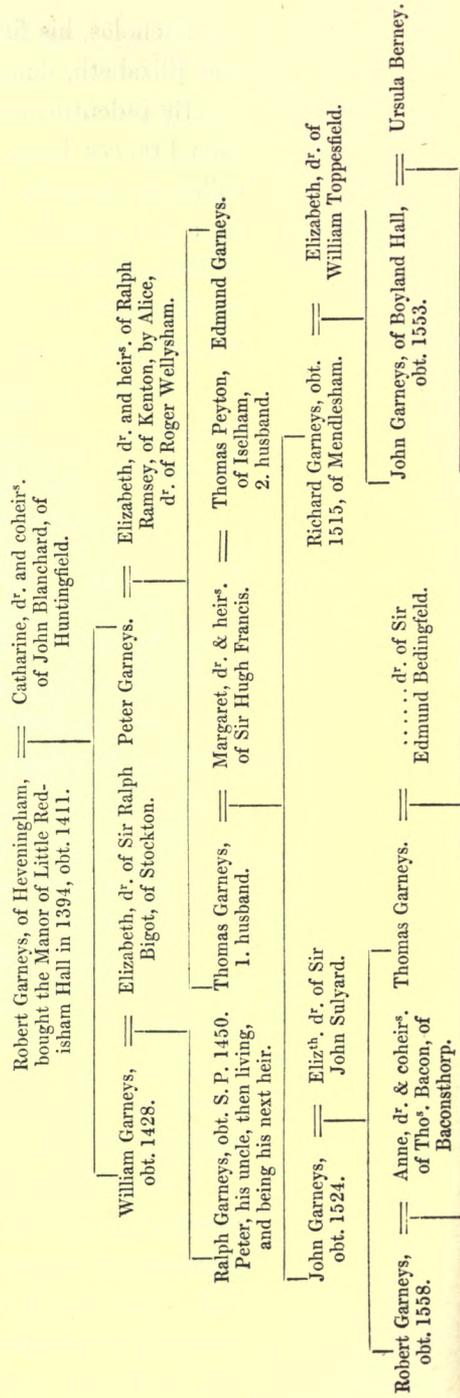
Robert Garnoise, living 1194, 6th Richard I, held lands in Chippenhall, in Fressingfield.

Robert Garneyse, of Laxfield, temp. John, granted to the Monks of Sibton 30 acres of land in Laxfield.

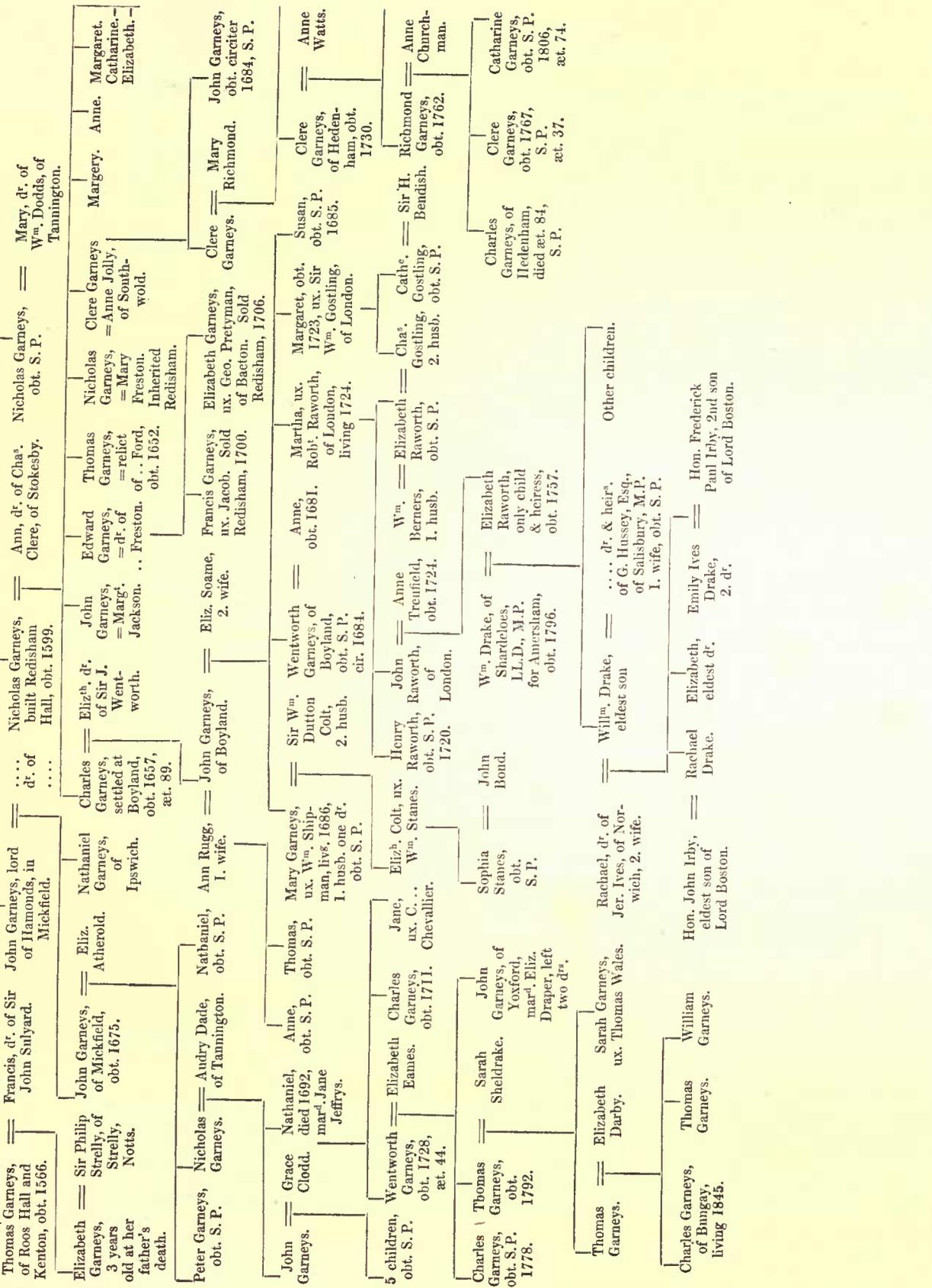
William Garneyse, of Laxfield, granted to the church of Sibton a rent-charge of 8*d.* p. an: out of lands in Dennington: living 24th Henry III., 1239.

Richard Garneyse, his son, in the reign of Edward I., gave a messuage in Stradbroc to Alice, daughter of W^{m.} de Redshall.

From this time the name continually occurs in records relating to Laxfield and its vicinity, but no connected pedigree of the family has hitherto been traced to a period earlier than the reign of Edward III., when



John Garneys, of Kenton, died in his father's lifetime. Anne, dr. of Sir Edw^d. Rookwood, of Euston. John Garneys, of Mettingham. Richard Garneys, built Boyland Hall, in 1571, obt. S. P. Margery, dr. of James Tirrell, of Columbine Hall.



The great shield of Garneys, which formerly sparkled with heraldic splendour in several of their mansions, contains twelve quarterings, viz.

1. Garneys.
2. Ramsey, gules, 3 rams' heads caboshed arg., armed or.
3. Wellisham, sable, 2 bars arg. ; in chief 3 cinquefoils or.
4. Kenton, sable, a chevron between 3 cinquefoils erm.
5. Franceys, gules, a chev. engr. erm. between 3 falcons displayed arg.
6. Denston, az. 2 lioncels pass. guard. or.
7. Wanton, arg. on a chevr. sab. a cinquefoil of the field.
8. Sulyard, arg. a chevr. gules, between 3 pheons sab.
9. Hingate, gules, a chev. between 3 hounds sejant arg.
10. Bacon, of Baconsthorpe, az. 3 boars passant or.
11. Auntingham, sable, a bend argent.
12. Banyard, sable, a fess between 2 chevronels or.

In the motto every word begins with a G, the initial letter of the family name.

Goddess Grace Governe Garneys.

Redisham Hall, built by Nicholas Garneys during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was a fine old mansion, demolished about twenty years since to make way for the elegant residence of John Garden, Esq. It contained some good and lofty apartments, and was rich in the clustered ornamented chimneys which so especially marked the domestic architecture of the era in which it was erected. The excellency of its masonry was proved at the time of its destruction, when many parts of the walls fell in large masses ; the tenacity of the mortar, in several cases, resisting all attempts to separate the brickwork. A remarkable instance of the slow, but sure destruction wrought by ivy on the buildings to which it attaches itself was manifested here. A solid gable had afforded access, by some narrow unseen aperture, to the tender shoots of this insidious plant, which gradually expanded till the wall was rent from top to bottom, and at length presented a chink wide enough to admit the arm of a full-grown man.

THE CHURCH,

or, as it is called in some old writings, the Free Chapel, of Little Redisham, is a very small building, now in ruins, which comprised, in its perfect state, a nave and chancel only, without either aisles or tower.

The Prior and Convent of Butley were patrons of this preferment previous to the Reformation, and presented to it as a separate benefice till the year 1450, when it was annexed to the rectory of Ringsfield, at the request of the monks of that establishment. It is probable that the fabric soon after fell into decay, though the two livings

were not consolidated till the year 1627.⁵ It was certainly in ruins in 1613, because in that year, Nicholas Garneys, then patron, presented a petition to the King and the Lord Chancellor, stating, that whereas he had bought the advowson of Ringsfield and the free chapel of Little Redisham, of Edward Clere, who had purchased them of the late Queen Elizabeth with an imperfect title; he, therefore, prays that the defect may be remedied under the Great Seal, and engages in such case to rebuild, at his own charge, the church of Redisham, then in ruins. A petition was also sent by the parishioners to the same effect. A representation of the state of the case was likewise made by Dr. Jegon, then Bishop of Norwich. Although a reference on the part of the King was made to the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord Chancellor, and the decree of those dignitaries obtained in 1613, it does not appear that the prayer of the petition was granted; for the fabric was neither rebuilt nor repaired.⁶

INCUMBENTS OF LITTLE REDISHAM.

Incumbents.	Date.	Patrons.
Joēs Bould . . .	1301	Convent of Butley.
Joēs de Bynch . . .	1326	Id.
Thomas de Halum . . .	1341	Id.
Galfridus Ryngebell . . .	1360	Id.
Alexander Cobbe . . .	1393	Id.
Joēs Russell . . .	1393	Id.
Joēs Baston . . .	1405	Id.
Waupull . . .	1410	Id.
Hugo Cleye . . .	1442	Id.
Thomas Heygreve . . .	1450	Bishop, by lapse.
John Appulton . . .	1450	Prior and Convent of Butley.

Estimatio ecclīe 6 marc: Synodalia ix^d. Peter-pence iiij^d. ½. ⁷

Kingsfield.

RINGSFIELD is a retired village, containing 1666 acres of land, and a population of 311 souls, according to the returns of the last census. The rectory and several farm-houses nestle around its humble church, which stands near the western boundaries of the parish, in a narrow valley, fertile, warm, and sheltered.

⁵ MSS. pen. Epis. Norwic.

⁶ MSS. Dawson Turner, Esq.

⁷ Norwich Domesday Book.

In Saxon times, a free-man of Edward the Confessor held Ringsfield. The manor was retained by the Conqueror, and returned among his estates in the Domesday Survey. Roger Bigot had also an estate here.

It seems to have passed at a subsequent period into private hands, and augmented the vast estates held in this neighbourhood by the family of Vaux. In 1263, Henry de Vallibus or Vaux obtained a charter of free-warren from the Crown in his manors of Ringsfield, Barsham, and Ilketsball.¹

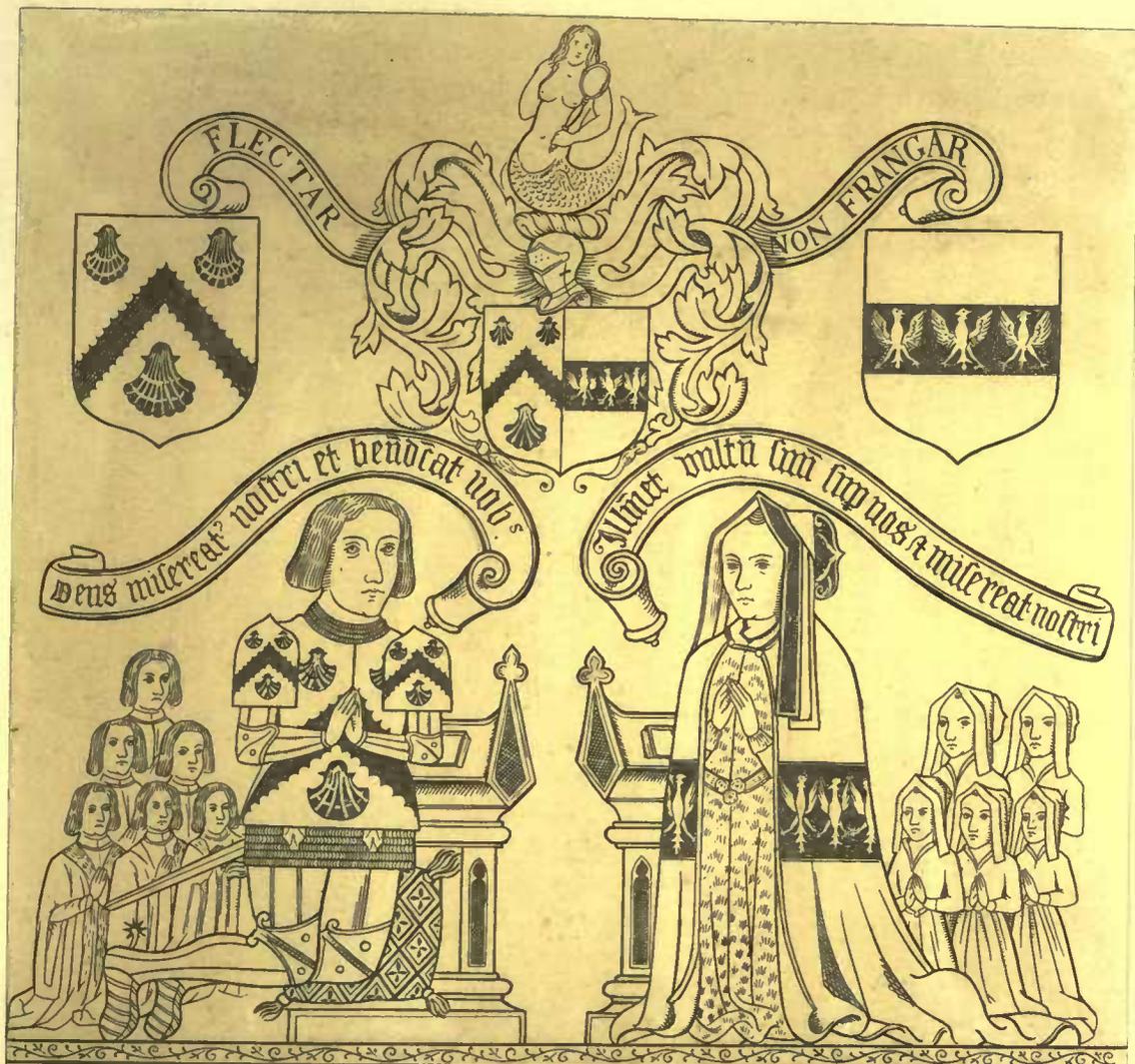
In the 51st of the same reign, Walter de Redisham held the like privileges in this village, though the manor does not seem to have been alienated by the former family; as Sir John de Vallibus was still lord in 1280.²

In the 8th of Edward II., the family of Roos, of Roos Hall, held the manor of Ringsfield.³ In the 37th of Edward III., Maria, daughter of the late Earl of Suffolk, held, in dower, four knights' fees, granted by the King to William Ufford, and Joan his wife, in Ringsfield, Chadensfield (Shaddingfield), Thuryton, Brusyard, and Sweffling, in Suffolk, which John de Brusyard once held.⁴ The manor appears to have descended from this time with that of Little Redisham, and is now held by John Garden, Esq., of Redisham Hall. It is considered little more than a reputed manor, as no courts are held, the copyholds having merged into the hands of the lord, or become emancipated. In 1561, Ringsfield possessed a comparative importance, as it then contained seven freeholders, while Redisham furnished but one.⁵

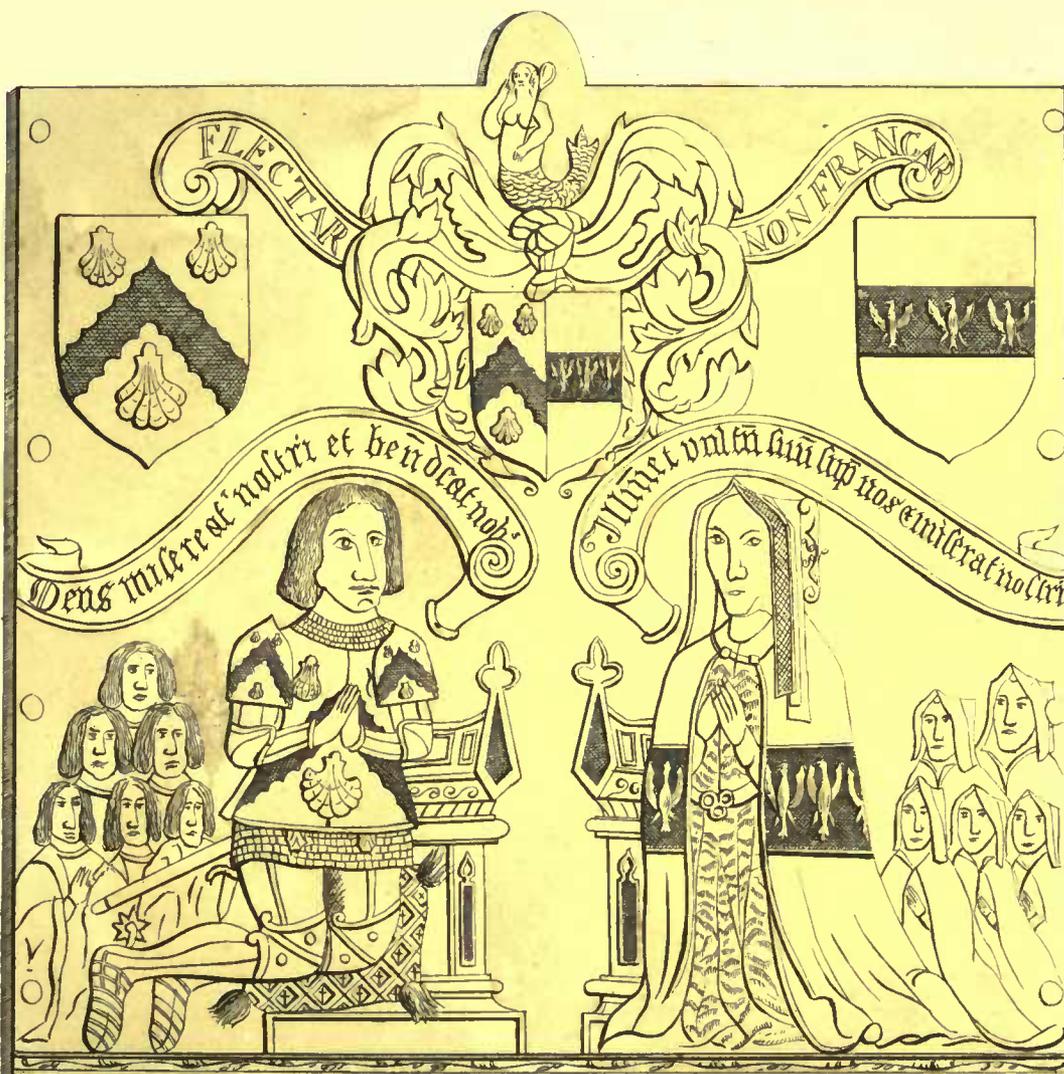
THE CHURCH

is a small and humble fabric, comprising a nave and chancel only, with a square tower at the west end. The doorway in the nave is a plain semicircular portal, without pillars or mouldings; but the other architectural features are of a later date, and present a strange medley of styles, partaking of the Gothic, properly so called, and exhibiting not a few specimens of the Guelphic or nondescript architecture of the last century. Its interior contains a few poppy-heads of an ancient and bold character, the gift of the Garneys family, as appears by their arms; but is principally filled with rather old pews of oak, elaborately, but flatly carved. The ceiling of plaster is fantastically painted in imitation of the firmament, with clouds, stars, and circles. The screens, and the wainscot of the chancel walls, are abundantly charged with quotations from the Scriptures, and moral adages in Latin and Hebrew. These ornaments—if ornaments they be—mark the taste of Robert Shelford, who was Bible Clerk of Peter House in Cambridge, and instituted Rector here in 1599. A large gallery projects

¹ Carta, 48 Hen. III. ² Jermyn MSS. ³ Harl. MSS. ⁴ Idem, 5193. ⁵ Harl. MSS.



HERE VNDER LYETH BVRIED TE CORPES OF
 NICHOLAS GARNYS ESQVIRE & ANNE HIS WIEE
 DAUGHTER OF CHARLES CLERE OF STOKSBIE
 ESQVI. WHICH NICHOLAS BVILDED REDSHAM
 HALL & DECEASED TE DAYE OF ANN^O



HERE VNDER LYETH BVRIED TE CORPSES OF
 NICHOLAS GARNYS E.SQUIRE & ANNE HIS WIFE
 DAUGHTER OF CHARLES CLERE OF STOKESBIE
 ESQUI WHICH NICHOLAS BVILDED REDSHAM
 HALL & DECEASED TE DAYE OF ANN °

into the nave from the west wall, and is hideously ugly. It bears on its front the following lines, which appear to have been placed there almost in deprecation of a criticism like the present :

Who is living under the sunne
Can shun the bighting of the tongue?
The better done, the more envied,
Yet of the best, the best are justified.

The tower, which contains two bells, was built about the middle of the 15th century ; for Peter Garneys, of Beccles, by his will dated 20th of August, 1450, left a bequest to the reparation of the high altar at Ringsfield, and to the repairs of the church ; and to the new steeple there, 13*s.* 4*d.* There is a handsome octangular font of stone.

Against the exterior face of the south wall of the chancel is a lofty inarched monument, placed to the memory of Nicholas Garneys, of Redisham Hall. On a tablet of brass, represented by the accompanying engraving, are portrayed the effigy of this gentleman, with that of Anne Clere, his wife, and those of his numerous family. The figures are represented in devotional attitudes, kneeling on cushions, and the principal personages habited in surcoats of their respective arms. The design and execution of this brass are in a style so much anterior to the year 1599, when Nicholas Garneys died, and so superior in execution to the other parts of the monument, that for above twenty years the writer entertained an opinion, that the executors of this wealthy esquire had appropriated the monument of some more ancient member of the family, and placed it here. Subsequent investigation has discovered it to be almost a fac-simile of a brass still remaining in Kenton church, in this county, commemorating one of the Garneys family ; the armorial cognizances at the upper part superseding a popish device of the Trinity, and the family bearings of the lady being changed. Nicholas Garneys was High Sheriff for Suffolk in 1592, and died, as before observed, in 1599, though the date is omitted on the tomb, leaving behind him a landed estate, even then exceeding £1200 per annum.

In the chancel is an altar-tomb, surmounted by a mural slab, both of which record the virtues of Robert Shelford, Rector of this parish, who died in 1627, aged 64 years.

The other sepulchral monuments in this church are of a more modern date, and record—1st. John Bence, Esq., who died Feb. 20th, 1680. 2nd. John Garden, Esq., of Redisham Hall, who died the 28th of April, 1820, aged 65 years. 3rd. The Reverend Gunton Postle, M. A., late Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and nearly forty years Rector of this parish, who died June 26th, 1829, aged 72.

Garden bears or, a boar's head erased sab., langued gules. Postle bears arg., on a fess vert, 3 garbs or ; and impales Woodley, sab., a chevron between 3 owls arg. Against the outer wall of the nave is a small monument erected to the memory of Philip

Prime, who died in 1740, and bearing his arms; arg., a human leg coupéd above the knee sable.

The registers of this parish contain the records of little more than the last century, the older books having been destroyed by fire, according to some accounts; while others attribute their loss to the effects of a flood, which washed out the entries, and rotted the parchments. The last is, probably, the true cause of this loss, as the church is sometimes inundated to the depth of two feet, or more, by a brook which flows close by. At the time of the Domesday Survey the church of Ringsfield possessed fifteen acres of glebe, valued at 2*s.* 8*d.*, which are now augmented to thirty-six acres and a half. The total rent-charge for the parish, including Little Redisham, was fixed under the Commutation Act at £480. 2*s.* 7*d.* The church, dedicated to All Saints, is valued in the King's books at £12, and pays £1. 4*s.* yearly tenths. The patronage of this preferment was very early given to the Convent of Butley, which retained it till its dissolution in the reign of Henry VIII., when it fell to the Crown. In the early part of the 17th century, John Copping, of Woodton, in Norfolk, presented, and it has ever since been in private hands.

RECTORS OF RINGSFIELD.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Benedic de Paston . . .	1302	Convent of Butley.
Henry de Bureford . . .	1310	Id.
Joës de Garboldesham . . .		Id.
Richard de Walcote . . .	1331	Id.
Joës de Rendlesham . . .	1349	Id.
Robert Mone . . .	1361	Id.
William Blaunflower . . .	1361	Id.
Joës Holbeck . . .		Id.
Robert Morcole . . .	1371	Id.
John Ocle . . .	1376	Id.
Joës Scott . . .		Id.
Thomas Andrew . . .	1379	Id.
Philip de Sutton . . .	1384	Id.
Joës Sparrow . . .	1385	Id.
Roger Blaze . . .	1388	Id.
Joës Gravile . . .	1388	Id.
Alexander Cobbe . . .	1393	Id.
Joës Cobbe . . .	1415	Id.
Roger Waupull . . .	1427	Id.
Joës Appulton . . .	1459	Id.
Nicholas Johnson . . .	1467	Id.
John Hadleigh . . .	1485	Id.
Richard Grene . . .	1493	Id.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Richard Hilton . . .	1496	Convent of Butley.
John Baylson . . .	1510	Id.
Hugo Frier . . .	1531	Id.
Thomas Gurnet . . .	1541	The Crown.
John Howard . . .	1555	Id.
Thomas Sawyn . . .	1561	The Queen.
Robert Shelford . . .	1599	Id.
Nicholas Gostlyng . . .	1639	John Copping, of Woodton.
Nicholas Trott . . .	1663	Nicholas Garneys.
Edward Warner . . .	1676	Id.
Samuel Rycroft . . .	1716	Philip Prime.
William Radcliffe . . .	1737	Charles Radcliffe.
Abraham Dawson . . .	1755	Giles Thickaby.
Gunton Postle . . .	1790	Samuel Postle.
Frederick Leathes . . .	1829	Mary Postle, widow.
Christopher Clarkson . . .	1845	Charles Rowcliffe, Gent.

Estimatio ecclie xii marc : Synodalia xiii^d. Peter-pence, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d.⁶

Abraham Dawson, instituted Rector of this parish in 1755, which preferment he held with Sotterley, published at different times a new translation from the Hebrew, of several chapters of the book of Genesis, with notes, critical and explanatory. He died October the 4th, 1789.

Edmund Bohun, a miscellaneous writer of the 17th century, was a native of Ringsfield. A notice of his works, and a slight memoir of his very checkered life, will be given under Westhall, in the Hundred of Blything; a manor held by himself and his ancestors from an early period.

Ringsfield was visited by Will. Dowsing, who says in his journal, "The sun and moon, and Jesus in capital letters, and two crosses on the steeple. We gave order to take them down, and levell the steps in 14 days."

⁶ Norwich Domesday Book.

Shaddingfield.

As this village is written Scadenefield and Chadensfield in old deeds, it probably derived its appellation from Cheadda, or Chad, Saxon names of frequent occurrence, though the particular person is now forgotten whose estate it formed. It was divided at the time of the Norman Conquest into several manors, which seem to have escaped the usual fate of parochial amalgamation, for it possesses seven at the present day.

Haldein, a free-man of Harold; and a free-man of Archbishop Stigand, each held a carucate of land here as a manor. These fell to the share of Goisfridus de Mandeville, one of the successful Norman Barons. Godwin, the son of Tuka, also held a manor under the patronage of Gurth, which estate was granted to Roger Bigot; and a free-man of Toread had an estate in Shaddingfield, which afterwards augmented the possessions of Ralph Bainard. The Crown, also, retained a manor.

In 1257, the family of Boeland, or Borland, obtained a grant from the Crown for a fair and market, with free-warren, &c., in Shadenfend, Soterley, and Willingham.¹

In the ninth of Edward I., Hugo de Berry, whose estates seem to have extended over the whole vicinity, possessed a manor here.

In the tenth of the same reign, William de Giselham had free-warren in Gisleham, Kessingland, Brampton, and Shadkenfeld.²

In 1306, John de Brusyard held the manor of Shaddingfield of the King, as of his manor of Framlingham,³ which descended to John, his son and heir, who paid £20 to the King as a relief for his father's possessions here, held of the same manor of Framlingham by the service of four knights' fees, which knights' fees are in Shadenesfeld.⁴

In the thirty-seventh of Edward III., Maria, widow of Thomas, Earl of Norfolk, held in dower four knights' fees in Chadenesfeld, which John de Brusyard held.⁵

Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, died on the 18th of January, in the forty-sixth of the same reign, seized, inter alia, of seven knights' fees in Shadingfield, Lethryngham, &c., in the county of Suffolk, which Thomas Wyngfield held, and which were formerly held by William Boville, and valued at £31.⁶

By an inquisitio post mortem, taken on the 20th of October, in the twenty-sixth of Queen Elizabeth, William Playters, of Sotterley, Esq., was found to die, seized of the manor and advowson of Shaddingfield; and by a like inquest, taken at Norwich Castle, on the 10th of August, in the fortieth of the same reign, Ed. Duke, Esq., was found to

¹ Carta, 42 Hen. III. p. unica: m. 1.

⁴ Harl. MSS. 34, fol. 50.

² Rot. Cart.

⁵ Id.

³ Harl. MSS., No. 708.

⁶ Id. 700.



Drawn by the Rev. G. Barlow

F. Bedford Litho.

die the 20th of April preceding, seized of the manor of Brusyard, &c., in Shaddingfield, held of the Queen, as of her castle of Framlingham, for half a knight's fee, and valued at £ 3.⁷ In the eighth of James I., Ambrose Duke, Esq., died, seized, inter alia, of the manor of Brusyard cum Verdons, in Shaddingfield. The manor of Francis, so called from an ancient family that possessed it as early as the fourteenth century, passed by marriage into the family of the Cuddons, who for many years had their seat at Shaddingfield Hall, which, with their estate here, was sold by Eleazer Cuddon, the son of Sir Thomas Cuddon, Knt., Chamberlain of London, to Mr. Round, of Essex.⁸ The property afterwards passed to the Kilners, of whom it was purchased by Thomas Charles Scott, Esq., the present proprietor.

The name of Cuddon, or Codon, occurs in the court books for the manor of Sotterley in the year 1434; and Petrus Codon is mentioned therein in 1457. The Cuddons obtained their estate in Shaddingfield, as before observed, by marriage with the heiress of Francis, and became connected with many of the principal families of the neighbourhood, as those of Duke, Playters, Berney, Baynard, Boston, &c. They appear to have fallen into decay soon after selling their estates here, but are not, as is generally supposed, extinct. A numerous branch is existing at Bungay, and one at Norwich.

The old hall, formerly their residence, was a handsome pile of red brick, which had some little pretensions to architectural composition and grace; and stood not far from the site of the elegant modern mansion of T. C. Scott, Esq., who possesses a good water-coloured drawing of this demolished specimen of old English dwelling-houses. The seven manors in Shaddingfield are now held—1st, by the Marquis of Salisbury, in whose demesnes the fines are arbitrary; 2nd, by John Garden, Esq., wherein the fines are certain; 3rd, by the Duke of Norfolk; 4th, by the Earl of Gosford; each of whom receives free-rents.

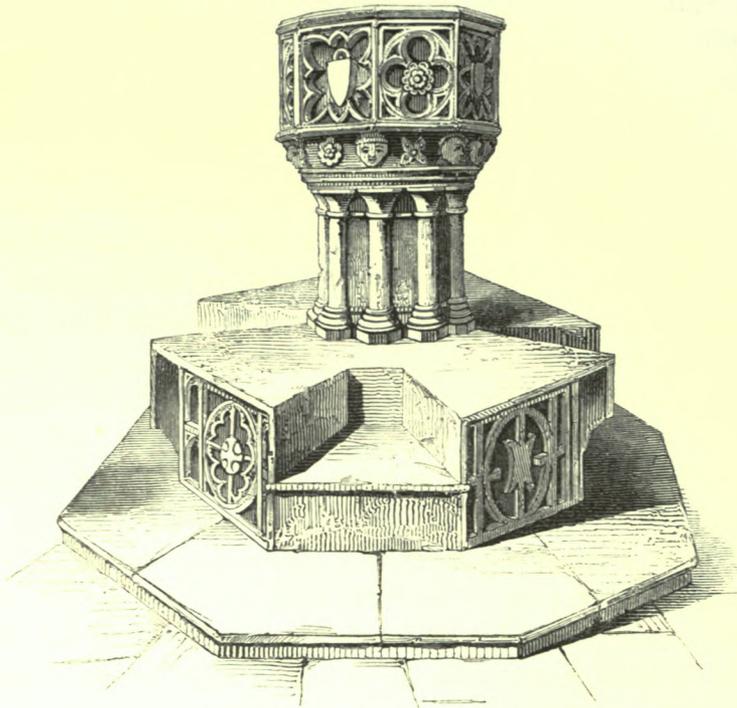
Thomas Charles Scott, Thomas Farr, and B. Pierson, Esqrs., claim manors in right of their estates, but they are nominal or reputed manors only.

THE CHURCH

is a rectory dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and valued in the King's books at £12. It comprises a nave and chancel of the same width and height, with a square tower, in which hangs one bell. The tower opens to the body of the church by a good arch, but the effect is marred by a modern gallery, at the foot of which stands an extremely elegant font of stone, in excellent preservation.

⁷ Cole's Escheats, vol. iv. p. 208.

⁸ Kirby.



The Font at Shaddingfield Church.

The whole fabric has recently been repaired, and the interior fitted throughout with open benches and poppy-heads of an uniform pattern, carved with spirit from ancient models; the old pews, which were mean and irregular, having been condemned by the unanimous voice of the parishioners,—a consummation devoutly to be wished for in every church in England.

The nave is entered from the south beneath a plain portal in the pointed style; but a few narrow lancet windows, and a doorway on the north side, which exhibits a pointed arch enriched with an architrave carved with the dog-tooth moulding, and resting on solid jambs, refer the date of this edifice to an early period in our third Henry's reign. As usual, windows of enlarged dimensions, and of a later date, pierce the wall in several places. In these may be discerned fragments of ancient stained glass, but no entire subject remains. The east window of the chancel has been filled with a modern essay in this beautiful department of art. Some of the tints are clear and good, but it fails in producing that "dim religious light" in which the old glass-stainers are yet unrivalled. A very ancient floor-stone, carved with a cross, lies near the font; and in the chancel is a small piscina. Too much commendation cannot be passed upon all connected with the charge of this fabric, for the neat and reputable manner in which it is fitted up and kept. It must not, however, be concealed, that the modern pulpit is

unworthy of the fittings by which it is surrounded. Amongst the articles of sacred furniture pertaining to the communion table one deserves especial notice, both for its antiquity, and the pious spirit which placed it there. It is the communion cloth of fine linen, bordered with a deep fringe of lace-work; the appropriation of which we learn from a memorandum inserted within the lid of an antique box of oak, in which this relic is preserved. "This box, with a cloath for the cōmunion table, was given to the parish church of Shaddingfield by Elizabeth Cuddon, the wife of William Cuddon, Gent., the xxv day of December Anno Dni 1632." The following armorial bearings were formerly on a hatchment in Shaddingfield church. Quarterly, 1st and 4th; Cuddon, arg., a chev. gules, on a chief az. 3 bezants. 3rd and 4th; Newman, arg., a fess wavy gules, between 3 eagles displayed sab., impaling Berney of four coats. 1. Berney, per pale az. and gules, a cross engrailed erm. 2. Reedham, gules, a chev. engrailed arg. between 3 reed-sheaves or. 3. Caston, gules, a chevron between 3 eagles displayed arg. 4. Brandiston, arg., on a canton gules, a cross or.

Also on a second hatchment, quarterly, 1st and 4th.—

Harvey, gules, on a bend argent, 3 trefoils vert.

2. . . . sab., a boar's head coupé argent.

3. . . . arg., 3 griffins' heads erased sab., impaling Berney. And on the seat belonging to Shaddingfield Hall, opposite to the pulpit, withinside were two shields painted on the panels; 1st, Cuddon, impaling Berney, single; and 2nd, gules, a bend arg., impaling Berney.⁹ Blomefield, in his History of Norfolk, tells us, that in the house of Francis Cuddon, Gent., at Mulbarton, in the tapestry hangings in the parlour were the arms of Cuddon, quartering Francis of Shaddingfield, Cuddon and Duke, Cuddon and Berney, Cuddon and Baynard, Jenney and Cuddon, Brampton and Cuddon, Kemp and Cuddon, Cuddon and Hall, Cuddon and Wren, quartering Lucy; Cuddon and Playters, Cuddon and Goldingham.¹⁰

On plain brass plates in Shaddingfield church are the following memorials:

1. Mary Cuddon, the first wife of William Cuddon, Gent., of Shaddingfield, one of y^e daughters and heirs of Geo. Harvy, of Olton, Esquier, died the xxij day of Novr., 1556.

2. Mary, the wife of Francis Cuddon, Gent., one of y^e daughters of Edward Boston, of Burnham Westgate, in Norfolk, Gent., died the 5th day of June, 1640.

3. Anne Harvy, widdowe of George Harvy, of Olton, and sometime y^e wife of Robt. Cuddon, of Shaddingfield, and one of y^e daughters of John Barney, of Reedham, in Norfolk, Esq., died y^e 7th of Decr., 1615, aged 88.

4. William Cuddon, who married one of y^e daughters and coheireses of George Harvy, of Olton, by whom he had issue two daughters. He afterwards married

⁹ Jermyn MSS.

¹⁰ Blomefield.

Elizabeth, one of the daughters of William Playters, of Sötterley, Esq., by whom he had six sonnes and five daughters, dyed 19th of Decr., 1634, æt. 79.

5. Robt. Cuddon, died the 4th of May, 1699, aged 55.

The registers of Shaddingfield commence in 1538.

The tithes and glebes of this parish were let under lease, in the year 1752, at £ 65. Mr. Hodgkinson, the present Rector, (1808,) now collects for tithes £ 280. The parsonage and glebes let at the annual rent of £11.¹¹

The parish contains 1369 acres, 1 rood, 39 perches, and is commuted at £ 311. 14s. There are 7 acres, 2 roods, 11 perches, of glebes. £ 6. 14s. are paid to Lord Gosford and Dawson Turner, Esq., as impropiators.

The population in 1841 was 177.

RECTORS OF SHADDINGFIELD.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Adam de Kendale . . .	1318	Thomas, Earl of Norfolk.
Thomas de Ieneby . . .	1320	Id.
Symon de Kendale . . .	1323	Id.
Adam de Eglesfield . . .	1325	Id.
Richard de Langford . . .	1337	Id.
Robert de Byker . . .	1342	John de Segrave, Knt.
John Besaut . . .	1361	Sir Walter Manny.
Andrew Martyn . . .		
John de Esterford . . .	1367	Sir Walter Manny.
Thomas Attewelle . . .	1378	Margaret, Countess of Norfolk.
Robert Wauncy . . .	1380	Ead.
Thomas Atte Pond . . .	1382	Ead.
Richard Grove de Bury . . .	1391	Ead.
Thomas Walsingham . . .	1401	The Crown, in right of the Manor of Framlingham.
Robert Samborn . . .	1401	The Crown.
Thomas Atte Ashe . . .	1440	The Bishop, by lapse.
Richard Howys . . .	1446	Id.
Robert Herpe . . .	1470	Katharine, Duchess of Norfolk.
John Marshall . . .	1472	The Bishop.
John Carter . . .	1495	Thomas Duke, Esq.
Matthew Dorkey . . .	1495	Elizabeth, Duchess of Norfolk.
Nicholas Smeth . . .	1555	The Bishop, by lapse.
Thomas Winnington . . .	1587	The Queen.
Francis Sharpen . . .		
John Talbot . . .	1688	James, Earl of Suffolk.
Isaac Colman . . .	1728	Charles Howard, Esq.

¹¹ Jermyn MSS. ex informat. Jno. Julians, Churchwarden.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
William Robinson . . .	1732	Charles, Earl of Suffolk.
Joseph Harris . . .	1733	Id.
Joseph Sharpe . . .	1752	George, Earl of Bristol; John, Earl of Portsmouth, and Elizabeth his wife; William Whitwell, Esq., and the Hon. Ann Whitwell his wife; and the Hon. John Griffin Griffin, Esq.
John Hodgkinson . . .	1805	Lord Braybrooke.
Charles Thomas Scott . . .	1839	Id.

Estimatio ecclie xvij marc. Portio Prioris de Wangford in eadem ix^s. viij^d. Synodalia per ann: ii^s.
Denarij S. Petri, v. ob. ¹²

Shipmeadow.

THE name of this parish was anciently written Scipmedu, and Schippe-meadowe, and its history is brief, but clear. Godwin held the manor under Roger Bigot: its value had been 3*s*. in Saxon times, which was raised by the Norman to 4*s*. In the twenty-fourth of Henry III., Walter de Shipmeadow was lord,¹ who conveyed by fine to Sir Ralph Bigot his right of fishing in the river Waveney between the towns of Stockton and Shipmeadow, and in the cutting of reeds and flags. In 1302, King Edward I. granted to Sir John de Norwich and his heirs, free-warren in all his demesne lands in Shipmeadow. The village afterwards became the manor of Walter de Norwich, who died in the third of Edward III., and left it to Sir John de Norwich, Knight, who procured another charter of free-warren for the said lands and estates in the thirty-first of Edward III.² He died in the thirty-sixth of the same reign, and left them to John his grandson. The manor of Shipmeadow was soon after transferred to the revenues of Mettingham College; and was granted, upon the dissolution of that establishment, with other possessions in the neighbourhood, to the family of Denny. By an inquisitio post mortem, taken at Bury on the 16th of April, in the fourth of Edward VI., Sir Anthony Denny, Knight, was found to die on the 10th of September preceding, seized of the manor of Shipmeadow, held of the King in capite.³ In the fifth of Elizabeth, Henry Denny occurs as lord of the manors of Bungay, Ilketchall, and Shipmeadow, then written 'Sheapmeadowe;' with license of alienation to Nicholas Bacon, who held the latter manor in the tenth, twenty-third, and thirty-second of the same reign. It soon afterwards passed by purchase into the family of Suckling, where it has ever since remained.

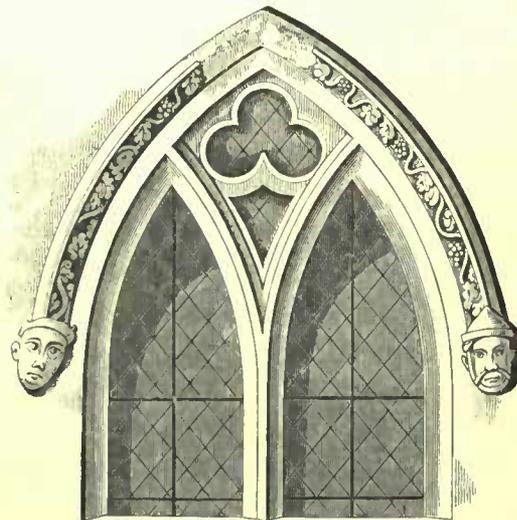
¹² Norwich Domesday Book. ¹ Harl. MSS. 4626. ² Harl. MSS. ³ Cole's Esch. vol. v. p. 57.

The advowson of Shipmeadow was held by Walter de Shipmeadow in the year 1239,⁴ and was granted in 1268 to the nuns and convent of Flixton. Upon the dissolution, the Duke of Norfolk had a grant of this advowson, who presented it to John Blennerhasset, Esq., of Barsham. The deed of gift states, after the usual preamble, that the said Duke presents the advowson of Shipmeadow to the said John Blennerhasset "in considerationem boni et fidelis servitii nobis impensi." What the good and faithful service had been is not expressed. The deed is dated A. D. 1562, and bears the great seal of the Duke of Norfolk in red wax.⁵

The advowson was purchased of the Blennerhasset family in the reign of James I. by Sir John Suckling, Knight. It was then stated, that "the liveinge of the p-sonage of Shipmeddowe was worth to the p-son 50lb. p. ann." It remains in the patronage of Sir John's descendants.

THE CHURCH

is a rectory, dedicated to Saint Bartholomew, and valued in the King's books at £10. It consists of a nave and chancel, without aisles: the former is covered with thatch, and the latter with slate. At the west end is a square tower of red brick and flints, erected, most probably, in the early part of the 16th century, as its solitary bell bears this inscription, JOHN BREND MADE ME. 1540. The church itself appears to have been built in the reign of Henry III., about the time when it was granted to the nuns of Flixton, as there is a lancet window in the north wall of the nave, the style of which accords well with that era. The beautiful window represented below is on the north side of the chancel, and may be referred to a date but little posterior. It is a relie,



⁴ Harl. MSS. 4626.

⁵ Carta penes auctorem.

without doubt, of the architectural taste of the nuns of Flixton, and is the only embellishment deserving of notice in the whole fabric, which is otherwise mean, ill kept, and damp; and disfigured by modern barbarisms in no common degree. The west window throws its light into the nave through a good arch in the tower, and was, till a very late period, ornamented with stained glass. The writer has sketches of some rosettes of green glass, which have disappeared within these last few years. It may be fairly inquired in this place, how far the parochial guardians of this fabric have been really and truly wardens of its property and interests. The font—now thrust into a corner, is of stone, the eight sides of which are carved with five rosettes and three shields: the latter are charged with a bend engrailed; with the arms of Howard; and the engrailed saltire of Tiptoft. It is probable that a branch of this ancient family possessed estates in this parish from the above circumstance; scions of which would seem to exist in the vicinity under the somewhat modified name of Tiptod. This church had formerly a chapel dedicated to Saint Mary. Katherine Fastolf, widow of John Fastolf, late of Oulton, Esq., by her will, dated the 20th of Nov., 1478, leaves to the reparation of the church of Shipmeadow *iiij^s. viij^d.*; and also “to the chapel of ‘Saint Marie de Shipmeadowe’ unum vestimentum viridum de Tarteyn ibm̄ de serviend: in bte Marie Virginis.” The parish of Shipmeadow contained in 1841, 265 inhabitants, including 133 inmates of the Wangford Union Workhouse, which is situated within its bounds. It comprises 799 acres, 2 roods, 15 perches of land, whereof 27 acres, 1 rood, 2 perches, are glebe. Its tithes have been commuted at £ 228. 2s. per annum, exclusive of the rent of the glebe lands.

RECTORS OF SHIPMEADOW.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
John Olyver . . .	1300	Prioress and Convent of Flixton.
William de Cranesford . . .	1308	Id.
John de Cranesford . . .	1310	Id.
John de Redenhall . . .	1311	Id.
Rad. de Barsham . . .	1321	Id.
Thomas de Stocten . . .	1321	Id.
William Lapyn . . .	1323	Id.
John de Preebryg . . .	1328	Id.
John Calabre . . .	1341	Id.
Galfridus Bate . . .	1344	Id.
John Aldeyth de S. Cove . . .	1349	Id.
Adam Olle de Therston . . .	1361	Id.
John Hogan de Prelliston . . .	1404	Id.
John Lovett . . .	1412	Id.

ANTIQUITIES OF THE

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Hugo Bunne de Lyng	1416	Prioress and Convent of Flixton.
John Webster	1421	Id.
John Exning		
Thomas Dalynghe	1444	Id.
Clement Methewey	1450	Bishop, by lapse.
John Brytby	1453	Prioress of Flixton.
John Watyrman	1470	Ead.
William Bedingfeld		
Thomas Laughton	1503	Ead.
Thomas Knyghton	1506	Ead.
John Cooke	1555	Bishop, by lapse.
Richard Firbanke	1564	John Blennerhasset, and Marie his wife.
George Whitlowe	1579	Thomas Blennerhasset.
Nicholas Lofte	1584	The Queen, by lapse.
Thomas Tunstall	1587	Thomas Blennerhasset.
Henry Nuthall		
John Fenne	1667	Robert Suckling.
Thomas Vesey	1670	Id.
Edward Willan	1686	Id.
Charles Cook	1688	Id.
Nicholas Tayler	1733	Id.
Benjamin Frost	1758	Hannah Suckling.
Stephen Buckle	1764	The King, on lunacy of Robert Suckling.
John Thomas Suckling	1797	Id.
Roger Freston Howman	1803	Robert Suckling.
Joseph Charles Badeley	1833	Alfred Suckling.

Estimatur ecclia ad xv marc: Synodalia per an: xij^d. Denarij S. Petri, x^{ob}.⁶

“Died Feb. 18th, 1803, after an illness of only twenty-four hours, the Rev. John Suckling, Rector of Shipmeadow, and son of Robert Suckling, Esq., of Woodton Hall, Norfolk.”⁷

In 1709, Francis Warmoll bequeathed by his last will 10s. per annum, to be paid to the poor of Shipmeadow out of his lands in Shipmeadow.

⁶ Norwich Domesday Book.

⁷ Gentleman's Magazine, vol. lxxiii. p. 285.

Sotterley.

SOTTERLEY is, undoubtedly, the southern lea or pasture land of Saxon times, so called in relation to some more important locality, probably Beebles, from which it is distant about four miles.

In Domesday Book it is written Soterlega, and was then the estate of Earl Hugh. Mundret held the parish as one manor under this powerful chieftain: it contained a church with seven acres of glebe, and appears to have been a flourishing village, rich in sheep, swine, and poultry. It was one leuca in length, and nine furlongs in breadth. In the reign of Henry III., Philip Bocland, already mentioned under Shaddingfield, obtained a license of free-warren in Sotterley, with liberty to hold a market and a fair.¹ It very soon after became possessed by a family that assumed their surname from it, for in the year 1309 Roger de Soterle held this manor, with those of Stoke, Argh, and Wirrall, in the county of Chester, of the King, by the service of finding a horse furnished for the army for forty days, when employed against the Welsh.² Edmund de Soterle, his son, had free-warren in this parish, and held one knight's fee. In the list of towns and their lords made by order of King Edward II., in the ninth year of his reign, the Sheriff of Suffolk returns that Edmund de Soterle was lord of Soterle.³ He paid the King 100s. for relief of his lands here, and in Cheshire,⁴ and was Knight of the Shire for Suffolk in the fourth and sixth years of King Edward III. His arms were gules, a fess between 3 round buckles argent, the tongues pale-wise. In the seventeenth of the same King's reign, Roger de Soterle, his son, granted the manor of Uggeshall to the lady Joan, his mother, for life; provided she claimed no dower in the manors of Sotterley, in Suffolk, and Stody, in Norfolk.⁵ In 1380 it was returned that Edmund de Soterle held, at the day of his death, conjointly with Margaret his wife, the manor of Sotterley, with the advowson of the church; and that Roger was his son and heir.⁶ Margaret Soterle enjoyed this property after the decease of her husband, whom she survived about four years; for in 1384 it was returned that Margaret, widow of Edmund de Soterle, held at the day of her death this manor and advowson, of the King, as of his county of Chester, by the service of one knight's fee.⁷

Roger de Soterle, her son, held these estates by the same tenure, and purchased of Sir Ralph Bigod 11s. 6d. per annum rent, with the rent of 1500 herrings in Gisleham and Sotterley.⁸

¹ Carta, 42 Hen. III. p. unica. m. 1.

² Harl. MSS. 708.

³ Collect. Thos. Gybbon, Harl. MSS.

⁴ Harl. MSS., No 34, fol. 69.

⁵ Blomefield.

⁶ Esch. 4 Ric. II.

⁷ Id. 8 Ric. II.

⁸ Blomefield.

In 1434 it was entered in the court books that “*Johēs Soterle aravit quendam divisionem inter terr: et ad prejudicium Dñi.*” In 1459 one branch of this family became extinct in the male line; for in that year John Fisk, of Badingham, and Katharine his wife, daughter and heiress of John Soterle, son and heir of Edward Soterle, held in Sotterley one messuage and thirty acres of land.⁹

This was evidently a junior branch of this ancient stock, not only from the circumstance that John Soterle had trespassed upon the lord's lands, but also from the fact that the manor and advowson remained with the Soterleys till about 1470, when, the representative being an adherent of the Red Rose, they were confiscated by the Duke of York, afterwards Edward IV., and bestowed on Thomas Playfair, or Playters, a partisan of his cause. The estate, however, could not have been bestowed on this gentleman for his valour at the battle of Barnet, as has been supposed,¹⁰ because that decisive engagement was not fought till the 14th of April, 1471; and we find the armorial bearings of Playters still sparkling with their lustrous azure bendlets in a south window of the nave in Sotterley church, beneath which shield is placed the date of MCCCCLXX.; whence it would appear that Thomas Playters then possessed the manor of the Soterleys, which is confirmed by the fact that he presented to the church in 1469. It is more likely that Edward IV., whose reign commenced on the 4th of March, in the year 1460, bestowed on Playters the patrimony of the adverse party soon after his accession, for services rendered in preceding struggles.

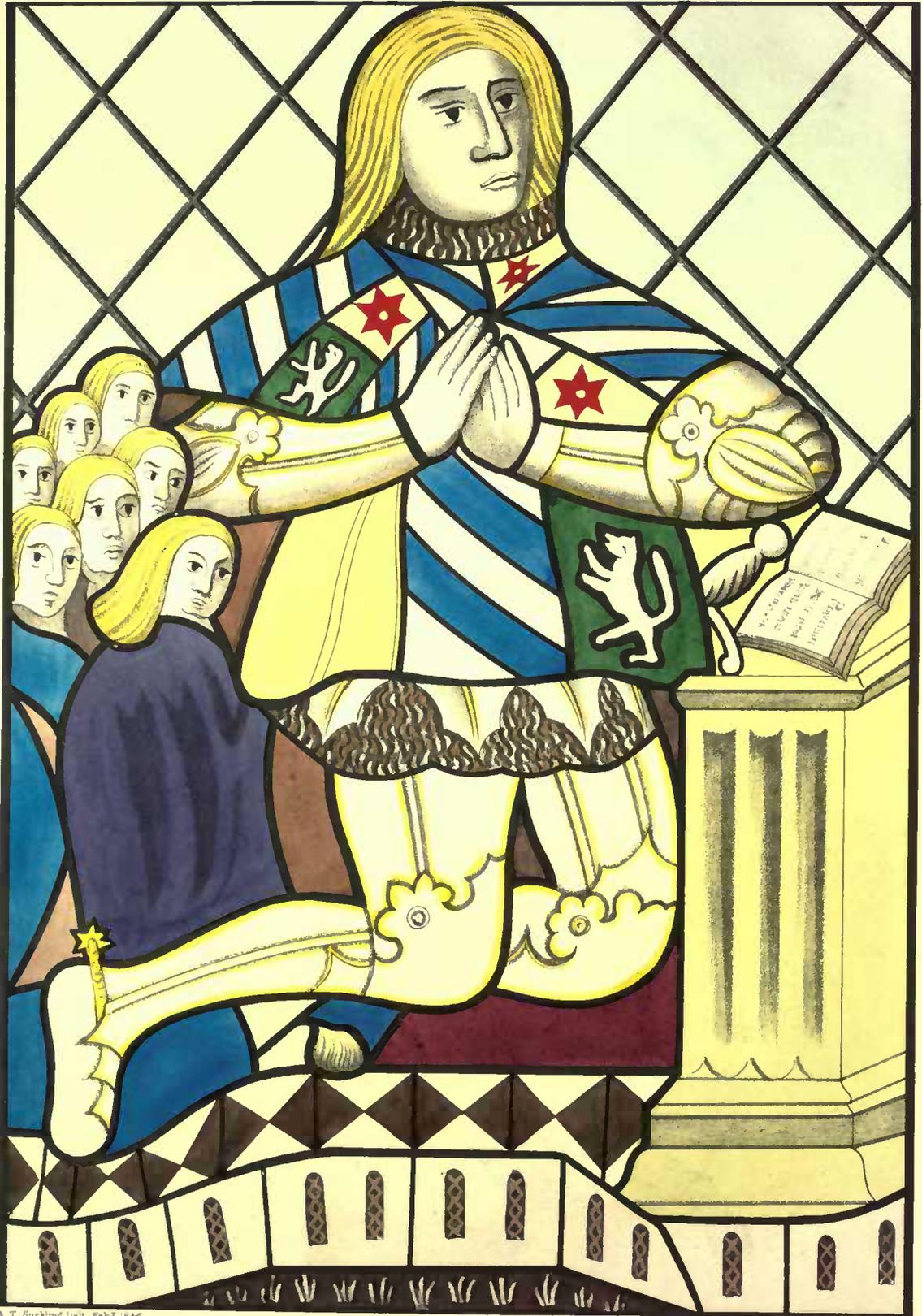
From this period we hear no more of the family of Soterle. Driven out from the house of their fathers by domestic conflicts, when every man's hand was raised against his brother, they fell into poverty, and its consequent obscurity, and probably soon after became extinct. In 1477, Thomas Sotterle, Esq., was interred in the conventual church of the Austin Friars, at Norwich. He was possibly the unfortunate exiled Lancastrian.

The descendants of Thomas Playters, the successful Yorkist, retained the manor and advowson of Sotterley till the year 1744, when John Playters, Esq., in the lifetime of his father, sold the paternal estate to Miles Barne, Esq., the son of a merchant in London, who pulled down the old hall, and built a beautiful seat on nearly the same site. The estate was then so covered with timber as to render it an objectionable purchase, so little was the value of forest trees at that time understood. A manuscript, formerly in the possession of Sir William John Playters, of Yelverton, in Norfolk, the last Baronet, relates that Mr. Barne felled sufficient timber to pay the purchase-money, and left Sotterley one of the best wooded estates in Suffolk.

Thomas Playters, the Yorkist, died on the 21st of September, 1479. He married Anne, sister and heiress of Roger Dennys, of Tannington, in Suffolk, who died on the

⁹ Jermyn MSS.

¹⁰ Id.



A T Suckling Desig Feb 7 1845

F Bedford Lutho London

STAINED GLASS, SOTTERLEY CHURCH.

London, JohnWeale, 1845.
Printed by Scandledge & Co

10th of October in the same year. The portraiture of this stalwart warrior in complete armour, with the exception of his head-piece, and covered with the surcoat of his arms, is remaining in the east window of the chancel in Sotterley church. He is represented in a devotional attitude, with seven sons kneeling behind him. As this group occupies the central bay, or division, of the window, it is not probable that the effigy of the wife with her daughters was ever placed with it.

By an inquisitio post mortem, taken on the 19th of January, in the fifteenth of Queen Elizabeth, we learn that Thomas Playters held Sotterley of the Queen, as of her honour of Eastry: its annual value is stated to be £10. He also held the advowson. He died on the 19th of September, in the preceding year, and after providing a life interest for his widow Elizabeth, entails his manor of Sotterley, &c., on his son William; then on Thomas, son and heir of the said William, and his lawful heirs; remainder to the heirs male of the said William; remainder to the heirs male of the said Thomas, father of William; remainder to right heirs of the said Thomas. He further bequeaths to each of his younger sons, Thomas, John, and Henry, an annuity of £16, with power to distrain for arrears on his manor of Sotterley.¹¹

From a like evidence, taken on the 20th of October, in the twenty-sixth of the same reign, William Playters, Esq., was found to die seized, inter alia, of the manors and advowsons of Sotterley, Uggeshall, and Ellough, and the reversion of the lordship of Brusyard. He died on the 6th of June in the previous year, and Thomas was found to be his son and heir, aged 18 years. In 1599, Thomas Playters, Esq., furnished one horseman to be conducted to London, for the defence of the court against secret purposes intended.¹²

In the third of James I., Thomas Playters occurs as High Sheriff for the county of Suffolk: his estate was then valued at £2000 per annum.¹³ He is said to have been "a worthy Patriott, and the last Baronet created by James I." He had previously received the honour of knighthood at Newmarket: the patent for his baronetcy is dated August 13th, 1623. It is related of this gentleman that he was so wealthy, that he could ride from Beccles to Dunwich, a distance of 15 miles, upon his own landed property.

In the sixteenth of Charles I., Sir William Playters was Member in Parliament for Orford, and Vice-Admiral of Suffolk. The loyal and gallant achievements of this gentleman and his son are recorded on a monument in the church at Dickleburgh, in the county of Norfolk, and are here transcribed. "Here under lyeth buried the body of Dame Frances Platers, the daughter and heir of Charles le Grys, of Billingford, in Norff., Esq. She married Sir William Playters, of Sotterley, in Suffolk, Knt. and Bart.; sometimes one of the deputie Licutenants and Vice-Admir. of the said countie, and Justice of the Peace and Coram; and Coll. of a regiment of foot, till turn'd out of

¹¹ Harl. MSS.

¹² Id.

¹³ Id.

all by the then rebellious Parliament; and in fine out of that Hous of Parliament, whereof he had the misfortune to be a member. She had issue by him only Thomas, who married with Rebecka, the daughter and co-heir of Tho. Chapman, of Woormly, in the countie of Hartford, Esq., which said Sir Tho. was a great traveller before and after marriage, his ladie sometimes beyond the seas with him: a learned schollar; an exact linguist, expert in all arts and knowledge; of rare temper and courage; and of great esteem in most courts in Christendom; High Sheriff for the countie of Suffolk, by commission from his Majestie of blessed memory, a°. 1646, till forc'd by that fatal parliament to flee to the King at Oxford, where, by commission from his Majesty, he rais'd a regiment of Hors, wherewith he performed remarkable service, till his Majesties forces were totally min'd; and then he departed the Kingdome, arriving in Cicilia, where, by commission from that Viceroy, he had command of a squadron of six shippes against all enemies to the crown of Spain, which being prepared, he put to sea, and performed many gallant services, much to the honour of the Spanish flagg. In July, 1651, he put into the port of Messina with a very rich prize, and posted to the court at Palermo, where he met with an honourable reception for the several good services he had performed; but at 4 days end he there fell ill of a violent fever, whereof within 8 dayes he died, aged about 35 years; and by the Princes ordir had an honourable interment, and much lamented there, but much greater cause at home, leaving no issue, but a sorrowful wid^m and sad childless parents."

Sir Lionel Playters, who succeeded this gallant gentleman in his honours and estates, was a clerk in holy orders, and Rector of Uggeshall and Sotterley. Walker, in his 'Sufferings of the Clergy,' has detailed the troubles he was subjected to by the rebels in the great rebellion of the 17th century. "His troubles began with the rebellion; for in 1642 they brake open his stable doors, plundered him of two very good horses; and when he had the confidence to demand by what authority they did it, they replied, 'Pistol the Parson,' and fired two or more pistols at him. June 20th, 1644, articles were exhibited against him before the sequestrators, under the Earl of Manchester, the substance of which, as entered in the proceedings of those sequestrators, was his observing the rules and orders prescribed by the church; preaching up submission to his Majesty; inveighing earnestly against the rebellion; refusing the covenant; keeping company with one, who afterwards, as t'was reported, went to the cavalier popish army, and saying that he had a parcel of hemp to sell, and hoped it would bear a good price; because, if the times continued, a great many would want hanging; and that rather than fail, he would give it to the King to hang up the roundheads. The sentence of sequestration pass'd upon him, if I mistake not, the same day that those articles were exhibited; on the 24th of July following it was served upon him, when Mr. Playters, asking the sequestrators what time they would give him to remove his family, they answered him not an hour's time; and accordingly, himself, his wife, and four children,

were turned out of doors. The 30th of the same month, they entered on the parsonage barn, the tythe hay, and corn therein; as likewise upon the glebe, (part of which was sown with barley, flax, pease, and other grain, with a crop of grass ready to be cut,) and upon all the tythe of the parish not then gathered in; all which they seized into their own hands, and converted to their own use for two years together, without ever giving any account, or paying Mr. Playters the fifths out of it; but instead of that, they took care to levy the taxes of the months of May and June upon him, notwithstanding they had seiz'd almost the whole produce of that year, either in his barns, or in the fields. Besides which the poor gentleman had another misfortune befel him; for having buried several of his children in the chancel, he hid in one of their graves, on prospect, without question, of those troubles which afterwards came upon him, about 200 pieces of gold, which these godly reformers, as they were tearing up the rails and levelling the chancel, happen'd to discover; and as zealous as they were against superstition and idolatry, made no conscience of committing a robbery very near ally'd to sacrilege, carrying away every penny of it. He had likewise a temporal estate of about £200 a year, which they either put under sequestration, or what was as bad, forbid the tenants to pay the rent; whereupon some of them quitted their farms; and although by that means the estates lay untenanted for two years together, yet they compelled him to pay the taxes even of those unoccupied estates. About the year 1646, one Henry Younger succeeded in the living, but it pleased God that Mr. Playters lived to receive it of him again, on the restoration, and enjoy'd his living, as well as the title and estate of his family, for many years after, and constantly preached in his church till the day of his death. He was a person of a meek and peaceable temper, and of a regular conversation. I had almost omitted to say, that the sequestrators let several of the out-houses belonging to the parsonage fall quite down to the ground."¹⁴

Upon the sale of the manor of Sotterley by John Playters, Esq., in 1744, an estate was purchased by him at Yelverton, in Norfolk, which remained in the family till its extinction in the person of Sir William John Playters, who died in 1832.

On Wednesday, February the 27th, 1833, at a levee held at the Palace of Saint James, Lieut. G. C. Degen Lewis, Roy. Eng., was presented as heir-at-law to the late Sir William John Playters, of Yelverton, who was the last Baronet of the ancient family of the Playters of Sotterley, in Suffolk.

Lady Anne Playters, widow of Sir William John Playters, abovesaid, died in London, aged 60, on the 12th of May, 1845.

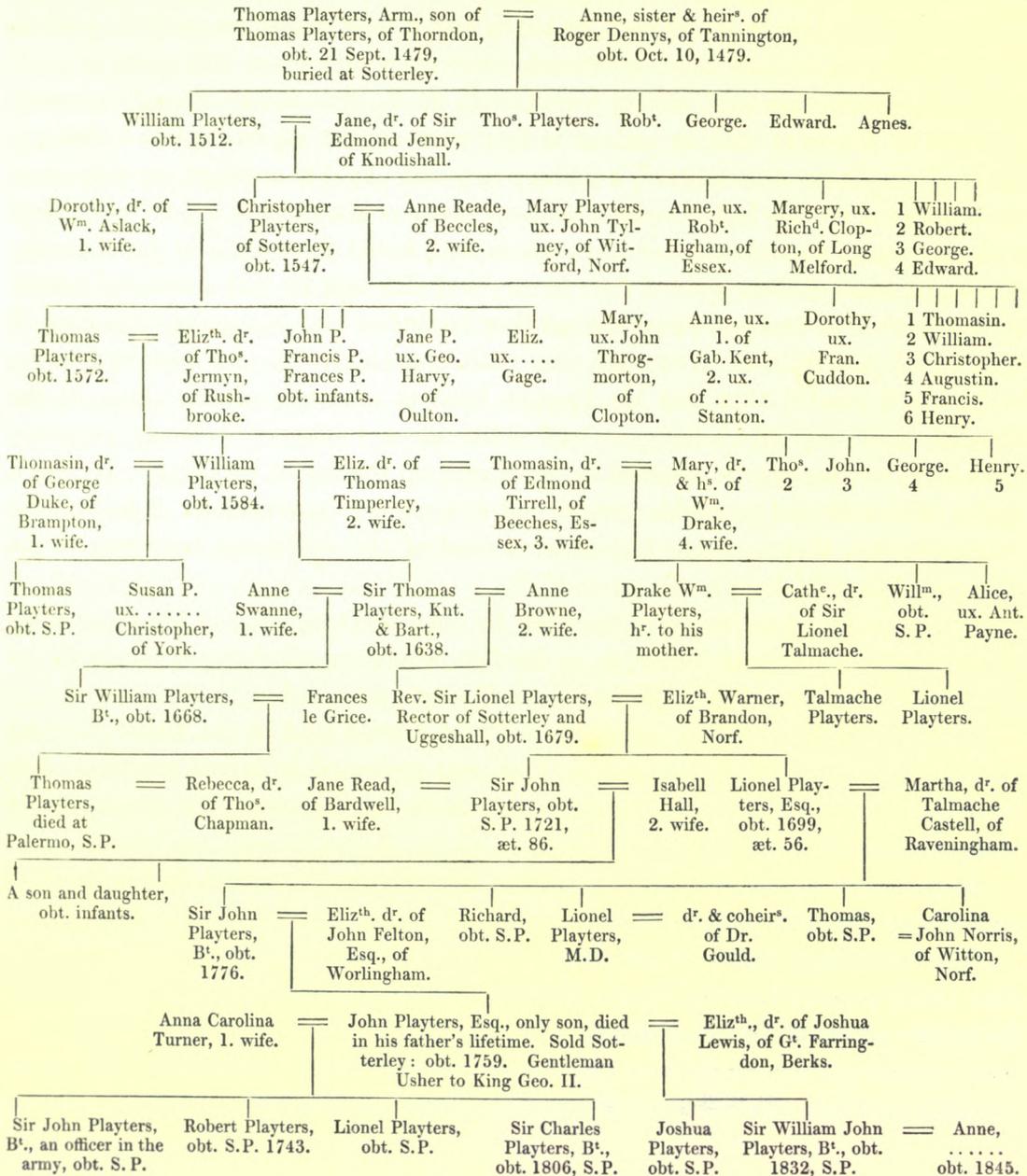
The following pedigree of this family is extracted from the Harleian Manuscripts (No. 1560) preserved in the British Museum; the later descents being supplied from the private papers of the last Baronet.

¹⁴ Walker's 'Sufferings of the Clergy,' pp. 334, 335.

ANTIQUITIES OF THE



Playters.



In Cole's MSS., vol. xxxv.,¹⁵ is an indenture dated at Sotterley, on All Saints Day, anno 1390, by which Sir William Argenthem, Knight; Adam, parson of the church of Brampton; Richard de Mikilfield, John Leche, and Richard Candeler, of Beccles, demise to farm for the term of her life, to Alice, late wife of Walter Skorle, of Sotterley, all lands, &c., lately belonging to Richard Reymond, of Willingham, in Sotterle and Henstead, which they (Sir William Argenthem, Adam, &c.) held by deed and feoffment of Richard, son of William Reymond, of Soterle.

The Berney family also held estates here; for in 1551, John Berney, of Sotterley, Esq., presented to Bradeston, in Norfolk.¹⁶

Manerium de Soterle: Bailiff's account, 1610.	<i>s. d.</i>
Reddit assis: lib: tenent:	suma 28 6
Reddit assis: nat: tenent:	suma 39 5
Reddit mobil: lib: tenent:	suma 4 dies autumpnal: 111 gall: 200 halec: rubri:
Reddit mobil: nat: tenent:	2 dies at falcand:
Ferina terr:	£ 531 17 0
	et duo casson:
Perquis: curiæ	£ 5 3 1
Vendic: boscor	xxx
Reddit resolut: Johi Rouse, Milit:, ut debit mño suo de Raydon	3 2
Reddit resolut: Ballio Hundr: de Waingford. ¹⁷	3 3

Upon the inclosure of the parish in 1796, the following was the state of the property.

Proprietors.	Acres. r. p.	Acres. r. p.
Miles Barne, Esq., possessed	1085 0 8	Allotted 68 2 15
William Crisp	9 2 31	
Glebe	24 0 38	2 0 16
— Kilner, Esq.	43 3 18	
Poor of Sotterley	0 0 36	5 2 8
Mary Sayer	2 0 5	0 3 32
Robert Sparrow, Esq.	172 0 10	9 0 20
George Watson, Esq.	99 2 37	8 0 33
Private property	1436 3 23	94 2 4

SUMMARY.

	Acres. r. p.
Private property	1436 3 23
Waste lands allotted	94 2 4
Old roads	19 3 26
New roads	2 1 0
Total	1553 2 13 ¹⁸

¹⁵ Brit. Mus. ¹⁶ Blomefield. ¹⁷ Jermyn MSS. ¹⁸ Id. from a book pen. Rev. W. Barlee, 1815.

The following is the result of a new mensuration made in conformity with the Tithe Commutation Act.

	Acres. r. p.
Public roads	17 0 37
Glebe	16 2 9
Church-yard	1 0 17
Total number of acres in the parish	1576 0 0

The amount of rent-charge in lieu of tithes was fixed at £295. The population was returned in 1841 at 223, which exhibits a very considerable decrease from the census of 1811, when the parish contained 355 souls, as recorded in the register books. The Rectory-house is a moderately sized modern building, occupying the site of the older manse, which appears to have been of considerable antiquity; for on a piece of oak which formed the mantel-beam in the kitchen of the old rectory, and now built into the wall of the new residence, is the date of "A. D. 1587."

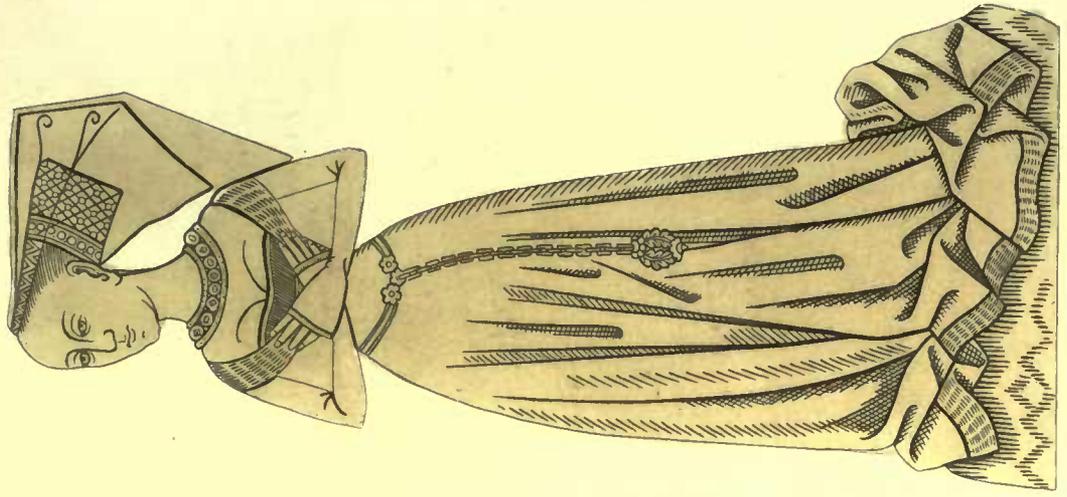
A picture of the old Hall at Sotterley is preserved in one of the farm-houses there. It does not appear to have been an extensive pile, neither does its architectural elegance establish, in the remotest degree, the claim which it prefers of having been erected by Inigo Jones: it was, as usual with most old houses in Suffolk, built of red brick.

THE CHURCH

at Sotterley is rendered particularly interesting by the numerous monumental records it contains of its former patrons; and although it has not altogether escaped the hands of the despoiler, appears to have suffered less than the generality of our sacred edifices.

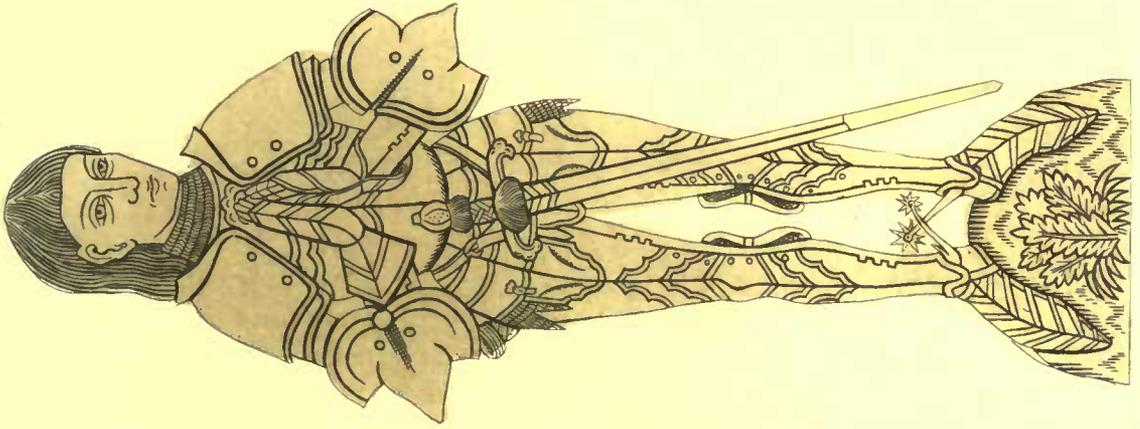
It is a plain unpretending edifice, comprising a nave and chancel without aisles, and having a square tower at the west end of very unusual shape and proportions; and to which I ascribe considerable antiquity, notwithstanding that it presents no positive feature of early architecture. The chancel is covered internally with a wainscot ceiling of no great antiquity, divided into panels, and painted green; but the ceiling of the nave, and the screen between the body of the church and the chancel, appear to have been erected by the Soterleys, whose arms are on a corbel of the roof, and occupy an escutcheon placed over the central arch of the latter. The ignorance or caprice of some modern painter has rendered these, with their impalement, a jumble of heraldic errors. The font is octangular, ornamented with shields in its compartments charged with the symbols of the Trinity, and the Passion of our Lord: but the most curious details in the edifice are the corbels, some of which represent demi-angels playing on violins and bag-pipes. Besides the stained glass in the east window already described, a few shields and fragments remain in the other lights,

2



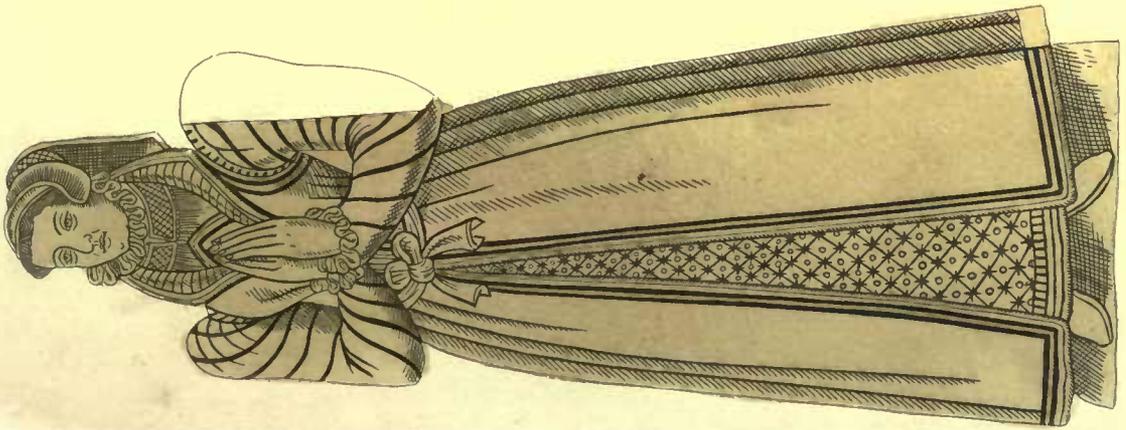
2 ft. 2 1/2 in.

1

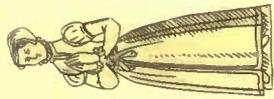


2 ft. 4 1/2 in.

3

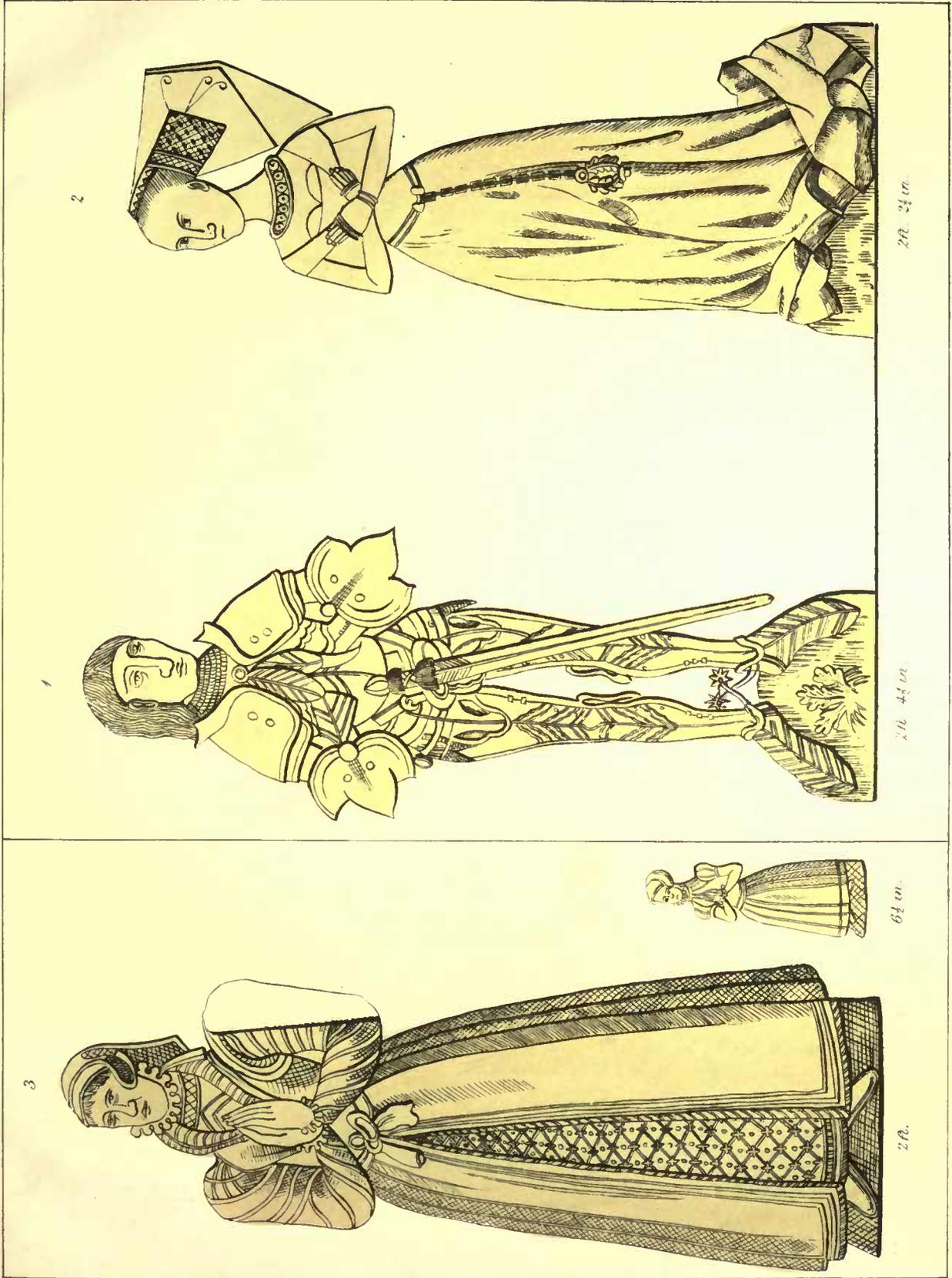


2 ft.



6 1/2 in.

BRASSES IN SOTTREY CHURCH. SUFFOLK.



2

2R. 24 in.

1

2R. 43 in.

3

6 1/2 in.

2R.

which attest how profusely Sotterley church was ornamented in olden days with this beautiful but fragile enrichment. In the east window of the north side was formerly an *Agnus Dei*; and in the western window, on the south side, another; while the story of *Sisera and Jacl*; the mocking, and scourging of our Saviour—his head crowned with a tiara; and a device of a mounted warrior before a walled town, with the following shields of arms,—all blended their glorious colours in rich harmonious tints.

1. Az., a chev. or, between 3 cinquefoils arg., on a chief ermine 3 pales gules; with the date of 1541.
2. Gules, a chev. between 3 cinquefoils or; impaling gules, a cross or, between 12 martlets arg.
3. Quarterly, 1 and 4. Barry of eight and or; in a bordure
2 and 3. An eagle, or phoenix, rising on a mount. On an inescutcheon, per fess and or, six roundlets counterchanged.

The two former of these shields yet remain, with those of Playters and Barne, bearing, respectively, the dates of 1470, and 1744.

Will. Dowsing thus records his iconoclastic visit to this church. “Saterley, April 6th, 1643. There were divers superstitious pictures painted, which they promised to take down, and I gave order to level the steps, and to break in pieces the rails, which I have seen done; and to take off a cross on the church.” Notwithstanding these orders, the communion table is raised on three very high steps; so that, possibly, Dowsing’s directions were never fulfilled. Within the communion rails lies a large stone, inlaid with the effigies of Thomas Playters, the Yorkist, and Anne Dennys, his wife: he in a splendid suit of armour, with a broad-sword of such formidable dimensions as might well befit the ‘*faber fortunæ suæ*’; she, habited in a dress unseemly low, with a rich collar or necklace, and the fantastic head-dress then in fashion. The inscription at their feet is now partly lost, but is here supplied from Weever’s ‘*Ancient Funeral Monuments*.’

*Orate pro aīābs Thome Playters Armigeri nup huius ecclesie patroni,
et Anne ux eius et sororis Rogeri Denays nup de Catpington Armigeri,
qui quidam Thomas obiit xxi die mensis Sep̄r. A^o M^oCCCCLXXIX. et
p̄d̄ra Anna obiit x die Octobr̄ ex tunc prox sequent. quor aīābs pp̄iciē
Deus. Amē.*

These effigies are represented in the accompanying engraving by the figures 1 and 2.

Adjoining this stone, but not following in strict chronological order, lies the brass (No. 3) of Thomasin, daughter of Edmund Tirrell, and third wife of William Playters, Esq., with that of an infant daughter. The partial injury the larger figure has sustained does not prevent us from observing the very handsome dress in which she is clothed. The following inscription is placed beneath her:

Here lyeth buried Thomazē late wyfe unto Wylm Playters of Sotterlay esquier, one of the dawghters & cohepers unto Edmund Tyrrell of Betches in the countye of Essex esquier, who had yssue by the sayde Wylm, Susan Playters, and dyed the viij dape of Maye A^o dni 1578, on whose soule Iesus habe mercy. Beyng of the age of xxxiiij yeares.

At the head of the female figure is a large escutcheon, thus charged: Quarterly, 1st and 4th quarterly. 1st. Playters. 2. Denny, arg., a chev. sab. between 3 mullets of six points gules, pierced or. 3. Bridgenorth, vert, a lion ramp. arg., crowned or. 2 and 3. Aslack of eight coats. 1. Aslack, sab. a chev. erm. between 3 Catharine wheels arg. 2. Berry, arg., a chev. between 3 bears' heads couped sab. 3. Banyard, sab. a fess between 2 chevronels or. 4. . . . arg., on a fess azure, 2 ducal coronets or. 5. Bardolph, az., a fleur-de-lis between 3 cinquefoils or. 6. Charler, erm. on a chief gules, 3 lozenges arg., each charged with an annulet sable. 7. . . . arg., on a chev. gul. 3 fleur-de-lis or. 8. Aslack: impaling Tirrell of four coats. 1. Tirrell, arg., 2 chev. az., within a bordure engr. gules. 2. Swinford, paly of six sab. and arg. 3. Flamert, or, on a chev. arg., 3 dolphins embowed sable. 4. Coggeshall, arg., a cross between four escallops sable.

Upon a large stone, inlaid with the arms of Playters impaling the eight coats of Aslack as before, but twice repeated, is the following inscription.

Under this stone lyeth buried the bodye of William Playters esquier, trew patrone of this church, who had four wyves, viz. Thomazē, daughter of George Duke of Ffrennes esquier, by whom he had issue one soune, which died without issue. Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Tympley of Hentyssham esquier, by whom he had issue two daughters and one soune. Thomazē, one of the daughters and heires of Edmund Tirrell of Betches in the countye of Essex esquier, by whom he had issue one daughter. Mary, daughter of Willia Drake of Hardley in the countye of Norff esquier, by whome he had issue one daughter & two somnes, and dyed the sixte day of June, in the yere of our Lorde God MCCCCCLXXX four.

Just without the altar rails, and attached to the north wall of the chancel, is an altar-tomb of stone, covering the remains of William, son of Thomas Playters and Anne Demmys. On the sides of the tomb were two small effigies in brass, representing this gentleman and his wife, Ann Jenny, in devotional attitudes. The figure of the man has been removed within the last few years, but the female effigy remains. The tomb bears, on its sides, four shields thus charged:

1. Playters impaling Dennys.
2. Playters quartered with Dennys and Bridgenorth.
3. Playters quartered as above, impaling, quarterly, 1st and 4th, Jenny, erm., a bend gules, cotised or. ; 2nd and 3rd, Leiston, vert, 3 dexter hands or gloves arg., on them 3 falcons or.
4. Playters impaling Park, az., an eagle displayed arg.

Round the chamfered edge of the tomb is a fillet of brass, with this legend.

Here lieth buried the bodie of William Playters esquier, sonne and heire of Thomas and Ann his wife, who married Ann, daughter to Sir Edmond Jenny of Knotshall, Knight, by whom he had issue Kpofer and others, and died the xi day of November anno domini 1512.

At the foot of this tomb lies the effigy of Christopher Playters, the eldest son of the above personages ; a sturdy figure clad in a suit of plain armour, with this inscription at his feet. (No. 4.)

Here lyeth buried the body of Christopher Playters Esqr, who had two wives, vidz. Dorothe, one of y^e daughters & heires of Will Aselack of Carrow Esqr, by whom he had issue Thomas, & by Ann, daugh^r to Will Read of Berles esq he had 5 sommes and 4 daugh: he died upon y^e xx day of Aug: an: 1547.

Although Christopher Playters died on the day above mentioned, it appears from the parish registers that he was not buried till the 27th of September following ; more than five weeks after his decease. The reason for this unusual postponement of his funeral rites is not recorded.

The next brass (No. 5) is the portraiture of this gentleman's eldest son and heir, Thomas, who died in 1575. When we consider that twenty-eight years only had elapsed between the death of the latter gentleman and his father, the alteration in the costume appears very remarkable. The smooth chin, and plain effective armour of the father, are strikingly contrasted by the thick mustaches, curly beard, and heavy cumbrous panoply of the son, whose square-toed shoes and clumsy figure give an unfavourable specimen of a gentleman of the courtly reign of the "Virgine Queene." The legend attached to this brass is as follows :

Under this stone lyethe buried the bodye of Thomas Playters of Sotterley, Esquier, patron of this manor, who had issue by Elizabeth his wyff, one of the daughters of Sir Thomas Jerman of Rushebroke in the countie of Suff. Knyght, sixe sommes and sixe daughters, & dyed the ix daye of September Anno Domini 1572.

At the foot of the figure are the arms of Playters, impaling Jermyn of Rushbrook, sab., a crescent between 2 mullets palewise arg., pierced of the field.

The last brass which remains to be noticed in this interesting church is the most ancient of them all (No. 6), and in the absence of its inscription and armorial bearings, conjecture must supply the appropriation. From the form of the armour it cannot be referred to a period much subsequent to 1420 or 1430, and may possibly cover one of the last of the Soterles. It is not impossible, however, that it may have been intended to commemorate Sir Robert de Tye, who died on the 8th of October, 1415, and was buried in the church of Sotterley.¹⁹

Against the north wall of the chancel is a huge and costly monument of marble erected to the memory of Sir Thomas Playters, Knight and Baronet, who died on the 18th of May, anno Domini 1638, aged 73 years. In the central compartment is seen the kneeling effigy of Sir Thomas; and in side compartments those of his two wives; by the first of whom, Anne, eldest daughter of Sir William Swann, of Southfleet, in Kent, he had two sons and two daughters. His second wife was Anne, only daughter and heiress of Sir Anthony Browne, of Elsing, in Norfolk, who brought him eight sons and ten daughters. This numerous family of two-and-twenty—quaintly termed ‘diverse children,’—are represented on a lower compartment of the monument, kneeling before a faldstool. In point of cost, this sepulchral memorial is commensurate with the noble estate of the deceased, which has already been mentioned; but as a work of art it is unworthy of critical notice.

There are also monumental records of Sir Lionel Playters, Bart., Rector of Sotterley, whose sufferings during the rebellion in King Charles’s time are related in a previous page, and who died in 1679;—of John Playters, Gent., who died in 1609;—of Lionel Playters, Esq., who died in 1699; and of Jane, the first wife of Sir John Playters, Bart., and daughter of Thomas Read, Esq., who died in November, 1665.

The very ancient family of Bumpstede, who bore argent, on a bend engrail. gules 3 mullets of the field, flourished for many generations in Sotterley and its neighbourhood. In 1298, Peter de Bumpstede was one of the bailiffs of Norwich.²⁰ In 1479, Robert Bumpstede, of Willinghau St. Mary, by his will, dated on the 30th of March in that year, “legat corpus suum ad sepeliend: in cancello See Margaret de Soterle, in introitu chori.” The following members of this family were also interred here:

John Bumpstede, who dyed the vij of Aprill, in anno MCCCCLXXIX.

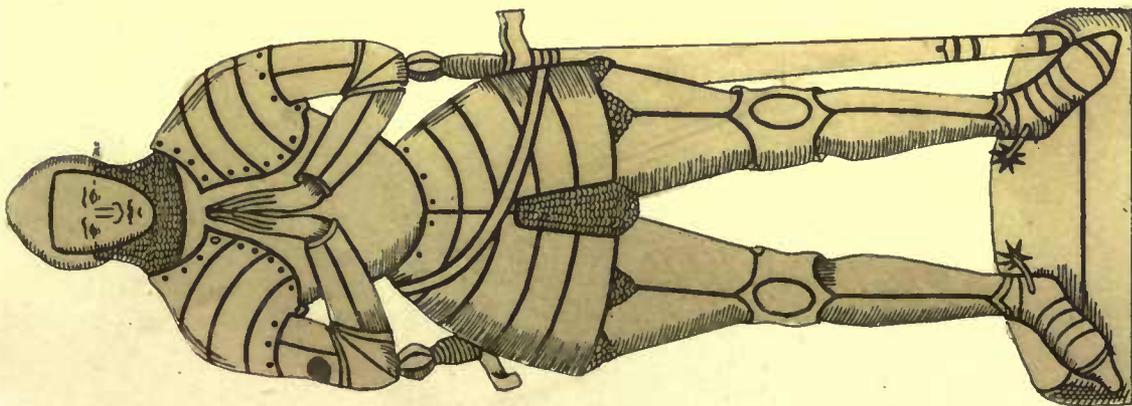
Alex. Bompstead, late wyef of William Bompstead.

Orate p. aia Roberti Bompstead generosi, qui obiit xv die mensis Aprilis anno Dni M.CCCCLXXXij.

¹⁹ Hervey’s Collection of Funeral Monuments.

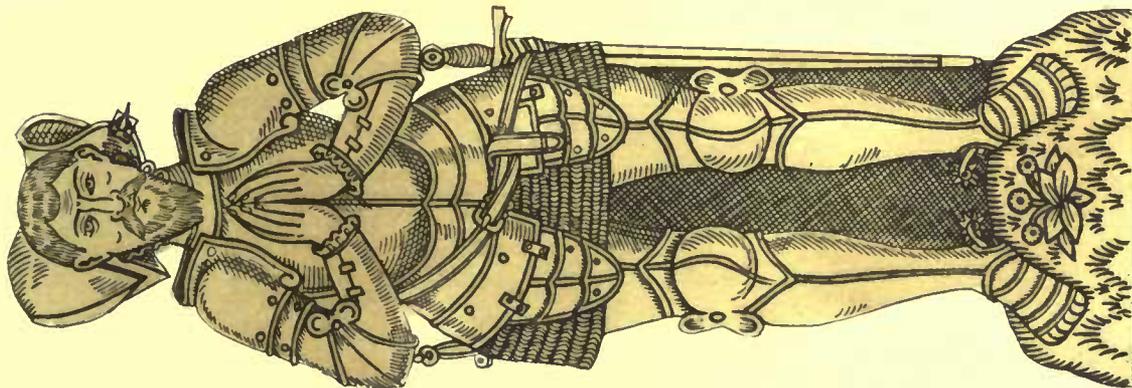
²⁰ Blomefield.

4



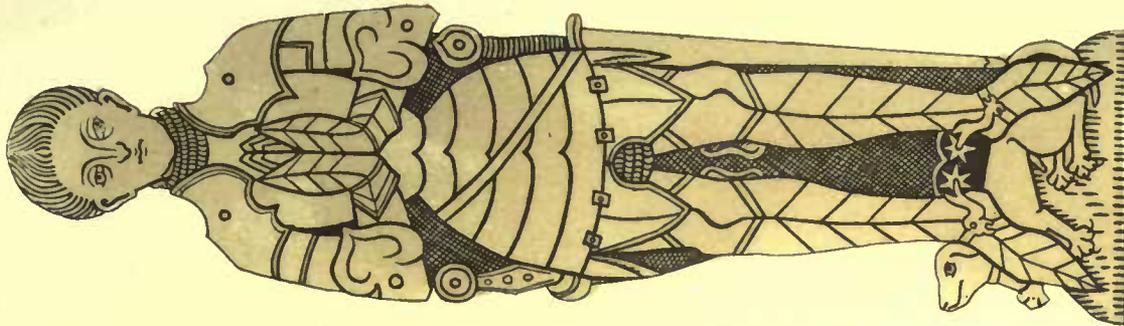
1 ft. 7 in.

5



2 ft.

6

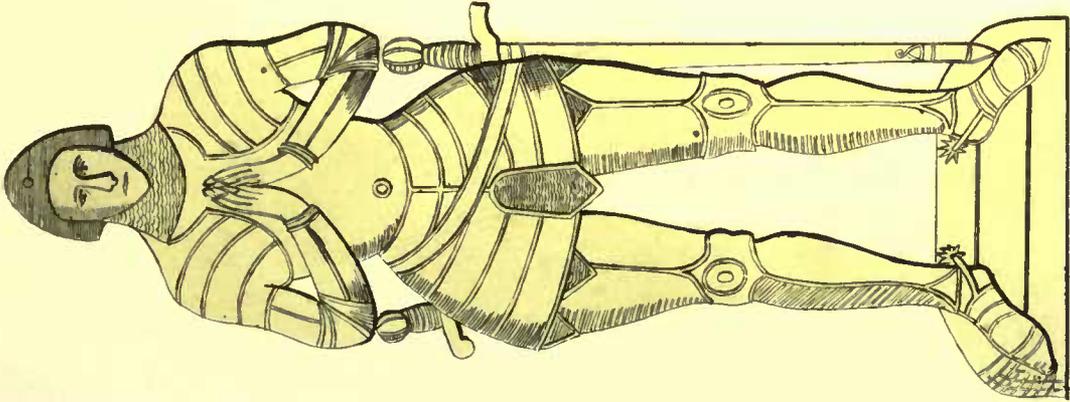


1 ft. 6 in.

BRASSES IN TOTTERLEY CHURCH - SUFFOLK.

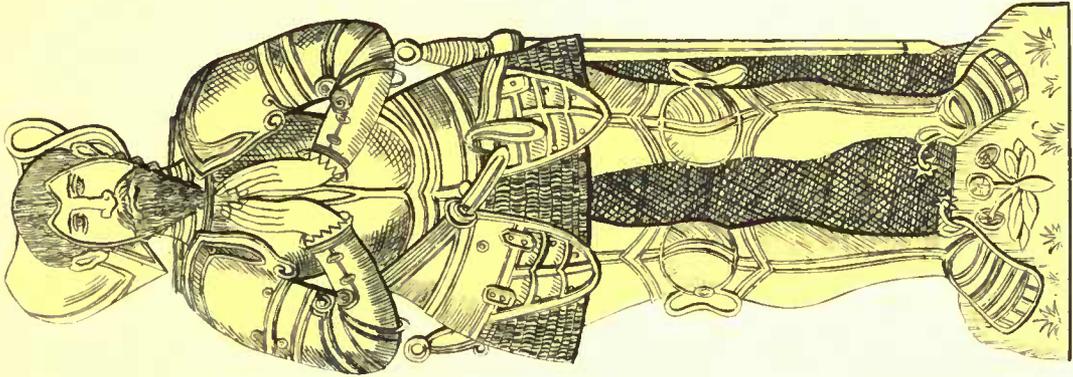
Published by John Wode, London, 1876.

4.



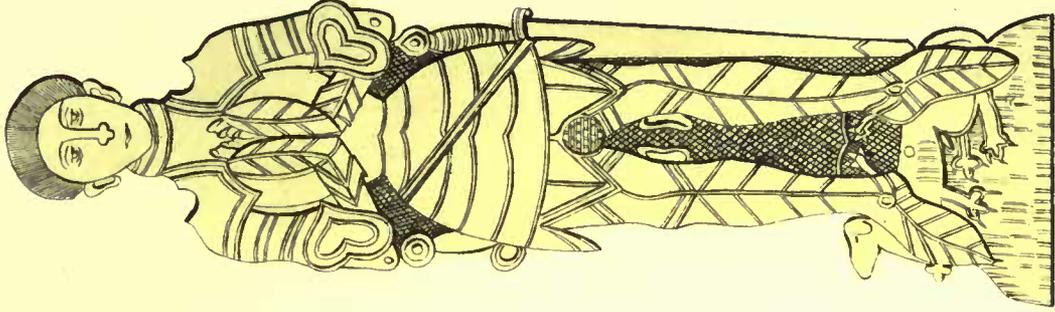
1 ft. 7 in.

5.



2 ft.

6.



1 ft. 6 in.

Hervey has recorded this inscription, now lost.

Monsieur Quier de Welington, et Dame Halves sa femme.

There are monuments to the memory of the Barne family, the present lords of Sotterley, who have a vault under the west end of the church. Against the south wall of the chancel is a slab of white marble for Miles Barne, Esq.

“ex eâ domo prognati, quæ labente sæculo xvi^{to}
 Duos Londiniis Prætores
 exemplo rarissimo protulit:
 quæque maternum genus ab Eduino
 Sandys, Archiepiscopo Eboracensi, duxit.”

Arms, Barne with Elwick, arg. on a chev. az. 3 fleurs-de-lis or; and Thornhill, gules, 4 bars and a chief argent.

There is also a monument to the Rev. Thomas Barne, instituted Rector of Sotterley in 1790.

Against the north wall of the chancel are the matches of the Playters' family emblazoned on wood, most of which are decayed by time and damp. In addition to the splendid shields already noticed, may still be discerned Playters impaling Le Grice, quarterly, az. and gules, on a bend arg. 3 boars pass. sable, with eleven coats; and also Playters impaling Browne of sixteen coats, viz.

1. Browne, sab. 3 lioncels pass. in bend, between 2 double cotises arg.
2. Fitzallan, gules, a lion ramp. or.
3. sable, a fret or.
4. gul. a saltire and a chief arg.
5. Montacute, arg. 3 fusils in fess gules.
6. Monthermer, or, an eagle displayed vert.
7. Plantagenet, gul. 3 lions, pass. guard. in pale, or.
8. Nevill, gul. a saltire arg.
9. Ingoldesthorpe, gules, a cross engrailed arg.
10. Bradston, arg., on a canton gul. a rose or.
11. Charlton, Lord Powis, or, a lion ramp. gules.
12. De la Pole, az., a fess between 3 leopards' faces or.
13. Burgh, arg., a fess dauncette gules, charged with 3 bezants.
14. Hastings, or, a maunch sable.
15. Valance, Barry arg. and azure, an orle of martlets gules.
16. Browne.

The church of Sotterley is a rectory, dedicated to St. Margaret; and its oldest bell is inscribed with a legend to that female saint.

Sancta Margareta ora pro nobis.

The registers commence in 1547.

Miles Barne, D.D., son of Miles Barne, Rector of Bishopsbourne cum Barham, in the county of Kent, was fellow of Peter House, in Cambridge, and chaplain to King Charles II. He was entered at Peter House, as a sizer, on the 27th of June, 1656, from Westminster School, being then seventeen years of age. He afterwards obtained a scholarship in his college, and appears among the list of Questionists there in 1659. He took his degree of A. B. in 1659; M. A. 1663; was admitted a fellow of his college on the 2nd of December, 1662, and proceeded D. D. in 1682. In 1688, upon the accession of the Prince of Orange, he threw up his fellowship; and his name does not occur in the college books, or among the list of its members, after March in that year. Dr. Barne was the author of three sermons preached before the University; two of which were printed at Cambridge in 1682, and the third in the following year, at London. This was preached "on the ninth of September, being the day of publick thanksgiving for the deliverance of his Majesties sacred person, his Royal Brother, and the Government, from the late hellish Fanatick Conspiracy." It is, as may be presumed from its title, a strong political discourse, abundantly interlarded with Latin quotations, and levelled alike against "popish plot" and "fanatick conspiracy." It gives, however, the authorities of the day this sensible advice: "since we are plac'd between two extreams, common prudence bids us have a watchful eye over both, and not to give a palpable advantage to the one, by applying all our force against the other."

Dr. Barne died at Kingham, in Oxfordshire, about the year 1709, and was buried there.

Sotterley Hall is a large and excellent mansion, and stands near the church, in the centre of a park of nearly 500 acres, finely diversified with ancient timber and thriving modern plantations.

The manor of Benacre pays £4. 16s. to the poor of this parish annually, under a charge devised in 1616, by Thomas Jolly; which amount is expended, together with £9 arising from a piece of land called the poors' allotment, in donations of coals, &c., about Christmas time. A double tenement is also occupied by poor families belonging to Sotterley, rent free.

Weston.

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR held an estate in Weston which had formed part of the possessions of Archbishop Stigand, valued at two shillings; with a church and twenty acres of glebe, worth three shillings.¹ Hugo de Montford, Roger Bigot, and Goisfridus de Mandeville, had also small estates here.²

Henry I. granted a manor which extended over this parish, and part of Beceles, to William de Luvell, from whom it was called Soka Luvelli. William de Luvell sold it to William de Longo Campo, at that time Chancellor of England, who gave it to Henry his son, who bestowed it, as a marriage portion, on his daughter, the wife of Robert Gresle, who held it when the Record called Testa de Nevill was compiled.³ By what tenure this 'Soke,' or power of administering justice and executing the laws of the land within its limits, was held, is not recorded.

In 1266, Walter de Redesham held the lordship of Weston, and obtained a charter of free-warren from the Crown.⁴

In 1280 it formed part of the extensive estates of Hugo de Berry.⁵ In the fifth of Edward II., Walter de Norwich had a charter of free-warren in his lands in Weston, but he does not appear to have held the lordship.⁶

From the family of De Redesham the manor of Weston passed to William de Barsham, and from him, by purchase, to the family of Garneys; for William Garneys, of Stockton, by his will, dated Feb. 13th, 1420, and proved on the 6th of April, 1425, leaves to Elizabeth his widow, his manor of Weston, and all his estates in the Hundred of Wangford, which his father had bought of William de Barsham, &c., for the term of her life; on condition that she maintain Ralph and Robert, his sons, to full age, and does not re-marry: then the feoffees are to enfeoff Robert his son in the manor of Weston, for himself and the heirs of his body; and in default of issue, to Ralph his son, &c.

Upon the death of Ralph Garneys, who died about 1450 without issue, the manor of Weston became the property of Peter Garneys, of Beccles, his uncle, who, by his will, dated August 20th, 1450, and proved on the 5th of February in the year following, leaves his manor of Weston, &c., to feoffees to enfeoff his son Thomas in the same, after his decease, according to the will of William Garneys, his brother. By the exem-

¹ Domesday Book, Terra Regis.

² Id.

³ Testa de Nevill, p. 295.

⁴ Cal. Rot. Cart. p. 94.

⁵ Mag. Brit.

⁶ Cal. Rot. Cart. p. 145.

plification of a recovery in the twenty-seventh of Henry VIII., it appears that Robert Garneys held the manor of Weston, juxta Beccles, with its appurtenances, and ten messuages, eight tofts, five hundred acres of plough-land, sixty acres of meadow, five hundred of pasture, and two of wood, with £4 rent in Weston, Kenting, Debenham, Beccles, Elowe, Wurlingham, and Shanfield.⁷

Thomas Garneys, Esq., died on the 20th of October, 1566, seized, inter alia, of the manor of Weston, held of Sir Thomas Gresham and Ann his wife, as of their manor of Beccles, late parcel of the possessions of Bury Abbey, in socage, by fealty, and ten shillings rent, valued at five marks per annum.⁸

The manor has since passed into the hands of Lord Roseberry, of whom it was purchased by Thomas Farr, Esq., of Beccles, who is the present lord.

The manor-house, called Walpole Hall, is a mere fragment of a very old mansion. In the south wall of what seems to have been a chapel, though only about sixteen feet long, is a recess, very like a fenestella, retaining a portion of an old shelf of oak. The courts for the manor are held here, and adjourned to some more convenient place.

Bartholemew Kemp, of Gissing, in the twenty-third of Henry VIII. sells to Thomas Godsolve, Esq., all his messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments in the town of Weston, next Beccles, in Suffolk.⁹

Weston Hall, a handsome habitable mansion, was in great part demolished about twenty years ago, and the projecting angle of the southern façade converted into a farm-house. It was a good, well-proportioned building, with notched gables and pedimented windows, but deficient in the elegant and decorated finials so frequent in old Elizabethan mansions. It was erected in the latter part of the sixteenth century by John Rede, Esq., who possessed a good estate in the village, which passed, by sale, to the family of Barry, and is now, by a like transfer, held by the Barnes of Sotterley.

Weston Hall—or that fragment of it which retains the name—stands near the high road, which formerly passed close to its door, in a sloping pleasant meadow, still environed by a few old trees, and commanding a view of the church, and of a rising knoll of ground to the south-east. On this eminence is placed a small but curious edifice of red brick, built in a style of architecture prevalent in the time of Charles II., and marking the taste of Thomas Rede, Esq., whose initials remain on its western front. The interior of this fanciful little dwelling is finished rather expensively with moulded cornices and wrought ceilings; and though still two stories high, was originally much loftier. It is said to have been erected for a summer-house, as its upper floor commanded a view of the German Ocean, but tradition relates that it was early converted to a purpose far less innocent.

⁷ Jermyn MSS.

⁸ Esch. 9 Eliz., Harl. MSS.

⁹ Harl. MSS., Gibbon's Collect.

Weston contains 1550 acres of land, the tithes of which have been commuted at £ 350 per annum. There are only two acres and twenty-nine perches of glebe, and no rectory-house. The population in 1841 was 211 souls.

THE CHURCH

at Weston, which is a rectory dedicated to Saint Peter, and had formerly a celebrated image of our Lady, consists of a nave and chancel of very lofty proportions, with a square tower, open to the body of the church by a fine pointed arch. The tower contains three bells, on which are these inscriptions in the old Longobardic character.

1. *Intercede s̄re Petre pro me.*
2. *Dominus sit adjutor meus.*
3. *Missus vero pie Gabriel fert leta Marie.*

The whole fabric is in a wretched state of repair and neglect, vividly contrasted by the remains of ancient taste and munificence exhibited in its oaken ceiling, its richly carved benches, and splendid font. The latter ornament is composed of the finest stone, and is six feet one inch in height from the ground. Its form is octangular; but as seven of its sides were sculptured with representations of the Romish sacraments, the carved work has been sadly mutilated. The foliated tracery of the south windows sustained some shields of painted glass, in the writer's memory, which have now disappeared: of these, the arms of Garneys with a plain chevron, and or, a chevron gules between 3 pheons sable, were most conspicuous. Had these been broken by accident or wantonness, some fragments would have remained; but as every tint has vanished, the inference is that they have been stolen by the glaziers employed in repairing the glass or lead-work. I fear country churchwardens have much to answer for throughout the kingdom, in permitting similar depredations to pass unnoticed. Surely these officers have never considered the meaning of the word 'warden.'

William Garneys, of Stockton, Esq., by will, dated the 13th of February, 1420, leaves to the high altar of the church of Weston juxta Beccles iij^s. iiij^d., and to the building of the bell-tower xij^d.

Walker, in his 'Sufferings of the Clergy,'¹⁰ says that Gilpen, Rector of Weston, was ejected, "of whom I do not know any thing further." His name, however, does not occur in the list of incumbents preserved in the Bishop's office at Norwich. Possibly he held some other preferment of this name.

¹⁰ Part II. p. 256.

Monuments.—1. Thomas Rede, who married Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Gawdy, Knt., Justice of the King's Bench, died Sept. 2, 1622.

2. Thomas Rede, died 19th of Sept., 1681, aged 68.

3. Henry Rede, died 17th of Feb., 1655.

4. John Rede, of Weston, was buried the 6th of March, 1605.

5. Thomas Garneis, Esq., died Oct. 25, 1701, aged 60.

6. John Thacker, died Jan. 13th, 1667.

7. Abigail, wife of Richard Twiss, Gent., died 18 Dec., 1723. She was daughter of Mr. Robt. Bernard, merchant, of Yarmouth, and a woman of most exemplary goodness and charity.

The registers commence in 1709: they contain the following rather curious entry.

“Edmund, son of Thomas Rede, jun., Esq., and Anne his wife, buried 19th of August, 1712, and the bones of a daughter of theirs named Martha were removed from Beckles the same day.”

RECTORS OF WESTON.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
John de la Mere	1280	The Crown.
Thomas de Wimundham	1281	Id.
John de Merton	1304	Id.
Henry de Livanseye	1311	Id.
Richard de Bartone	1327	Id.
John Darry	1330	Id.
Nicholas de Beverley	1332	Id.
William Mugge	1349	Id.
John de Bellerby	1349	Id.
Will: fil Joës del Hall de Shipedham	1356	Id.
John Brakell	1361	Id.
Thomas Cotterell	1361	Id.
James de Billingford	1382	Id.
John Pulteney	1383	Id.
William Bedford	1384	Id.
John de Berningham	1384	Id.
Andrew Tye	1386	Id.
Thomas Andrew	1393	Id.
Adam Hauker	1401	Id.
John Lilly de Edythorp	1411	Id.
John Palmere de Westhale	1414	Id.
William Podyngton	1426	Id.
Robert Mersden	1437	Id.
John Potter	1437	Id.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas Atte Ash	1455	The Crown.
Robert Blakwell	1469	Id.
William Moryshead	1482	Id.
John Green	1485	Id.
Richard Holme	1517	Id.
Thomas Pindar	1543	Id.
William Wickham	1554	Id.
John Durley	1567	Id.
Jacobus Smith	1576	Id.
John Utting	1581	Id.
Thomas Utting	1623	Id.
John Moore	1662	Id.
Edward Farden	1680	Id.
Maurice Moseley		
John Aldham	1705	Id.
Thomas Anguish	1727	Id.
Isaac Colman	1736	Id.
John Colman	1753	Id.
Ralph Webb	1758	Id.
John Smyth		
Robert Hughes	1769	Id.
John Mitford	1815	Id.
John Mitford, second time	1824	Id.

Estimatio ecclesie xx marc: Synodalia per an: xvij^d. Denarii S. Petri, xvi^d.

Willingham St. Mary.

FIFTEEN free-men held Willingham in demesne under Burchard, a wealthy Saxon, in the time of Edward the Confessor; but at the period of the Norman Survey the parish was returned as the lordship of Hugo de Montfort. It was one leuca in length, and one in breadth, and paid five pence gelt. In the ninth of Edward I. it was the estate of Elizabeth Bruisyard.

In 1480, Robert Bumpstede, of Willingham Saint Mary, was buried in the chancel of Saint Mary's church at Sotterley, near the entrance of it. John, his eldest son, and Robert Bumpstede, chaplain, another son, were his executors: he gave his manor of Willingham to Marion his wife, and sealed with, argent, on a bend engrailed gules, three mullets of the field.

The manor afterwards passed to the family of Aslack; for by a deed, without date, but probably about the year 1450, Elizabeth Aslack, widow, daughter and heiress of Thomas Bardolph, Esq., grants to Robert Clere, Knt., and others, the manor of Willingham, in Suffolk, to hold for the use of the said Elizabeth for life, and after to William Aslack, her son, and his heirs, with remainder to Thomas, her son. By an inquisitio post mortem, taken on the 8th of April, twenty-third of Henry VIII., William Aslack was found to die June 17th, 1531, seized of the aforesaid manor, and Thomas, son and heir of Christopher Playters and Elizabeth his wife, sister of the said William, was his heir. The lordship, thus transferred by heirship to the family of Playters, was sold about two centuries afterwards to Sir Thomas Robinson, of Worlingham, from whom it passed to the Sparrows, by a like transfer, and again, by marriage, to the Earl of Gosford, its present possessor.

The property of William Neirford and Parnell his wife, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of John de Vallibus, included, inter alia, "a Knight's fee which Ralph de la Mancy holdeth in Willingham."¹

In 1350, Alexander de Erle owned an estate in Willingham and Sotterley, and was settled there. His elder brother is supposed to have been the ancestor of the Erles of Heydon, in Norfolk.²

We learn from Domesday Book that there was a church in Willingham, at the time of its compilation, endowed with forty acres of glebe, valued at seven shillings. It was dedicated to St. Mary, and the patronage has always been in the Crown, though the Testa de Nevill says, "the church of Willingham is in the gift of the King and Robert de Seintes."³ And again it says, "Ecclesia de Weston, et ecclesia See Marie de Wylingham sunt de don: Dñi Reg.; et Mag: Simo de Thancit illas tenet de dono Dñi regis."⁴

In 1526, Willingham St. Mary was united with the rectory of North Cove, though the livings were not consolidated till the 24th of January, 1743.⁵

The church was in use till after the year 1500; for in 1503, and in 1509, legacies were made to the "awtor of Wellingham of our Lady," and in a will dated 1529, a legacy is left to the reparation of the parish church of Willingham; so that it would seem to have fallen into decay about that period.⁶ Its remains are now scarcely visible.

¹ Harl. MSS., No. 971.

² Blomefield.

³ Testa de Nevill, p. 297.

⁴ Ibid. p. 285.

⁵ MSS. pen. Epis. Norwic.

⁶ Tanner's MSS.

RECTORS OF WILLINGHAM ST. MARY.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Nicholas de Stanford . . .	1270	The King.
John de St. Edmund . . .	1275	Id.
Galfridus de Waley . . .	1276	Id.
William de Sutton . . .	1313	Id.
John de la Gere . . .	1333	Id.
William de Wakefield . . .	1341	Id.
John Stamford . . .	1346	Id.
John de Melburn . . .	1349	Id.
John Smert . . .	1351	Id.
John Aylmer . . .	1352	Id.
John Spendlove . . .	1355	Id.
Robert de Day . . .	1370	Id.
Philip Tregrilla . . .	1379	Id.
John Palmer . . .	1388	Id.
Nicholas Joce . . .	1395	Id.
Henry Graunt . . .	1414	Id.
William Coll . . .	1414	Id.
John Auncell . . .	1423	Id.
Laurence Baldeware . . .	1430	Id.
John Davels . . .	1431	Id.
John Flempton . . .	1432	Id.
Laurence Goldnspey . . .		Id.
Thomas Ekkersley . . .	1441	Id.
Richard Blithburgh . . .	1447	Id.
Robert Bumpstede . . .	1482	The Bishop, by lapse.
Thomas Bachiler . . .	1484	The King.
Thomas Aylward . . .	1490	Id.
Ed. Hubbard . . .	1497	Id.
Peter Hewet . . .	1526	Id.

Worlingham.

ULF, a free-man of Gurth, the brother of Harold, held Worlingham at the time of the Survey, and Roger Bigot was steward of it for the Conqueror, who retained the manor in his own hands. Roger de Montford also possessed an estate here, of which five free-men of Gurth had been tenants. It was valued at ten shillings and sixpence, and

paid one thousand herrings. There were also in this parish two churches, to which belonged forty acres of land, worth six shillings. They were the property of the Crown, but others enjoyed the profits of them; viz., Robert de Vallibus held a half-part of one of them, with thirty acres of land and a Bordar; and the Abbot of Bury St. Edmund's held the other half, with five acres of land, worth twelve pence. These estates, in all probability, formed the manors of Great and Little Worlingham. The Testa de Nevill, an invaluable record of the 13th century, contains the following particulars of this parish at that early period. "Soca Britonis de Werlingham. Our Lord the King gave it to the ancestors of Oliver de Tintamac of Bretagne, and Hamo de Sibeton now holds it of the gift of the King; but by what service is unknown: and it was a member of Mutford."¹

"William de Cheney holds the Soca Britonis in the Hundred of Wainford, in custody for William de Tintiniot, and has the custody for Philip de Albon, to whom the King gave that custody."²

The Abbot of Bury was returned by the Sheriff of Suffolk as lord of the manor of Worlingham in 1281, the ninth of Edward I.³ In the Patent Rolls of the twenty-sixth of Edward III. mention is made of the letting out of the liberties or franchises of the Abbot of Bury between Coplestone, and the mill of Worlingham, and in Beccles.⁴

Coplestone, or Copleston, is a name still retained by certain lands in the parish of Beccles, and the above record shows the antiquity of the appellations by which most of our fields and lanes are known at the present day.

A branch of the ancient family of Duke was afterwards long possessed of this manor. Robert Duke was living here in the reign of Henry VIII. John Duke, Esq., married Parnel, daughter of Sir Thomas Rous, of Henham, soon after the year 1600; and in 1649, Thomas Duke, of Worlingham, Esq., was seized of the advowson and manor of Diss, in Norfolk.⁵ It afterwards became the property of John Felton, Esq., son of Sir John Felton, of Playford; whose only daughter, Elizabeth, having married Sir John Playters, of Sotterley, carried it into that ancient line. Sir John Playters sold this, and other estates in the neighbourhood, to Sir Thomas Robinson, Bart., of Kentwell Hall in Long Melford. Sir Thomas, his son, sold the property and residence at Long Melford, and the adjacent neighbourhood, to John Moore, Esq., citizen of London, and made Worlingham his residence. He died in 1743, and left this estate to Dame Elizabeth his wife, who died in 1758, having previously sold her rights in the manor of Worlingham to George Hare, Esq., in fee. Hare re-sold the manor to Robert Sparrow, Esq., June 23rd, 1755, whose son, the late Robert Sparrow, Esq., succeeded him; who, by his

¹ Testa de Nevill, p. 295.

² Id. p. 297.

³ Mag. Brit.

⁴ Rot. 36 Ed. III. in. Turr. Lond.

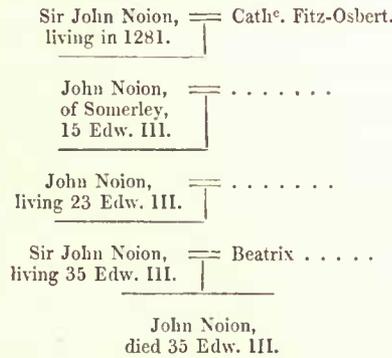
⁵ Blomefield.

marriage with Mary, eldest daughter of Sir John Bernard, Bart., of Brampton Park, in Northamptonshire, left an only surviving daughter, Mary, who, marrying the Right Hon. Archibald Acheson, Earl of Gosford, carried it to that nobleman, who in her right holds a life interest in it, with remainder to Lord Acheson, his son, in fee.

The Earl was created a Peer of the United Kingdom by the title of Baron Worlingham of Beccles, in the county of Suffolk, in 1835, and is descended from an ancient family in Ireland; Sir Archibald Acheson, Secretary of State for Scotland, having been created a Baronet in 1628.

The manor of Little Worlingham was possessed by Catharine Fitz-Osbert in 1281. She married Sir John Nojion or Noion, to whom she carried this and other manors in Suffolk.⁶ Sir John bore gules, a cross engrailed, and a canton arg.

Fitz-Osbert's shield was gules, 3 bars gemelles or.



The manor was afterwards held by the family of Cove, of whom it was purchased by the Jernegans; for John Jernegan, of Worlingham, by his last will dated the 31st of October, thirteenth of Edward IV., says, "first, I will after my dissece that Osberne Jernegan, my sone, have alle my maner of lityll Wyrlyngham, with all the comoditees, &c., within the townes of litill Wirlyngham, Cove, Elgh, and grete Wyrlyngham, or els where inne the Hundred of Waynforth, late purchased of Will: Cove, to alle the terme of his lyffe, withouten impechement of waste; and to hys issue male of hys body lawfully begotyn, and for defaute to his old daughter, and for defaulte, &c., to Elizabeth Denton, my daughter, for life, and after to Wat Denton, her sone, for life, and after to be sold."

This lordship was always of very inconsiderable extent, and exercising at present no manorial rights, may be considered as lost.

William de Cheney gave to the monks of Langley, in Norfolk, his tenants in Cove and Worlingham.⁷

⁶ Returns made to the Exchequer by the Sheriff of Suffolk, 9 Edward I.

⁷ Blomefield.

In 1540, Thomas Atkin, Vicar of Mutford, gave to Gonville Hall, Cambridge, Pain's Close in Worlingham, of forty shillings per annum rent, for stipends for three scholars of the diocese of Norwich, who are to be chosen by the master and two senior fellows.⁸

John Wilde, of Lowestoft, by will dated 22nd July, 1753, gave a considerable estate lying in Worlingham to the parish of Lowestoft, for establishing an English and Grammar School there, for the benefit of poor children belonging to that town. The above John Wilde was buried in the common pathway in Worlingham church-yard, leading from the gate next the road to the church porch, having a load of stones poured upon him when laid in his grave; but there is no memorial for him, nor have we heard that there ever was any.⁹ By an Act of Parliament, passed thirty-first George III., 1791, entitled 'An Act for effectuating and establishing an exchange agreed upon between the Trustees of Wilde's Charity, and Robert Sparrow, Esq., and Mary Bence, spinster, of certain estates in the county of Suffolk,' it was settled, that in consideration of certain lands situated in the parishes of Laxfield, Dennington, and Baddingham, in the county of Suffolk, belonging to the said Mary Bence, and of certain other lands lying in Worlingham, in the possession of the said Robert Sparrow, the trustees of the said charity made an exchange of the said Wilde's estate in Worlingham, for the lands aforesaid belonging to the said Mary Bence and Robert Sparrow, for the purposes mentioned in the will of the said John Wilde.¹⁰

The parish of Worlingham gave birth to Dr. Thomas Gooch, successively Bishop of Bristol, Norwich, and Ely; Master of Caius College, Cambridge, and Vice-Chancellor of that University in 1717, 1718, and 1719. During the violence of party in Dr. Bentley's time, the Bishop was shot at as he was passing from chapel to Caius Lodge. On the late alterations there, search was made, and a bullet found. While exercising the office of Vice-Chancellor, he raised by contributions £10,000, which have since been expended in building the Senate House; and in 1742, while holding the See of Norwich, he instituted two societies in Norfolk and Suffolk for the relief and support of distressed widows and orphans of poor clergymen. He was thrice married; and succeeded to the Baronetcy on the death of his elder brother in 1751, without issue. His mother was Frances, daughter of Thomas Lone, Gent., of Worlingham. His Lordship died in 1754, aged 79, and was succeeded in his title of Baronet by his son.

The family of Smallpeece was of considerable standing, and of good estate in this parish. They are said to have been originally of Metfield, in Suffolk, but Blomefield records the monument of Humphrey Smallpeece, who was buried at Hockering, in Norfolk, in 1539, and their name occurs yet earlier among the 'Worthies' of Norwich. They were residing in Worlingham soon after the year 1600. Thomas Smallpeece, son

⁸ Blomefield.

⁹ Jermyn MSS.

¹⁰ Idem.

of Thomas Smallpeece, Gent., and Frances, was baptized on the 28th of February, 1682. The family merged into that of Fox, of Stradbrook, in the middle of the last century, when Joseph Fox, Esq., of Stradbrook, and Mrs. Elizabeth Smallpeece, were married in 1756. Mr. Fox was the representative of an old Roman Catholic family, and related to the celebrated Minister of that name. Their eight children were baptized at Stradbrook by a Romish priest from the house of Mr. Havers, and received into the church at Worlingham, 16th November, 1778.

Smallpeece bears sab. a chev. engrailed between 3 cinquefoils argent, pierced of the field.

Their residence and estate were purchased by the late Robert Sparrow, Esq., just before his decease. The former contained some family portraits of no great value, but was especially rich in curious old furniture. Among other articles of interest was the splendid chest represented beneath, now in the possession of the writer.



The eastern portion of the parish consisted a few years ago of uncultivated heaths and commons. In this part of the village stands an ancient oak, whose trunk is almost concealed from view by a thriving hedge. This venerable tree, whose age is probably above five hundred years, and which

“ Whylom had been the king of the field,”

is now a hollow and almost sapless trunk. It afforded shelter for some years to the village cobbler, who pursued his occupation within its rind; and it is said that a blacksmith once shod a horse within it. The tradition may be true, for it measures twenty-seven feet in circumference at a foot from the ground.

“ But now the gray moss mars his rind,
 His bared boughs are beaten with storms,
 His top is bald, and wasted with worms,
 His honour decayed, his branches sere.” SPENCER.

Worlingham Hall, the seat of Lord Acheson, was built by John Felton, Esq., but has been considerably enlarged and improved. It contains a valuable library, and stands in a well-wooded park on the north of the road leading from Beccles to Lowestoft.

The population of Worlingham in 1841 was 208 inhabitants, and the parish contains 1631 acres, 2 roods, 19 perches of land; of which $47\frac{1}{2}$ are glebe. The tithes have been commuted for a rent-charge of £303, exclusive of the value of the glebes.

The two churches which formerly existed in Worlingham were appropriated to the Convent of Butley. They were dedicated respectively to All Saints and St. Peter. The latter structure has been down many years, and was probably not used after 1492, when the two parishes were consolidated. The register of Butley Priory says that the church of St. Peter of Worlingham was appropriated to that establishment by John Grey, Bishop of Norwich.¹¹ The assignment must, therefore, have taken place prior to the year 1200, for that prelate died on the 2nd of June in that year.¹² Walter de Suffield, Bishop of Norwich, confirmed to the Priory of St. Mary of Butley, and the monks there, the appropriation of this church, and the taxation of the vicarage of Upton in Norfolk. This confirmation took place about A. D. 1248.¹³ The Prior presented to the church of All Saints soon after the year 1300; so that, probably, the appropriation of both benefices was effected about the same time. As the advowson of the consolidated rectories was not granted away at the dissolution of religious houses in the sixteenth century, it has remained with the Crown.

William Elyot, parson of the church of Worlingham (magna), was one of the executors of the will of Dantres, dated 1384, and proved in 1385.¹⁴ The church of All Saints is now the only parochial church. It was formerly thatched with reeds, which have given place to the more durable and seemly covering of slate. It comprises a nave and chancel, with a south aisle or chapel attached to the latter, and has a lofty square tower. The interior is well proportioned and reputedly kept, and formerly possessed a magnificent screen, of which the lower portion only remains. The chapel on the south side of the chancel was erected by some family formerly resident in the parish,—possibly by the Jernegans, or the Dukes. Under the east window of this chapel the floor is raised a step, and the appearance of a piscina points out the position

¹¹ Kalend. Buttele, MS. fol. 46.

¹² Godwinus.

¹³ MS. pen. Epis. Norwic.

¹⁴ Harl. MSS.

of an altar, where a priest performed mass for the souls of the founder and his family. From this chapel is a doorway, giving access immediately to the high altar. It is now used as a vestry. From a date remaining on the south-west angle of the nave, and the appearance of the masonry there, it is probable that part of the edifice underwent a considerable repair in 1608. This conjecture is much strengthened by the last will and testament of Mrs. Agnes Lone, dated about that year, who therein devised 3*s.* 4*d.* towards the reparation of this church. The chalice now used by this parish at the celebration of the Lord's Supper formerly belonged to the parish of Upton, as appears by an inscription engraved upon it. In 1171, the rectory of the latter place was appropriated to the Convent of Butley, and a vicarage settled, but how the transfer of its communion cup to Worlingham took place is not apparent.

Monuments.—There is a very ancient floor-stone in the chancel, inscribed with a cross bottonec, raised on three grices; and in the nave is a stone with this legend in black letter, without a date.

**Orate p̄ aīā Wlather Lecherd
cuis aīā ppiciet de Amen.**

On the floor of the chapel lie the effigies of a man and his wife, from beneath which the arms and inscription are reaved; but which Harvey, in his *Church Collections*, has preserved. "Nicholas Wrenne, gent, and Mary his wife, dyed a^o M.V^oXj^o." This Nicholas Wrenne, of Worlingham, made his will September 20th, 1507. Mary his wife was then living; and they had two sons, Nicholas and John, and two daughters, Margery and Elizabeth. Their arms were party per pale indented or and gules, six martlets counterchanged.

Against the south wall is a curious epitaph to the memory of Mrs. Parnell Rous, alias Duke, wife to John Duke, Esq., of Wallingham, made y^e 22nd April, 1637; and a second on the "Dove-like Virgin Mrs. Anne Duke," their daughter, made 10th of January, A. D. 1658.

Duke's arms are attached, viz., az. a chevron between 3 stems close arg. a crescent for difference, impaling on the dexter side, sab. a fess indented or, between 3 crescents argent; and on the sinister side quarterly ermine and sable, a cross engrailed or. Duke, of six coats, viz., 1. Duke; 2. Park, azure, an eagle displayed arg.; 3. Woodwell, az. a fess between two chev. arg., and a canton erm.; 4. Banyard; 5. Wren; and 6. Coe, three piles wavy, in point, impales Hobart, sab. an etoile or, and a flaunch erm.

There is an elegant mural monument, by Chantry, to the memory of Robert Bernard Sparrow, only son of the late Robt. Sparrow, Esq., of Worlingham.

"Quem dum ex insulâ Tobago cui præfuerat
In Angliam reverteretur
Febris inter navigandum lethali ictu percussit."

He died August 29th, 1805, and was buried at Tobago. Robert Acheson Bernard St. John Sparrow, his only son, died at Nice, March 3rd, 1818, aged 19.

On a hatchment near this cenotaph are the arms of Sparrow, arg. 3 roses az. and a chief gules, impaling Bernard, arg. a bear erect sab. collared and muzzled or.

There are also memorials to Alice, wife of Thomas Smallpeece, and daughter of Francis Jermy, Esq., of Gunton, who died in 1762; with the arms of Smallpeece impaling Jermy, arg. a lion ramp. guard. gules.—To Elizabeth, widow of Joseph Fox, and daughter of Philip Smallpeece, who died in 1811, aged 81.—To Sir Thomas Robinson, Bart., and Dame Elizabeth his wife; he died in 1743, and she in 1758.—To the Rev. James Carter, M.A., and Dorothy his wife, daughter of Timothy Tyrel, Esq., of Mendlesham. He died in 1778, aged 86; she died in 1752, aged 56.—Henry Alexander, formerly Major in the service of the Nabob of Arcot, died in 1808, aged 71. Hector, his son, died in 1806, aged 13. Sophia, his daughter, in 1806, aged 16 years. In the church-yard, adjoining to the south wall of the nave, is an altar-tomb of white marble, bearing the arms of Playters impaling Felton, gules, two lioncels passant guard. in pale, erm., crowned or, with a mullet for difference, and an inscription to the memory of Dame Elizabeth Playters, daughter and sole heiress of John Felton, Esq., who died November 14, 1748, aged 58; and also to John Felton, her father, who died in 1703, aged 41. On a hatchment in the church, Felton impales arg., two chevronels between 3 chaplets vert.

RECTORS OF WORLINGHAM MAGNA.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Joës Pepys		
Joës Wayte	1371	Prior and Convent of Butley.
William Bright	1377	Id.
Joës Raas, Aptieus	1380	Id.
William Elyot	1382	Id.
John Crew de Heecham	1390	Id.
John Naconn	1425	Id.
John Pilleston	1428	Id.
Simon Atte Grene	1429	Id.
William Plomer	1471	Id.
Robert Framlyngham	1492	Id.
John Brown	1497	Id.
Thomas Byngle	1501	Id.
Augustine Thurkle		Id.
William Haforthe	1558	Nicholas Arrowsmith, Esq.
William Bentley	1576	The Crown.
Robert Belye	1576	Id.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas Knighte . . .	1587	The Crown.
Henry Draper . . .	1624	Id.
James Kinge . . .	1625	Id.
Randolph Gilpin . . .	1661	Id.
Thomas Camell . . .	1661	Id.
Erasmus Warren . . .	1665	Id.
Timothy Stamp . . .	1696	Id.
James Carter . . .	1724	Id.
John Soley . . .	1779	Id.
John Soley, 2nd time . . .		Id.
Thomas Boyce . . .	1780	Id.
Naunton Thomas Orgill . . .	1793	Id.
David Hileoat Leighton . . .	1837	Id.

Estimatio ecclie xvij mare: Synodalia per an: ii^s. viij^d. Denarij S. Petri, xvi^d.

Here was a guild of St. John Baptist.

The registers of Worlingham commence in 1538. "Augustine Duke, son of Robert, borne 21 June, baptized next Sunday, 1538."

Charities.—The town estate consists of the following parcels. A messuage called the Guild Hall, in Worlingham, rent £5. Land in Ellough let at £3, consisting of two acres. Marsh lands in the parish, called Pound's half acre, let at 10s. 6d.; nine acres in the same parish, let at £10; messuage and blacksmith's shop in Worlingham, with 3 acres and 21 perches, let at £10. The declaration of trust is as follows.—"That the rents should be applied for payment of the leet fee of the whole town of Worlingham; and for repairing the buildings on the estate, and the parish church of Worlingham; and for putting out the poor children belonging to the said town, apprentices; and for the teaching of the children of such poor people to read English, and for instructing them in the church catechism, and for such other purposes for the good and benefit of the said town; provided that no part of the said rents should be laid out in beer, or any other liquors, at bonfires, or perambulations, or on account of repairing the highways."

Ilketchall.

ILKETSHALL signifies the hall or chief residence of Ulketil, who was Earl of East Anglia in the eleventh century. Thus Redenhall, in Norfolk, is mentioned in Domesday Book as the hall of Rada, who held it in the time of Edward the Confessor.

This district comprehends the parishes of St. Andrew, St. John, St. Laurence, St. Margaret, and All Saints Mettingham; to which the two parishes of St. Mary and Holy Trinity, in Bungay, are added, and make up what are commonly called 'The seven parishes;' in contradistinction to the South Elmhams, or 'The nine parishes.'

Among the Saxons mentioned in the Domesday Survey as holding estates here, Uchetel, a free-man, had property in Bungay; and a free-woman, whose name is not recorded, appears as an under-tenant of the wealthy Burchard—an early instance of a *female* Suffolk farmer. The King and Earl Hugh took possession of the greater part of Ilketshall, but their estates were soon afterwards divided into smaller parcels, upon which various families fixed their residence. The principal of these was one which assumed its surname from the township. Sir Gilbert de Ilketshall was lord of Hedenham and Kelling, in Norfolk, and of Ilketshall, in Suffolk, as early as the reign of William Rufus. Sir Thomas de Ilketshall was son of Sir Gilbert, as appears from the register of Holm Abbey. Gilbert de Ilketshall, Esq., was son and heir of Sir Thomas, and in the thirty-second of Henry III. had a charter of free-warren in Ilketshall. Sir James de Ilketshall was son of Gilbert, and in the fifty-second of Henry III. mortgaged for twenty-seven marks and a half of silver, to the Lady Sarah, Prioress of Bungay, certain lands, &c. In the following year he conveyed an acre of land, and the advowson of the church of St. John Baptist of Ilketshall, by fine to the Priory of the Holy Cross in Bungay. Amongst the knights of Suffolk in the seventeenth of Edward I. occurs the name of this Sir James de Ilketshall: he died in 1312. In the list of towns and their lords, made in the ninth of Edward II., the Sheriff of Suffolk returns that Ilketshall had three lords—namely, Comitissa Marescall, Guido Ferre,¹ and Jacobus de Ilketshall. This Sir Jacobus or James de Ilketshall was son and heir of the former Sir James, and married Ida, daughter and coheir of Sir Robert de Stafford, Knight, by Gundreda his wife; and Sir Robert was son of Sir William de Stafford by Ermetrude his wife, daughter and coheir of Robert, lord of Rodbourn, in Derbyshire. In the sixth of Edward II. a deed was executed between Sir James de Ilketshall on the one part, and James his son and Ida his wife, whereby James and Ida grant the manor of Kelling, in Norfolk, to Sir James for life, and Sir James released to them £9 per annum out of his £15 per annum annuity, which they were to pay him and Aliva his wife, for the manor of Hedenham: dated at Ilketshall on Monday next after the feast of St. Michael.

Sir James, the son, was lord of Ilketshall in the ninth of Edward II., as appears by the record called *Nomina Villarum*. He and Ida his wife were living in the fifteenth of Edward III., and left two sons, Sir Philip, the younger, and Sir Robert de Ilketshall,

¹ He bore gules, a cross moline arg., a baton az. obt. sine prole.

his heir, who died before 1381; for at that time Claricia, his late wife, was married to Sir Robert de Morley. By this Claricia, Sir Robert de Ilketshall had two sons and four daughters. The daughters were, Joan, married to William de Sharnbourn, Esq.; Idonea, married to, whose daughter and heiress Margery was wife to Laurence Fitz-Piers. Margaret married to Thomas Seive, of Worstead; and the fourth daughter married Gilbert de Debenham. The sons were, William de Ilketshall, who was the younger, and living in the nineteenth of Richard II.; and Sir Thomas de Ilketshall, son and heir of Sir Robert, who married Isabel, daughter of, who afterwards became the wife of William Deyvile, Esq. Philip de Ilketshall, their son, married, but died without issue in the reign of Henry VI.²

The arms of Ilketshall were or, a fess between two chevronels gules, and a canton ermine.

In the second of Edward III., the King granted to John Bardolf, and Elizabeth his wife, daughter and heiress of Roger Damery, the manor of Ilketshall in fee.³ “Rex concessit Joh: Bardolfe et Eliz: ux: ejus, filie et heredi Rogeri Damery, in feodo maneriã de Ilkelleshall, et de Clopton, in Com: Suff: per servitium $\frac{1}{4}$ unius feodi militis, necnon 40^s. annui redditus de Abb: de Waltham S. Crucis pro firmã de Waltham, in escambio pro maneriis de Kenyngton, et de Frankeshall in Com: Surr.”⁴

This grant was the manor of Bardolf in Ilketshall St. Laurence, and Bungay Trinity, which acquired its appellation from this family. They bore az. 3 cinquefoils or, and descended from the famous Thomas, Lord Bardolph of Stoke-Bardolph, in the county of Nottingham, in the reign of Henry I.; who was killed at the battle of Branchholm Moor in Northumberland. Hugh Bardolph was in the advanced guard at the siege of Kaerleverock in Scotland, twenty-eighth of Edward I. Sir Thomas Bardolph was a Knight Banneret in the reign of Edward I., and was present at the tournament of Dunstable, in the second of Edward II. Both Hugh and Sir Thomas bore the arms as above, but the cinquefoils are said to have been afterwards perforated. The family was seated at Bardolph Hall in Ilketshall, and in Dennington, in Hoxne Hundred, till the seventh of Henry IV., when Thomas, Lord Bardolph, was attainted in Parliament. He left two daughters, Joan, married to William Philips, and Ann, married first to Sir William Clifford, and secondly to Reginald Cobham.

The Bardolphs held the manor of Barren, in the thirty-fourth of Edward I.; two knights' fees in Fretingham, Sproughton, and Spiksworth, in the first of Edward III.; the manor of Clopton, and £20 per annum out of the manor of Ilketshall, in the forty-fifth of Edward III.; Ringshall in Clopton, with the advowson of Debash; and Bardolph Hall in Ilketshall, in the fourth of Henry IV. Sir William Philips,

² Harl. MSS., Blomefield, &c.

³ Harl. MSS.

⁴ Tower Records, 2 Edward III. memb. 9.

who bore quarterly, gul. and arg., an eagle displayed or, in the first quarter, married, as before stated, Joan, daughter of Lord Bardolph, and was by Henry V. created Lord Bardolph, *jure uxoris*. His seats were Bardolph Hall in Ilketshall, and Dennington, where he founded a chantry for two priests to celebrate divine service daily, and to pray for the good estate of himself and his wife Joan, during their lives, and for their souls after their departure; also for the souls of Henry IV., Henry V., and all the faithful deceased. He was Knight of the Garter, and left Elizabeth his sole daughter and heiress, who married John, Lord Viscount Beaumont, who settled at Dennington, after his marriage.

Beaumont bore az., a lion ramp. or, within a bordure ermine. They were Viscounts for several generations, and Lords of Ilketshall, Dennington, and Clopton, in the first of Henry VIII., about which time Lord Viscount Beaumont died without issue, leaving Brian Stapleton and John Morris, his heirs.

In 1309, we meet with William de la Park, of Ilketshall, who had lands called Park's Manor, from his own name, in Aslaeton in Norfolk.

In 1345, William Del Park was lord. He bore az. an eagle displayed arg. This ancient family came originally from Heveningham; for we find that in 1289, William, son of William Del Park of Heveningham, had the whole manor of Bartlets, alias Herwards, in Wickmere, in Norfolk, with the advowson.⁵ The Parks were seated at Ilketshall, till Joan, sole daughter and heiress, married John Duke, of Brampton. This estate remained with the Dukes for several generations, of whom it was purchased by the Richmonds, and passed by the marriage of Mary, daughter and heiress of William Richmond, to Charles Garneys, Esq., of Hedenham. From the Garneys it passed again by marriage to James Calthorpe, Esq.

In the tenth of Henry VIII., Sir Richard Wingfield held the manor of Ilketshall of the King, by knight's service, and the rent of one penny per annum. By the *inquisitio post mortem Jacobi Bungay*, taken November 2nd, in the tenth of Queen Elizabeth, he held lands in Ilketshall St. Andrew, of Peter Rede, Esq., as parcel of his manor of Ellys; also in Beebles, of John Blemmerhasset, as of his manor of Barsham; and in Ilketshall and Shipmeadow.

In the fifteenth of Elizabeth, Thomas Rouse, Arm: held lands in St. Laurence, Bungay, &c., valued at £13 per annum, and also the manor of Ilketshall Bardolph: he died 20th February in that year, leaving his son, Thomas Rouse, his heir, aged about twelve years. These manors and estates have subsequently merged into various channels. In 1561, this district had the following number of freeholders. St. Andrew Ilketshall 10; among whom was Edward Tasburgh, Gent.; Saint Laurence 3, and St. Margaret Ilketshall 4.⁶

⁵ Blomefield.

⁶ Lansdowne MSS. vol. v.

The several churches in these parishes became appropriated to the Benedictine Priory in Bungay, except that of the Holy Trinity, which was given to the Monastery of Barlings, in Lincolnshire.

Dugdale cites a long and interesting charter of Henry II., granted at the petition of Roger Glanville and Gundreda his wife, confirming to the nuns of Bungay, inter alia, the churches of St. Cross (St. Mary) in Bungay, All Saints Mettingham, St. Margaret, St. Andrew and St. Laurence Ilketshall. St. John's Church was afterwards conveyed to them, as before shown.

A second charter of the same King mentions several donations to the nuns of Bungay, among which are the gifts of Thomas, fil: Gilb: de Ilketshall, the homage of Ulketel the merchant, and the donations of John Hockedez of Ilketshall, who gave the homage of Alan, fil: Arnulphi de Mettingham.

In 1474, John Bernard, Esq., of Norwich, bequeathed legacies to the churches of St. John, St. Laurence, and St. Margaret Ilketshall; and also made a bequest to Mettingham Castle.

The Liberty of the Duke of Norfolk includes this district.

ST. ANDREW ILKETSHALL.

St. Andrew Ilketshall was the lordship of James de Ilketshall, in the ninth of Edward I. The interests of this family here are given in a previous page. In the fifth of Queen Elizabeth it was held by Sir Henry Denny, who sold it to Sir Nicholas Bacon, whose heirs, in 1657, re-sold it to William Gymmingham, Gent., of St. John's Ilketshall, who by his will, dated October 8th, 1658, left his wife, Rebecca, a life interest therein, and directed it to be sold on her decease. She held it till 1677, when she alienated it, with the property called St. John's Hall, to John Hunt, Esq., and it became united with the Mettingham Castle estate. The soil of all the commons and waste lands within the parish appears to belong to this manor; there being divers presentments in the court books for persons commoning, not being tenants of the manor; and for incroachments and nuisances therein. In 1751, forfeitures were remitted, on payment, by Thomas Clendon, Gent., of £ 21 to the lord, for having cut down timber trees, &c.⁷ The manor now belongs to the Rev. Jeremy Day.

The appropriation of the rectory to the nuns of Bungay was granted as early as the reign of Henry II. They continued in possession of the great tithes and the advowson of the vicarage till the dissolution of religious houses by Henry VIII., who, on the 18th

⁷ Jermyn MSS.

of December, in the twenty-ninth year of his reign, granted them to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, to be held by him and the heirs of his body in capite, &c. On the 27th of February, 1724, Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, sold "all and singular the rectory or parsonage impropriate of Ilketshall St. Andrew, with the glebe lands, tithes, &c., thereto belonging," to Henry Williams, of Bungay, for £265.

By indrē of bargain and sale, dated March 9th, 1778, between Sarah Williams, relict of Robert Williams, of the first part; Henry Williams, of Marlesford, Clk., only son and heir-at-law of Robert Williams, deceased, and Sarah Williams, of Bungay, spinster; said Henry Williams and Sarah Williams being the only surviving issue of the said Robert Williams, of the second part; and Philip Walker, of Lowestoft, merchant, of the third part, in consideration of the natural love and affection, &c., and for barring all entails, &c.; the said Sarah Williams, the elder, Sarah Williams, the younger, and Henry Williams, did grant, bargain and sell to Philip Walker, his heirs and assigns, the said premises, to hold to him, to the use of Henry Williams, and his heirs and assigns for ever.⁸ The said Henry Williams afterwards contracted with the proprietors of lands in the parish of St. Andrew for the sale of the great tithes issuing out of their respective estates.⁹ In 1779, the Rev. Henry Williams, of Marlesford, sold to Mr. Arnold the great tithes growing on his farm in St. Andrew Ilketshall, for £189.¹⁰ In the same year Williams conveyed to Dr. Tanner the great tithes of his lands. Williams executed a covenant to keep the chancel in repair, and to pay all procurations and synodals.¹¹ The unsold portion of the great tithes was afterwards purchased by Alexander Browne, Esq., and is now the property of Elizabeth, his eldest daughter, the wife of John Page Scott, Esq., of Norwich. The vicarage passed from the Howards to the same family of Williams, from whom it was transferred to the trustees of Bungay School, as will be shown hereafter, who are the present patrons.

The parish contains 1694 acres, 3 roods, 9 perches of strong, but fertile land, whereof 71 acres are commons. The glebes amount to 29 acres. The great tithes have been commuted for £395. 12s. 2½*d.*, of which the impropratrix receives £128. 11s. 1*d.*, the residue being the property of divers owners. The vicarial tithes are commuted for £130. 7s. 7½*d.* The Rector of St. John's has a portion of tithes amounting to £27 per annum out of this parish, and the Rector of Shipmeadow £1. 10s.

The population amounted in 1841 to 548 souls.

THE CHURCH

is a structure of considerable antiquity, and comprises a nave and chancel only: the former is covered with a fine oak roof, but the latter is sadly disfigured by sundry rods

⁸ Jermyn MSS.

⁹ Id.

¹⁰ Id.

¹¹ Id.

of iron, which have been stretched across it to prevent the further spread of its walls. The walls of the nave batter internally in a very remarkable degree, thereby producing an unpleasant effect, and impressing the unpractised eye with an idea of insecurity. The nave has two doorways in the circular or Norman style, and that on the south side is richly ornamented with the zigzag, or chevron moulding. The tower is remarkably lofty, and, standing on an elevated site, commands extensive views over the neighbourhood: it is circular, with narrow pointed windows, and crowned with an octagonal incumbent. Against the south wall of the chancel is a fine inarched surbased monument, which is, probably, the founder's tomb. The pinnacles, and moulding of its ogee arch, are terminated with bold and well-wrought finials, barbarously clogged with linewash. The font is octangular, with eight plain shields. In 1810 there was a screen between the body of the church and the chancel, which is now destroyed. The royal arms were placed over the centre compartment, and the armorial ensigns of the Howards stood on each side; the dexter shield having these charges—1. Howard. 2. Brotherton. 3. Warren. 4. Mowbray. 5. Fitzalan. 6. Cloun, arg. a chief az. 7. Maltravers. 8. Widville, arg. a fess and a chief az. These shields have been placed against the wall of the nave by the Rev. F. Barkway, the present Curate.

Monuments.—"Under this stone lieth the body of John Verdon, Gent., which was forsaken of the soule the 28th day of May, 1624, but expectes it againe at y^e day of the resurrection."

"Thomas Elfe, of St. Andrew's, died Oct. 23, 1705, æt. 84." Elfe bears on a fess between 3 crescents as many escallop-shells

VICARS OF ST. ANDREW ILKETSHALL.

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
William Atte Welle de Dychingham (bis)	1327	Prioress and Convent of Bungay.
Robert Kydewyne	1349	Id.
Stephen Horne	1361	Id.
Richard Fraunceys	1374	Id.
Robert Segrave	1389	Id.
Simon Bond de Carleton	1391	Id.
William, son of Roger Hacon de Cantele	1393	Id.
William Pycard	1394	Id.
Galfridus Shaver	1405	Id.
Thomas Man	1409	Id.
John Blackhod	1422	Id.
Richard Holl	1426	Id.

ANTIQUITIES OF THE

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
Simon Jenvey	1427	Prioress and Convent of Bungay.
Richard Cristmess	1439	Id.
Robert Balle	1446	Id.
William Serjeant	1448	Id.
John Bakhows	1451	The Bishop, by lapse.
John Baddesworth	1454	Prioress and Convent of Bungay.
John Dalton	1458	Id.
Edmund Sawyer	1462	Id.
John Joynte	1473	Id.
John Wellys	1478	Id.
Robert Vyncent	1486	Bishop, by lapse.
John Cobbe	1501	Prioress and Convent of Bungay.
Stephen Logan		
Robert Ashby	1518	Id.
John Valentyn, alias Larke	1547	The King.
Robert Randall	1564	Thomas, Duke of Norfolk.
John Leake	1572	John Blennerhasset, William Dyx, and W. Cautrell, Esq ^{rs} . ¹²
Thomas Leake	1578	Assignees of Philip, Earl of Surrey.
William Jones (twice presented in)	1590	The Crown.
William Golding	1593	Id.
John Shardelowe		
John Welton	1644	Lionel, Earl of Middlesex, and others.
William Nuttall	1685	Thomas Howard, of Worksop.
Francis Smee	1727	Henry Williams, Gent.
Thomas Whitaker	1748	Rich ^d . Nelson, Henry Williams, and others.
Robert English	1754	Henry Williams and Rich ^d . Nelson.
William Pochin	1784	Trustees of Bungay School.
John Gilbert	1809	Id.

Estimatio illius xii marc: estimatio vicariæ ejusdem vi marc. Denarij S. Petri, ix^d.

¹² Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, whom Queen Elizabeth beheaded, having in 1558 put his vast estates in trust to William Cautrell and others, the Queen allowed him to continue to act as trustee until she sent the Earl of Arundel to the Tower, when she appointed William Cautrell to act for herself. As John Blennerhasset's name appears as the duke's trustee also, it will, in some measure perhaps, account for the gift of the advowson of Shipmeadow, before mentioned, which was made in this year.

Bungay.

COMMANDED by the rising grounds to the south, if Bungay were now a fortified town it could not sustain the siege of a single day; but in times of simpler warfare, when artillery was unknown, its natural defences were very remarkable.

Encircled by a broad and rapid river, which left a narrow isthmus only to defend, its site became, in succession, the stronghold of the Roman, the Saxon, and the Norman. Coins, and other relics of their arts, attest the tenure of the former race; within whose massy ramparts the Saxon fixed his dwelling—called it his Burgh in the goodly island, and lived comparatively secure. Next came the proud and politic Norman, who, despising the intrenchments of his simpler predecessors, raised the frowning towers of his formidable fortress. The votaries of religion, sheltering in these stormy times beneath the buckler of the feudal chieftain, built here their splendid fane, and exercised their rites in security and peace.

The passing traveller sees now, perchance, nothing in the site but a neat and modern town; and, immersed in railroad speculation and its gains, directs not his ideas to the revolutions which the place has witnessed. Let him whirl on: we love to linger amidst its moss-grown ruins—to retrace in imagination the days of its chivalry and splendour, and catch, in fancy's ear, the solemn cadence of its cloistered nuns. What! though its castle-hall be desolate and its towers razed—though its cloisters be levelled, and their inmates dust,—they force from us a sigh for their departed glories, even while we acknowledge the liberties resulting from their overthrow. They prove to us the instability of all earthly power, and serve, without a fiction, to “point a moral or adorn a tale.”

At the period of the Norman Survey, Bungay was divided into several manors and estates, which were retained by the Conqueror in his own hands, under the stewardship of William de Noiers. There were three churches within the Burgh, and two without, all endowed with glebes; one of the former having 30 acres, valued at 3*s*. The tenants were rich in swine, sheep, and poultry. The manor of Bungay Burgh, before the Conquest, had been the property of Godric; but the Soke was held by Stigand, who appears to have been the largest proprietor in the place. These manors are now the property of His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, having descended to him through a long line of ancestors from Roger Bigot, to whom they were granted by the Conqueror soon after Domesday Book was compiled. There is a third manor in this town called the Priory, having been the lordship of the convent, which has also merged

into the possessions of the same noble family by a transfer which will hereafter be shown. Earl Hugh had also a manor and estate here.

Although Bungay was evidently a place of some consideration during the Saxon era, it increased rapidly in population and wealth after it was granted to the Bigots, who built a castle here, and made it the chief place of their residence. Amongst the earliest of its privileges and immunities was the establishment of a mint; a fact which appears from the Pipe Rolls of Henry II., which record that in 1158 the Jews at Bongeys paid to that monarch £15 as minters.¹ In 1199, Hugh le Bigot gave the King forty marks for permission to extend the privileges of his fair in Bungay;² and in the seventh of the succeeding reign, Roger Bigot, Earl of Norfolk, had the royalty of the river Waveney between the towns of Beccles and Bungay. In the twenty-fourth of Henry III., William de Pirnhoe released to the Earl, by fine, his right of fishery from the mills of Cliff, and the bridge of Bungay; and the Earl granted him a fishery from Bungay bridge to the Earl's vineyard.³

It does not appear when the market at Bungay was first established. It is not recorded in Domesday Book, and, therefore, probably sprung up to supply the wants of the lord of the castle and his numerous retainers. It was certainly existing in the reign of Henry III., though it seems to have been in a languishing condition, for in the year 1245, Roger Bigot, Earl of Norfolk, granted to Thomas Bacon liberty to hold a weekly market and a fair in Loddon, on paying to the said Roger 20s. per annum; he being sued by the said Earl, as the market at Loddon was prejudicial to the Earl's market at Bungay.⁴ By an inquisition taken in 1302, or 1303, it was shown that the market at Bungay was then held 'per diem Sabbati,' that is, we presume, on the Jews' Sabbath, or Saturday; but by a charter dated the fifth and sixth of Richard II., 1382, the King granted to his dear cousin, Margaret Mareschall, Countess of Norfolk, and the heirs of her body, for ever, "quod habeant unum mercatum qualibet septimana per diem *Jovis* apud manerium suum de Bungeys;" which alteration of the market-day to Thursday has remained unaltered to the present time.

At an inquisitio post mortem,⁵ taken in March, 1270, before J. le Monye, escheator of the King on this side Trent, upon the death of Roger Bigot, late Earl of Norfolk, the jury deposed that the aforesaid Earl held the town of Bungay, with its castle and manor, of the Earl of Warwick, by the service of one knight's fee. They further declared that the said Roger had rents in the aforesaid town, paid by free-tenants, to the amount of £10. 7s. 0½d.

A few of the returns at this inquisition are transcribed, to show the value of property and the state of the town at this period.

¹ Rot. Pip. 5 Hen. II. ² Oblata. 1 John, m. 1. ³ Blomefield. ⁴ Id. ⁵ 54 Hen. III. No. 25.

The lord's arable land let at 6*d.* per acre, producing a rental of £4. 10*s.* The meadows were worth 2*s.* per acre, and the marshes 6*d.* The woods paid £3, and the underwood 10*s.*, while an alder-ground yielded 54*s.* yearly. There were then in the town a water-mill, "quoddam molend: aquaticum," which let for 4 marks; and two wind-mills, which produced a rental of 40*s.* The lord was also entitled to "works," or rent paid by labour, to a very considerable extent.

	Suma.
"Sunt ibi opera yemalia $\frac{c}{viij}$ et xxxij unde quodlibet opus valet ob. . . .	xli ^s . iiij ^d .
"Sunt ibi opera estivalia $\frac{c}{xij}$ et $\frac{xx}{iiij}$ et valet quodlibet opus ob. . . .	lxiiij ^s . iiij ^d .
"Sunt ibi opera autumpnalia M et lx unde quodlibet opus valet j ^d	cv ^s .
"Sunt ibi precariæ autumpnal: $\frac{xx}{viij}$ unde quodlibet operatio valet j ^d	xiiij ^s . iiij ^d .
"Sunt ibi aruræ carucarum $\frac{xx}{ix}$ unde quodlibet arura valet iij ^d	xxx ^s ."

Pleas and perquisites produced vj^s. and viij^d. per annum. The jury further found that there were two fairs which yielded annually £4. 13*s.* 4*d.*, and a market, the profits of which amounted to £6. 13*s.* 4*d.* Although Hugh le Bigot gave the King, as we have before seen, forty marks in the year 1199 for an extension of privileges at his fair, which was now held twice a year, it would seem that these fairs were not granted by charter, but originated from the ancient wakes that were annually held on festival days, observed by the Romish Church in honour of saints.⁶ The Bungay May-fair, now held on the 14th of that month, was originally kept on the 3rd, which day is celebrated by the Romish Church in memory of the 'Invention of the Cross' by Helena, the mother of Constantine; and thus, though the conventual *church* at Bungay was dedicated to St. Mary, the *munner* was founded in honour of the Holy Cross; and the 14th of September, on which day the autumn fair is held, is a festival of the same church, kept in memory of the Holy Cross, which Helena had left in Jerusalem, being recovered by the Emperor Heraclius out of the hands of Cosroes, King of Persia.⁷

In the reign of Edward I., Roger Bigot granted to his nephew, Sir John le Bigot, a lordship, paying to him for all suits and services, a bearded arrow, yearly. The grant is dated at Bungay.

In 1352, the jury for the Hundred of Earsham presented, that the inhabitants of Bungay used, time out of mind, to repair the bridges between Bungay in Suffolk, and Ditchingham and Earsham in Norfolk.⁸ This heavy charge—heavy as borne by the town alone—could relate to the two bridges only which cross the principal stream of the Waveney; but how long it continued to be thus burdened does not appear. The town was certainly relieved from this sole charge in the eighteenth century, for in

⁶ Jermyn MSS.

⁷ Wheatly on the Common Prayer.

⁸ Blomefield.

an old parish book belonging to Earsham is the following entry. "1737. Nov. 11th, paid to William Colings for building the bridge between Bungay and Earsham, £ 17 ; but the town had £ 5 from the county—£ 12." This bridge is called "Cock-bridge" in old writings, from a public-house which formerly stood by it, on the site of the residence of the late John Scott, Esq.

By an *inquisitio post mortem*, taken in the twenty-first of Edward III., of the goods and chattels of Edward de Montacute, it was returned, that he held the manor of Bungay, &c., and that there were in the said town a market and two fairs, which yielded annually a rental of £ 31. 10*s.*, and that Bungay had then four water-mills and two wind-mills. In 1382, the value of the earl's right of free-fishery in the river Waveney was estimated at 3*s.* and 4*d.* per annum.⁹ The Earl,—William de Ufford,—who was then Lord of Bungay, had an annual rental paid in kind, of 60 cocks, valued at 5*d.* 500 eggs at Easter, valued at 15*d.* xvij opera ad brasium faciend; or 17 days' work, assisting to brew the castle ale, valued at 7*s.* 1*d.*; price of each work 5*d.* xxvj carragia fœni et bladi, or carting the lord's hay and corn, valued at 2*s.* 11*d.*; price of each carting 1*d.* xxx opera cassator: val: p: an: x*d.* Item capatagia ibid: val: p: an: xij*d.* Falcagia, or mowing the lord's crops, valent communibus annis xij*d.*¹⁰

In 1404, Robert Gonshill, Knt., possessed at the day of his death, the manor and burgh of Bungay, held of the King in capite, in right of Elizabeth, Duchess of Norfolk, lately his wife, who held them in dower of Thomas, late Duke of Norfolk; and Thomas Beaufort, late Duke of Exeter, held a third part of a knight's fee in South Elmham, Wisset, Mettingham, and Bungay.¹¹

In 1428, the opinions of Wickliffe, the "morning star of the Reformation," had extended to Bungay, and gained many proselytes there; for in that year, King Henry the 6th sent a commission, directed to "John Executour of Colchester Castle," for the apprehension of all persons guilty of heresy; in virtue of which commission he attached six persons in the town of Bungay, and committed them to William Day and William Roe, constables of that town, to be sent within ten days, under safe custody, to Norwich Castle. John Spire, of Bungay, Bartholemew Monk, of Earsham, and nine or ten other inhabitants of that village, were also apprehended; "some of whom suffered severely, being obliged to save themselves from the torture of death by abjuring: sustaining such cruel penance as pleased the then Bishop of Norwich and his Chancellor to lay upon them."¹² The Bishop of Norwich recorded as the zealous coadjutor of the Chancellor in his work of persecution, was William Alnwick, more favourably known to us as the architect of the noble west window of his cathedral.

⁹ Inq. p. mort. 5 Ric. II. No. 57.

¹⁰ Esch. 5 Ric. II., Harl. MSS.

¹¹ Inq. p. mort. 5 Hen. VI. No. 56.

¹² Fox, pp. 660, 661.

Upon the death of John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, in 1475, without issue male, Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, the second son of Edward IV., afterwards murdered in the Tower of London, was created Duke of Norfolk, and betrothed to Anne, the daughter and heiress of the late Duke. She was then a ward of the King. In 1477 it was agreed, in consequence of this intended marriage, that "whereas Elizabeth Duchesse of Norff. late Wif to the seid John late Duc of Norff. fader to the seid Anne after the decease of the same John late Duc was entitled to dyvers and many grete castelles maners lordshippes and other possessions and reversiones of thenheritaunce of the same late Duc as well by reason of her joyntour as of her dower: The same Elizabeth duchesse forasmoche as the King oure Sovereine Lord havynge the warde of Anne daughter and heire of the same late Duc of Norff. entendid to marie the seid Anne his warde to the seid Richard Duc of Yorke and Norff.; the same Elizabeth duchesse remembreing the Kings excellent grace so disposed to the grettest honoure well and avaunsement of the seid Anne, and of her self for the pleasire of his highnesse and for and to the well of the forseid noble duc of Yorke and Norff. and Anne her daughter, graunted and agreed to forbere and leve grete parte of that to hir birlongid of hir seid joyntour and dower of thenheritaunce of the seid late Duc her husband and to take and hold her content with a lesse parte therof in recompense of all the remenaunt. Wherupon it was appointed bitwene the Kyng our Sovereain lord and the seid duchesse of Norff. that the same duchesse in full satisfaction and recompense of and for all her joyntour and dower shuld have possede and enjoye the castelles lordshippes maners hundredes and half hundredes feires and marketts and other things folowing with thappurtenaunce, that is to seie, castelles lordshippes and maners of Bungey Erle Stonham Erle Soham Donyngworth Hollesley with Sutton Cratfeld Staverton and Bromeswall Walton with Tremley and Hoe with thappurtenaunces in the Shire of Suff.

And by the same auctorite it is ordeywd and enacted that alle the same castelles lordshippes maners hundreds and half hundreds feires and marketts with thappurtenaunces after the deceas of the same Elizabeth duchesse of Norff. and of the seid Anne shall remayn to the seid Richard duc of Yorke and Norff. to have to hym for terme of his lyf." ¹³

After the murder of the young Duke of York and Norfolk, and the death of his infant betrothed wife, John Howard was created Duke of Norfolk. He was the Jockey of Norfolk, slain at Bosworth in 1485. Bungay Castle and manors were thus again re-conveyed to the ancient line, and followed their fluctuating fortunes, till the reign of

¹³ Rot. Parl.

Queen Elizabeth, when, upon attainder of Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, the manors of Bungay reverted to the Crown. By letters patent of James I., dated at Westminster in 1602, that King gave to his faithful councillor, Thomas, Lord Howard, Baron of Waldon, and Henry Howard, brother of Thomas, late Duke of Norfolk, and son of Henry, late Earl of Surrey, and their heirs, the several manors of Ditchingham, &c., in Norfolk, and the castle, soke, and manor of Bungay, &c., in Suffolk; by which grant each of them was seized of a moiety. All which premises they divided by indenture, dated 13th of May following. Amongst others, the manor of Bungay was assigned to Henry, Earl of Northampton, and his heirs; of which he died seized in 1613. It descended to Thomas, Earl of Arundel and Surrey, who was restored in blood, March the 19th, 1602, as cousin and next heir, then aged 25 years; he being the son of Philip, late Earl of Arundel and Surrey, deceased, son and heir of Thomas, late Duke of Norfolk, and eldest brother of the said Henry, late Earl of Northampton. This nobleman's grandson, Thomas Howard, was restored to the dukedom, December 29th, 1660, with whose successors the manors of Bungay remain.

The following marvellous relation of a 'Tempeste in Suffolke' is copied from a scarce tract in the British Museum, and the events recorded are mentioned by Stowe, in his additions to Holinshed's Chronicles.

"TEMPESTE IN SUFFOLKE.—On Sundaie the fourth of August, between the hours of nine and ten of the clocke in the forenoone, whilst the Minister was reading of the second lesson in the *Parish Church* of *Bliborough*, a *Towne in Suffolke*, a strange and terrible Tempest of Lightning and Thunder strake through the wall of the same church into the ground, almost a yard deepe, drave downe all the people on that side above twentie persons, then renting the wall up to the Vestrie, clefte the doore, and returning to the Steeple, rent the timber, brake the Chimes, and fled towards *BONGIE*, a *Towne* six miles off. The people that were stricken downe were found grovelling more than halfe an houre after, wherof, one man more than fortie yeares, and a boie of fiftene yeares old were found starke dead: the others were scorched. The same, or the like flash of Lightning and cracks of Thunder rent the *Parish Church* of *BONGIE*, nine miles from Norwich, wroong insunder the wiers and wheels of the Clocke, singd two men which sat in the Belfreie, when the others were at the procession or suffrages, and scorched another which hardlie escaped."

In the title of the original is a rude cut of a BLACK DOG.

"A STRAUNGE and terrible Wunder wrought very late in the parish Church of *BONGAY*, a *Town* of no great distance from the Citie of Norwich, namely the fourth of this August in the yeere of our Lord 1577, in a great tempest of violent raine, lightning and thunder, the like whereof hath been seldome scene. With the appearence of an horrible-shaped *THING*, sensibly perceived of the people then and there assembled. Drawen into a plain method according to the written cotype by *ABRAHAM FLEMING*."

Then follows a preface to the reader, too long to insert, but concluding with the assurance that the narration is grounded upon truth, and, therefore, not only worthy the writing and publishing, but also the hearing and considering.

“ THE REPORTE OF A STRAUNGE AND WONDERFUL SPECTACLE.

“ SUNDAY, being the fourthe of this August, in ye yeer of our Lord 1577, to the amazing and singular astonishment of the present beholders, and absent hearers, at a certain towne called BONGAY, not past tenne miles from the citie of NORWICHE, there fell from Heaven an exceeding great and terrible tempeste sodein and violent, between nine of the clock in the morning, and tenne of the day aforesaid.

“ This tempest took beginning with a rain, which fel with a wonderful force, with no lesse violence than abundance which made the storme so mucche the more extrem and terrible.

“ This tempest was not simply of rain, but also of lightning, and thunder, the flashing of the one wherof was so rare and vehement, and the roaring noise of the other so forceable and violent, that it made not only people perplexed in minde and at their wits end, but ministered such strange and unaccustomed cause of feare to be conceived, that dumb creatures with ye horroure of that which fortunited, were exceedingly disquieted, and senselesse things void of all life and feeling shook and trembled.

“ Therr werr assembled at the same season, to hear divine service and common prayer, according to order, in the Parish Church of the said towne of BONGAY, the people thereabouts inhabiting, who were witnesses of the straungenesse, the carenesse, and sodenesse of the storme, consisting of raine violently falling, fearful flashes of lightning, and terrible craeks of thunder, which came with such unwonted force and power, that to the perceiving of the people, at the time and in the place above named, assembled, the Church did as it were quake and stagger, which struck into the harts of those that were present, such a sore and sodain feare, that they were in a manner robbed of their right wits.

“ Immediately herrupon, there appeared in a most horrible similitude and likenesse to the congregation, then and there present, A DOG as they might discern it, of a BLACK COLOUR; at the sight wherof, together with the fearful flashes of fire then were seene, moved such admiration in the minds of the assemblie, that they thought doomes day was ahead'y come.

“ This BLACK DOG, or the *Divel* in such a likenesse (God hee knoweth all who worketh all) running all along down the body of the Church with great swiftnesse, and incredible haste, among the people, in a visible forme and shape, passed between two persons, as they were kneeling upon their knees, and occupied in prayer as it seemed, wrung the necks of them bothe at one instant clene backward, insomuche that even in a moment where they kneeled they stra'gely dyed.

“ This is a wonderful example of God's wrath, no doubt to terrifie us, that we might feare him for his justice, or putting back our footsteps from the pathes of sinne, to love him for his mercy.

“ To our matter again. There was at ye same time another WUNDER wrought: for the same BLACK DOG, still continuing and remaining in one and the self-same shape, passing by an other man of the congregation in the Church, gave him such a gripe in the back, that therewith all he was presently drawn together and shrunk up, as it were a piece of lether scorched in a hot fire; or at the mouth of a purse or bag, drawn together with a string; the man, albeit he was in so straunge a taking, dyed not, but, as it is thought, is yet alive: whiche thing is mervellous in the eyes of men, and offereth mucche matter of amasing the minde.

“ Moreover, and beside this, the clark of the Church being occupied in cleansing the gutter of the Church, with a violent clap of thunder was smitten downe, and beside his fall, had no further harme: unto whom beeing all amased, this straunge shape, wherof we have before spoken, appeared, howbeit he escaped without daunger; which might, peradventure, seem to sound against trueth, and to be a thing incredible; but let us leave thus, or judge thus, and cry out with the prophet, O Domine, &c. ! O Lord, how wonderful art thou in all thy works!

“ At the time that these things in this order happened, the Rector, or Curate, of the Church, being

partaker of the peoples perplexitie, seeing what was seen and done, comforted the people, and exhorted them to prayer, whose counsell, in such extreme distresse, they followed, and prayed to God as they were assembled together, &c."

The narration concludes with a "necessary prayer" to God, to shield those who flee to him for succour "against all manner of annoyances whatsoever."

This strange relation was "imprinted at London by Frauncis Godly, dwelling at the west end of Paules."

The register books of St. Mary's parish church give a far less marvellous relation of this tempest, which was, no doubt, even when divested of fiction, a very awful storm. The following is a copy.

"1577. John Fuller and Adam Walker slayne in the tempest, in the belfry, in the tyme of prayer, upon the Lord's day, y^e iiijth of August."

On the 2nd of September, 1652, Bungay sustained considerable injury by a fire; connected with which calamity is the following extract from a parish record entitled 'Wingfield's Account-book.'

"There was ad the last yere's accoumpt in readye money £ 20. 16s. 7d. ib: and 15s. 7d. which rested to poore scholars then that was locked upp in a box with the bonds and other wrightings belonginge to this accoumpte; the box haveinge twoe lockes, and the twoe primer ffeoffees keepinge the severall keyes; which box was then at the house of George Gooch, gent., nowe deceased; the then primer ffeoffee. And by reason of a sudden and lamentable fier happencinge to be upon the second daye of September, 1652, nere the dwellinge-house of the said George, and burnt downe his out-houses, by reason of which hee was inforced to have his goods removed out of his head-house, amongst which this box was removed, and by some idle and wretched person or persons in the sadd and lamentable tyme of the fier the cover of the box was brooken; the lockes continuendinge locked. But the money taken out and carryed awaye."

In the year 1669, the twenty-second of Charles II., an Act of Parliament was obtained to render the river Waveney navigable for barges up to this town, by the means of locks; four of which have, accordingly, been constructed between Barsham and Bungay.

On the 1st of March, 1688, a fire, of calamitous extent, broke out in Bungay about sun-rise, in a small uninhabited tenement, "which spread itself so irresistibly, that in four hours the flames consumed the whole town except one small street and a few houses; and destroyed one of the churches, being a large and magnificent building, together with a free-school, and three alms-houses; two eminent market crosses, and the dwelling-houses of one hundred and ninety families; many brewing offices, shops, warehouses, barns, and other houses, near four hundred in number; in which most of the sufferers, through the sudden and violent rage of the flames, lost all their house-

hold-stuff, stock, goods, and substance: the loss amounting to £29,898, and upwards."

A brief to collect money in church, as well as from door to door, in aid of the sufferers from this fire, was granted on the 7th of June following, being the first year of the reign of William and Mary. The original brief, engrossed on parchment, is now in the possession of John B. Scott, Esq., of Bungay, a gentleman of considerable archæological taste and knowledge, to whom the writer is indebted for much information respecting the present article. The brief for this fire is thus endorsed: "Collected at Deepham cum Hackford, in the county of Norfolk, the sum of 19^s and 8^d."

Mr. G. Baker, of Bungay, has an original receipt given to the inhabitants of Earsham for a collection made by them on the same account.

"April the 4th, 1689.

"Recē then of the inhabitants of Earsham, the sume of six fforty poundes and fower pence, being monyes given and bestowed towards the reliefe of the distressed sufferers by reason of the late dreadfull fire at Bungay, in the county of Suff:

"I say rec'd by me,

"LAW. ADAMS."

In the overseers' book of accounts of receipts and expenditure for the parish of Bungay St. Mary, from Easter, 1688, to Michaelmas, 1720, there occurs the following marginal entry: "1688. In this year was that dreadful fire, which destroyed the howses and goods of all the persons on charged, besides the church of St. Mary's burned to the ground, with the steeple, and melted six fine bells, and did some dammage to the church of St. Trinity, to y^e loss of about thirty thousand pounds."¹⁴

The year 1688, in which this fire occurred, was also that in which the Revolution took place, in favour of the Prince of Orange; and tradition reports that the house in which it broke out was designedly set on fire by the papists: whence arose the proverbial saying, when a very wicked and malicious man is intended to be represented, that he is "as big a rogue as burnt Bungay."¹⁵ A very ancient house, standing opposite to St. Mary's church, and a few others, escaped the flames. Of these, the older part of a good mansion, lately in the possession of Mr. Richard Mann, but at that time the property of Gregory Clarke, who was then rebuilding it, was saved from the flames by his employing the workmen to keep wet blankets over the roof, which had just been put on.

On the 4th of October, 1689, the town, not yet recovered from the destructive effects of the fire, was injured by the violence of an opposite element. On that day it

¹⁴ MSS. pen. John B. Scott, Esq.

¹⁵ Jermyn MSS.

began to rain towards night, and continued without intermission, with the exception of a few hours on the 6th, till the 10th, at noon; which caused such a rage of waters as overflowed the lower part of the city of Norwich, and broke down the bridges at Bungay.¹⁶

About the year 1700, a scheme was projected by Mr. King, an apothecary of Bungay, to bring this town into notice as a bathing and watering-place; the chalybeate spring in the old castle having been considered by him to possess medicinal properties of great value. In furtherance of his plan, Mr. King built a bath-house at Earsham, a village in Norfolk, on the opposite bank of the Waveney; near which he planted a vineyard, surrounded by agreeable walks. In 1734, the following advertisement, apprising the public of his undertaking, was inserted in the Gentleman's Magazine.¹⁷ "Mr. King, Apothecary in the pleasant town of Bungay, in Suffolk, has finished, after Sir John Floyer's plan, a cold bath there, in a delightful situation and healthful air: every thing is compleatly and handsomely provided for the reception of such gentlemen and ladies as shall be advised, either to the use of the cold bath, or of mineral waters, of which there is an excellent sort at that place."

Mr. King shortly afterwards published a pamphlet entitled 'An Essay on Hot and Cold Bathing,' from which I cannot but insert an extract, as a specimen of flowery language of the very richest kind. Speaking of the bath-house, and its surrounding attractions, it is said: "Those lovely hills, which incircle the flowery plain, are variegated with all that can ravish the astonished sight. They arise from the winding mazes of the river Waveney, enriched with the utmost variety the watry element is capable of producing. Upon the neck of this peninsula, the castle and town of Bungay, (now startled at its approaching grandeur,) is situated on a pleasing ascent to view the pride of nature on the other side, which the goddesses have chose for their earthly paradise; where the sun, at its first appearance, makes a kindly visit to a steep and fertile vineyard, richly stored with the choicest plants from Burgundy, Champagne, Provence, and whatever the East can furnish us with. Near the bottom of this is placed the grotto, or bath itself, beautified on one side with oziers, groves, and meadows; on the other with gardens, fruits, shady walks, and all the decorations of a rural innocence. The building is designedly plain and neat; because the least attempt of artful magnificence would, by alluring the eyes of strangers, deprive them of those profuse pleasures which nature has already provided. As to the bathing, there is a mixture of all that England, Paris, or Rome could ever boast of:—no one is refused a kind reception: honour and generosity reigns throughout the whole; the trophies of the poor invite the rich, and their more dazzling assemblies compel the former."

¹⁶ Blomefield.

¹⁷ Vol. iv. p. 224.

There is a view of the vineyard and bath-house appended to Mr. King's amusing book, engraved in the formal style of the day. The work is rather scarce, and well deserves a place in the collections of the curious, who feel interested in Bungay and its vicinity. Mr. King's scheme proved abortive; but the bath-house and its agreeable scenery continued for many years to be the occasional resort of the neighbouring gentry.

In 1737, Owen Thirkettle, of Bungay Trinity, gave £50 for a clock and chimes, which were placed in the tower of St. Mary's Church.

In 1757, Bungay experienced the shock of an earthquake, as we learn from a London Magazine for that year. "Norwich, January 15th. On Monday last, between 2 and 3 in the morning, we had a slight shock of an earthquake, preceded by a rumbling noise in the air. As it happened at the time when the generality of people were sound asleep, it was not perceived by many; but those that were awake, and the few persons that were by, were very sensible of it. It was likewise felt at Yarmouth, Diss, South Walsham, Loddon, Bungay, &c."

Among the manuscripts of the late Mr. Ashby, now in the possession of John B. Scott, Esq., it is stated that the sum of £86. 12s. 5d. was subscribed by the town of Bungay towards the relief of the Dutch sailors wounded at the naval action off Camperdown in 1797,—a noble tribute of charity in behalf of a brave but fallen foe.

In June, 1810, the old corn-cross was taken down, and the lead sold for 26s. and 6d. per hundred weight. The timber and other materials fetched £57. The entire cross was sold for £135. 18s. 2d., the net produce being £125. 5s. 1d.¹⁸ This produce was appropriated to the sinking of a well, and erecting a pump near the spot. Eight white stones are placed at the several angles where the cross stood, to mark the boundary. The lord of the manor formerly held his courts within it. There is a long letter, dated Bungay, January 16th, and signed Amicus, in the Gentleman's Magazine, vol. lxx., for 1810, about the taking down of this cross.

A Saint Nicholas' token was found on the castle hills in the year 1820. It came into the possession of Mr. J. Ashby, who having lent it to a gentleman to take an impression from it, it was, by being placed in a mangle, so flattened that the figures and inscription were no longer discernible. A copy of it, however, was taken before this accident occurred, which is now in the hands of John B. Scott, Esq. A leaden Bulla of Celestine III., in excellent preservation, who was Pope from the year 1191 to 1198, was also discovered in 1824 in a meadow by the castle hills, and is now in the possession of Mr. G. Baker, whose valuable and extensive collection of coins and medals is equalled by few in any country town of the kingdom.

¹⁸ MSS. Ashby, pen. John B. Scott.

In 1826, in sinking a well in the Earsham-street, near the castle, Mr. Henry Doughton found two Roman coins; one of Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, 1: brass; and the other of Faustina, 2: brass.

In the same year, Mr. T. Utting, on removing some fragments of the castle wall, which had fallen into his garden, found a rude leaden seal inscribed S: G: ROB: BLOKOO; and in the following year, a coin of Gordianus Pius, who was assassinated in the East, A.D. 244, was discovered in the garden of Mrs. Barlee, near Duke's-bridge.

A silver penny of Offa, King of Mercia, with the name of his moneyer, 'Othelres,' was dug up, in an osier-ground near the castle ramparts, in 1813, and was lately in the collection of Mr. G. Baker, who is also in possession of an antique spur, found on the common.

A hermitage, with a small chapel adjoining, was founded at an early period near the east end of the bridge, and on the south side of the river. It was demolished in 1733.¹⁹ When we surveyed this place, says Mr. Jermyn, some years ago, (Feb. 5, 1798,) we could discover then only a few of the large stones near the river, which originally had formed part of the foundation of the north gable of this ancient building, and which gable end, as we were informed, was standing a few years ago.²⁰

Of the buildings of the Friars Minorites or Franciscans in this town it will be impossible to speak with any certainty, when even the existence of such an order here is a matter of dispute. Tradition asserts that there was an establishment of this fraternity in Bungay, and some old walls at the entrance of the Bridge-street have been pointed out as belonging to it, but Tanner says nothing to confirm this; neither is it mentioned by the Index Monasticus, nor any other authority.

St. John's Hospital stood by the road leading from the town towards Halesworth, and some enclosures thereabouts are still called St. John's Fields. It was, probably, a leper-house, because the Vicar of Trinity has a piece of land called the Spital.

The ancient chapel of St. Mary Magdalene, which is mentioned in old deeds as standing to the south of the town, has a few old walls left to determine its site. These are now incorporated into a modern house, near the residence of the late General Kelso. A flattened arch, with its water-tables and accompaniments, bespeaks its antiquity.

The old house in the Ollands-street, already mentioned, which escaped the fire in 1688, is supposed by many to have been the Infirmary attached to the Nunnery; and by others considered as an Hostelry for the accommodation of strangers and pilgrims resorting to the adjacent religious establishment. Whatever may have been its appropriation, it is certainly as old as the latter part of the fifteenth century, and was a private house in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. An old mantel-piece of that era, now in

¹⁹ Townreeve's Books.

²⁰ Jermyn MSS.

the house of Mr. G. Baker, has the arms of Bedingfeld, with a crescent, as marking a junior branch, in one of its compartments; and in a corresponding position was the cognizance of D'Oyley. John Duke, Esq., who was living in Bungay in 1550, is supposed to have dwelt here. The front of this venerable relic has been barbarized of late by the removal of many of its ancient features, and the substitution of modern doors and windows; but the upper story retains some of its original ornaments. On the projecting sills of the windows are various devices, among which the feats of Samson are conspicuous. The slaughter of the Philistines, and the treachery of Delilah, are clearly illustrated; but the exploits of a child leading two winged, but seemingly harmless dragons, which are said to represent the infant Hercules strangling the serpents, are not so satisfactorily portrayed. The sill of a window, now removed, showed the fate of Actæon devoured by his dogs.

As to the original appropriation of this mansion, I can offer nothing definitive, but my impression is, that it was always a private residence. It was not likely to have been the Infirmary of a society of religious females, because it stood without the walls of their establishment; and from the carving on one of the window sills, which shows—besides the bust of the Virgin Mary—an escutcheon bearing a merchant's mark, I conclude the builder or occupier to have been a wealthy tradesman of Bungay.

Outney Common is a large extra-parochial tract of meadows, lying on the north of the town, and containing 402 acres. It was formerly the bed of the Waveney, when its waters flowed in a more expanded stream; and must have been covered with seawater at some remote period, as marine shells have been occasionally found beneath its soil. It is under the management of Commonreeves. In 1707, the lord of the manor and the commoners agreed to reduce the commonages, or right of depasturing cattle thereon, from five to three beasts; and in 1845, there were only 150 commonages, or 300 beast-goings. It is encompassed by the river Waveney, except on its south side, where it is skirted by the town, from which it was cut off in ancient times by a deep ditch, extending east and west to the two bends of the river. This ditch has been considered as a Roman work, but I think there is no positive evidence of this; and it might have been dug by the Bigots, who conveyed the materials so obtained to raise the huge barriers of earth around their castle. It insulated the common, and materially strengthened the defences of their fortress on the north.

The town pest-house was formerly situated here, and was pulled down in 1771, when the materials were sold for £40. The foundations of it are yet visible.

The land to the south of the town, called the Ollands, is written in old deeds the Hollands, and the Off-lands, and is also described, in the reign of Edward III., as the "campum de Ilkeshall."

Bungay is divided into two districts, called Bungay Burgh, and Bungay Boycott,

meaning the town and hamlet, without any reference to the two parishes. The taxes upon these divisions have long been separately levied, as will be seen on referring to the Introduction of this work, at pages xxvii. and xxviii.

Before the dissolution of the nunnery, there were two crosses in this town, one of which stood near the site of the vicarage-house of Trinity parish, and the other on the spot now occupied by the lord's pound. The remains of the latter were visible in 1770.

In the year 1840, a skeleton was discovered near Duke's-bridge House, carefully embedded in clay, apparently for its preservation. It was concluded to be the remains of a person whom the times rendered it necessary to conceal. Duke's-bridge House, now the residence and property of Mrs. Barlee, is considered to have taken its name from the ancient family of Duke, who had possessions in Bungay at an early period. John Duke, of Bungay, devised by his will, dated April 24th, 1559, certain lands and tenements to the poor belonging to Trinity parish; but there is no documentary evidence to show that any of the family was ever possessed of the estate in question. It more probably took its name from the Dukes of Norfolk, as it is held, with its curtilage of 10 acres, in free-tenure, under the Howards, as lords of the manor of Bungay Soke. Sir Edward Kerrison is the owner of the Duke's-bridge farm, which his father purchased of the late Rev. Mr. Williams; and Mr. William Denny is the proprietor and occupier of the Duke's farm, which he purchased of Charles, Duke of Norfolk, under the Act of Parliament which His Grace obtained to sell property in Bungay, to purchase at Arundel. The tithes of this farm have been awarded to Mr. Denny, and, therefore, it was probably part of the Bungay Priory lands, and could never have belonged to the Duke family.²¹

Bungay possesses the privilege of sending two pensioners to Greenwich Hospital, in case they are not nominated by Shotesham, in Norfolk, and there are instances on record where the town has availed itself of this provision.

Stow Park is in the Duke of Norfolk's manor of Bungay Soke. At an inquisition, taken at Ipswich on the 11th of January, 1307, thirty-fifth of Edward I., when Roger Bigot died, it was said, "Item est ibidem Parcus cum feris, qui vocatur Stowe Park, et valet herbagium p: an: v^s. viij^d., et subbosco ibid nihil." In the same year, Stow-fen, now an extra-parochial common of about 88 acres, is called 'Alnetum,' or an alder-ground. It appears from deeds that the Duke of Norfolk claimed Stow Park as his freehold, and as a park belonging to the manor of Bungay Soke, at a much later period. In the account of John Hardinge, bailiff of the manor in the 38th of Henry VIII., he claims "vi^s. viij^d. of the firme herbage of the park there, called Stowe Park, soe

²¹ Ex inform. Mrs. Barlee.

let to John Brice for the terme of ten yeares, this yere, &c." Arthur Everard, Esq., and his predecessors, always claimed to hold it as their copyhold, but have not been admitted thereto successively.²²

There must have been a residence of considerable importance in this park at an early period, for John Scott, Esq., has collected many architectural details from its enclosures; though the existence of such a building is not shown by any deeds or charters which have come under my notice. Among the fragments obtained hence are some capitals of wrought freestone, of a Norman character, which appear to have belonged to a chapel.

The manor of Bardolph Ilketshall extends into the parish of Bungay Trinity, and belongs to Sir Windham Dalling, Bart., of Earsham Hall, whose family were formerly residents in Bungay. In the year 1718, the name of John Dalling occurs in the town records.

The mill on the Flixton road was removed a few years since to the spot on which it now stands from a site nearer the town. It is called in writings of Queen Elizabeth's time, "the mill of the Lord of Bardolph."

Part of Trinity parish lies by the side of the old Roman road called Stone-street, at the distance of about five miles from the town. As it is encompassed by the parish of St. Laurence Ilketshall, it was probably a member of that portion of the manor of Bardolph which extended into Bungay.

THE CASTLE.

Bungay Castle, as a stronghold, dates its origin from a period very little posterior to the Norman Conquest; but whether it was built by Roger Bigot, or his immediate successor, is unknown. It was certainly a formidable fortress in the time of Hugh Bigot, whose perjury and adherence to the cause of Stephen, mainly contributed to place that chieftain on the English throne. Bigot, rewarded for his services with the Earldom of Norfolk, continued the firm adherent of the reigning monarch till the year 1140; when, conceiving himself ill used by Stephen, and looking, probably, for further aggrandizement at a time when, as the Saxon Chronicle tells us, "all was dissention, and evil and rapine," he openly espoused the cause of the Empress Matilda. Bigot relied on his possessions here and the strength of his castle; but Stephen marched speedily into Suffolk, and reduced his stronghold. The ancient writer, who has recorded this event, is as brief in his narration as Stephen was prompt in action, and has furnished no details of the siege. He dryly informs us of the fact in these concise

²² Jermyn MSS.

terms. "Anno 1140. Ad Pentecostem ivit rex cum exercitu suo super Hugonem Bigodth in Sudfolc, et cepit castellum de Bunie."²³ Having inflicted this chastisement upon his turbulent vassal, Stephen received him again into favour, and restored him his Castle of Bungay.

One of the first acts of Henry II., after his accession to the throne, was to punish the adherence of Bigot to the cause of his mother's foe, by depriving him of his dignities and castles; in all of which he was reinstated in 1163. Bigot, however, again deserted the interests of his monarch in 1174, and by treaties, privately executed at Paris, united his influence with the cause of Henry's rebellious sons. Their insurrection being quelled by the valour of Richard de Lacy, the King's general, who defeated Bigot and his foreign allies near Bury St. Edmund's, the King advanced into Suffolk with an army, determined to execute on him the full measure of his wrath; and having razed to the ground his castle at Walton, and gained possession of that at Framlingham, prepared to destroy the last stronghold of this perfidious baron. It was upon retreating to this fortress that Bigot expressed to those who attended him his perfect confidence in its impregnable strength; declaring that, "were he in his castle of Bungay, upon the waters of Waveney, he would not set a button by the King of Cockney."²⁴

The King, however, advanced, and setting down before Bungay Castle, summoned it to surrender. Roger Hoveden relates that Bigot had only five hundred soldiers in his garrison at this time, and that the men, despairing of any further supply, secretly deserted the castle, and left him to make what terms he could with his incensed sovereign.

There is an old ballad in existence, of considerable merit, which, though not so old as the facts it narrates, is probably founded upon traditionary anecdotes connected with the conduct of Bigot on this emergency; and I shall offer no apology for reprinting it.

"The King has sent for Bigod bold,
 In Essex whereat he lay,
 But lord Bigod laugh'd at his Poursuivant,
 And stoutly thus did say:
 'Where I in my castle of Bungay,
 Upon the river of Waveney,
 I would ne care for the King of Cockney.'

"Hugh Bigod was Lord of Bungay tower,
 And a merry lord was he,
 So away he rode on his berry-black steed,
 And sung with license and glee,
 'Where I in my castle of Bungay,
 Upon the river of Waveney,
 I would ne care for the King of Cockney.'

²³ *Annales Waverlienses.*

²⁴ *Holinshed*; who, however, doubts the authenticity of the adage.

- “ At Ipswich they laugh’d to see how he sped,
And at Ufford they star’d, I wis,
But at merry Saxmundham they heard his song,
And the song he sung was this ;
‘ Where I in my castle of Bungay,
Upon the river of Waveney,
I would ne care for the King of Cockney.’
- “ The Baily he rode and the Baily he ran,
To catch the gallant Lord Hugh,
But for every mile the Baily rode,
The Earl he rode more than two ;
Saying, ‘ Where I in my castle of Bungay,
Upon the river of Waveney,
I would ne care for the King of Cockney.’
- “ When the Baily had ridden to Bramfield oak,
Sir Hugh was at Ilksall bower ;
When the Baily had ridden to Halesworth cross,
He was singing in Bungay tower—
‘ Now that I’m in my castle of Bungay,
Upon the river of Waveney,
I will ne care for the King of Cockney.’
- “ When the news was brought to London town,
How Sir Bigod did jest and sing,
‘ Say-you to Lord Hew of Norfolk,’
Said Henry, our English King,
‘ Though you be in your castle of Bungay,
Upon the river of Waveney,
I’ll make you care for the King of Cockney.’
- “ King Henry he marshal’d his merry men all,
And through Suffolk they march’d with speed ;
And they march’d to Lord Bigod’s castle wall,
And knock’d at his gate, I rede :
‘ Sir Hugh of the castle of Bungay,
Upon the river Waveney,
Come, doff your cap to the King of Cockney.’
- “ Sir Hughon Bigod, so stout and brave,
When he heard the King thus say,
He trembled and shook like a May-mawther,
And he wished himself away ;
‘ Were I out of my castle of Bungay,
And beyond the river of Waveney,
I would ne care for the King of Cockney.’

“ Sir Hugh took three-score sacks of gold,
 And flung them over the wall,
 Says, ‘ go your ways, in the Devil’s name,
 Yourself and your merry-men all !
 But leave me my eastle of Bungay,
 Upon the river Waveney,
 And I’ll pay my shot to the King of Cockney.’ ”

Ancient chroniclers have left us no particulars of this siege, contenting themselves with stating that Bigot was fain to capitulate, and with much difficulty obtained his pardon upon the payment of one thousand marks, and consenting to have his fortress demolished. He soon afterwards went abroad, and joined the Earl of Flanders in an expedition to the Holy Land, whence he returned and died in 1177, surviving the destruction of his castle and his disgrace only three years. The ruined site of Bungay Castle and the honours of the Earldom were restored to Roger Bigot, the son of Earl Hugh, by Richard I., in 1189, upon the payment of a further sum of one thousand marks. It remained as an untenable fortress till the year 1281, when Roger Bigot obtained a license from King Edward I. to embattle his house in the place where the castle had stood. The license appears among the patent rolls, “ quod Rogerus le Bigot, Comes Norff., et Marescallus Angl: possit kernellare mansum suum de Bungay.”²⁵ This was the castle whose ruins are now visible. Bigot endowed his second wife, Alice, with this castle and manor; and having no issue, settled all his castles, towns, manors, and hereditaments upon King Edward and his heirs, to the prejudice of his brother, John le Bigot; who, after the Earl’s decease, was found to be his next heir, but never, in consequence of this surrender, enjoyed the honours, nor any part of his estates. Sir Henry Spelman tells us, the Earl disinherited his brother, Sir John, because “ that the Earl being indebted to him, he was too pressing on that account.” Upon his death in 1307, it was returned, that the park at Earsham was well stocked; and with the fishery, a water-mill, and many woods and fens, were kept for the use of the family of Roger Bigot, then lord, who was chiefly resident at his adjacent Castle of Bungay.

In the year 1312, the fifth of Edward II., Thomas de Brotherton, fifth son of the late monarch, obtained a charter from the King, in tail general, of all the honours formerly enjoyed by Roger Bigot. It is probable, however, that Thomas de Brotherton held the castle of Bungay previous to this charter, because, on the 3rd of March, 1310, we find the following prohibition of a tournament, proclaimed to be held here, and addressed to the Earls, Barons, Knights, and others at Bungay.

“ Rex dilectis et fidelibus suis comitibus, baronibus, militibus, et omnibus aliis apud Bungeye ad torneandum hâc instanti die Lunæ conventuris, salutem. Mandamus vobis

²⁵ Rot. Pat. m. 20.

sub forisfactura omnium que nobis forisfacere, poteritis firmiter inhibentes ne die predicto, vel alio, apud dictam villam, seu alibi in regno nostro torneare, burdeare, justas facere, aventuras quærere, seu alia facta armorum exercere præsumatis, sine nostrâ licentiâ speciali. Teste Rege apud Westm: iij die Martij.”²⁶

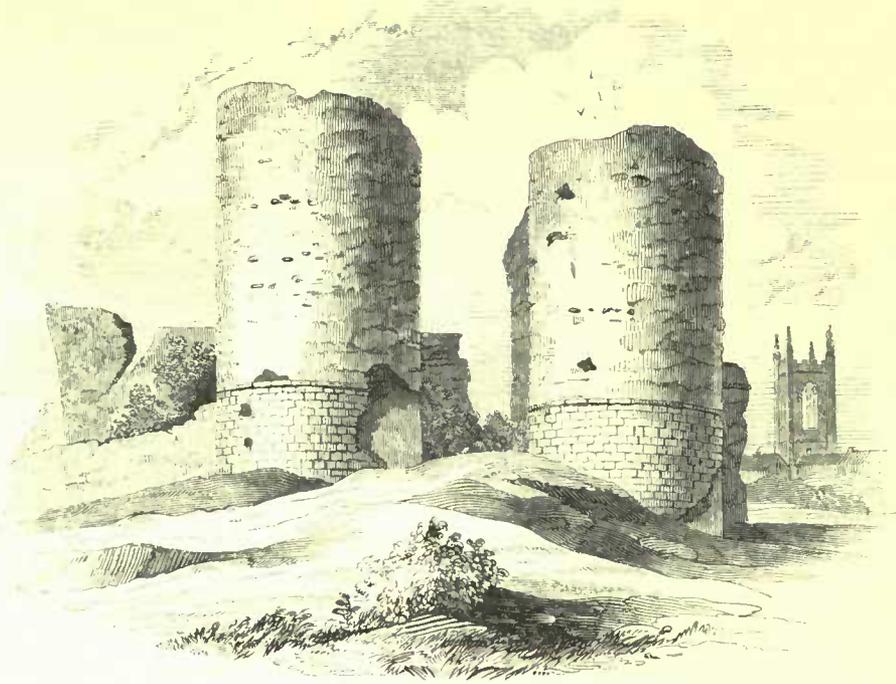
We learn from Rymer, and other authorities, that in the year 1309, Gaveston, the profligate favourite of Edward II., had so inflamed the resentment of the most powerful barons, by turning them into ridicule, that his imprudent conduct very soon produced its natural consequences, and Gaveston became the object of universal detestation. The discontented lords began to draw together, and appointed tournaments in several places, as a plausible pretence for their meetings, which were in reality designed for contriving the destruction of the favourite. The tournament at Bungay was therefore, without doubt, proclaimed for a similar purpose.

Thomas de Brotherton died in 1338, leaving two daughters, his heiresses; the eldest of whom, Alice, marrying Edward de Montacute, carried the castle of Bungay into that family. Their daughter Joan, who was born in this castle on Candlemas-day, 1348, married William de Ufford, Earl of Suffolk, who, after the death of Edward de Montacute, in the thirty-fifth of Edward III., became owner of Bungay castle in her right. By an inquisition, taken after the death of the Earl, who died suddenly of apoplexy, as he was ascending the steps of the House of Lords, it was returned that “William de Ufford held at the day of his death, ‘castrum cum manerio et burgo de Bungay.’”²⁷ It is probable that William de Ufford resided little at Bungay, because the castle was returned in the same inquisition, as old and ruinous, and paying nothing after repairs: “vetus et ruinosum, et nichel valet p: an: ultra repris.” This was in the year 1382; but upon the Howards obtaining the manor, the castle appears to have received considerable attention; for in 1477, the manor and castle were returned as yielding, after repairs were deducted, £ 50 per annum: “ultra reprisas £ l.” The castle was, however, shortly after, consigned to neglect as a residence. The union of the Roses, and the better administration of the laws, no longer rendered it necessary for the nobles of the land to immure themselves within gloomy apartments and dingy fortresses; and the splendour of the palace of Kenninghall, built by the “Great Duke of Norfolk,” in the reign of Henry VIII., contributed altogether to the desertion of the castle of Bungay. At a later period its ruined site passed from the Howards by a transfer which I have not discovered; and at the close of the last century belonged to a Mr. Mickleburgh, an inhabitant of Bungay. By him it was sold to Mrs. Bonhote, the authoress of a novel entitled ‘Bungay Castle,’ and several similar works, very popular in their day. Mrs. Bonhote fitted up the old keep, and made it her occasional summer residence; but transferred it by a legal

²⁶ De inhibitione torneamenti. Rot. Pat. 3 Ed. II. m. 18.

²⁷ Escheat. 5 Ric. II. Harl. MSS.

surrender, about the year 1800, to Charles, Duke of Norfolk, who was desirous of regaining this fortress of the "Bigot bold," his martial ancestor.



THE REMAINS OF BUNGAY CASTLE

consist of the external portions of two circular towers, which, in their entire condition, embraced a lofty receding gateway, formed by a succession of ribbed arches, acutely pointed; and similar in construction to those at Tunbridge and Caernarvon. These towers are built solid to the height of the squared stone-work, and contain shafts of very small diameter in their upper and habitable portions; and, which is worthy of remark, exhibit neither window nor loophole. They are attached to ruinous walls of an octangular ground-plan, enclosing, at the distance of about 30 feet only, a keep, measuring 54 feet square; the walls of which are standing, in places, to the height of 5 or 6 yards, and are from 10 to 12 feet in thickness. In the centre of the keep is a deep well of strongly impregnated mineral water, now disused. If this water always possessed this chalybeate quality, it is difficult to conceive how it could have been applicable to the daily requirements of the garrison. Detached portions of walls and foundations are spread in all directions in the castle grounds. No opinion can be formed of the internal arrangements of the keep in its original state. The eye accustomed to the elegance and conveniences of modern life, can scarcely feel convinced that

the near descendant of one of England's mightiest monarchs was born within these rugged flinty walls. The keep and inner ballium occupy an elevated site, commanding the encircling moats and outer defences. These latter consist of prodigious mounds of earth, sweeping down to the banks of the Waveney, and may, not improbably, have been originally raised by the Romans. Part of these, on the south, was levelled about five or six years ago, to form a cattle-market: an intention which has never been carried into effect. There is a ditch, now dry, but still deep, to the south, which evidently communicated, in ancient days, with the channel of the river, and was probably constructed to afford access to small vessels bringing supplies to the garrison. It was defended by the embankment, now levelled, which stretched from the marshes beyond it, and swept round to the eastern ramparts. The outworks of the castle were continued in this direction, along the edge of the hill above the present Bridge-street, and turning, in the form of a crescent, to the north and west, enclosed the ground now occupied by the houses on the south side of the Earsham-street, terminating at the banks of the river. There was a ford near the spot where the Cock-bridge now stands, which, with the entire route through the town, must have been completely commanded by the castle.

The deep ditch, already mentioned, on Outney Common, whether of Roman or Norman construction, was still a formidable barrier on the north, as it cut off all hostile approaches in that direction. The license, therefore, of Edward I. to Roger Bigot, to kernellate or embattle his residence, seems to have been carried to its utmost extent; for if this later edifice were less formidable than the boasted fortress of his turbulent ancestor, it must have been, nevertheless, a stronghold of no ordinary character.

There is a tradition, yet cherished by the lovers of the marvellous, that a secret passage afforded communication between this castle and that of Mettingham. It originated, probably, in the existence of a subterraneous vault near the portal towers, still open, and accessible by the removal of a few boards. At no period in the annals of Bungay Castle could such a passage have been constructed, as the two fortresses always appertained to opposite interests.

THE NUNNERY.

In the year 1160, when the passion for building and endowing monasteries had attained its height, Roger de Glanville and the Countess Gundreda his wife, relict of Roger Bigot, laid the foundations of a Benedictine Nunnery at Bungay; dedicating its church to Saint Mary, and the house to the honour of God and the Holy Cross. The site selected for this establishment was a plain piece of ground, occupying the summit of a gentle rise, and lying contiguous to the eastern ramparts of the castle.

In providing for the temporal wants of their monastery, the noble founders appear remarkably sparing of their own revenues; appropriating the tithes of no less than six of the neighbouring churches to the maintenance of its inmates. Thus, while their own worldly substance remained undiminished, the secular clergy, for miles around, were impoverished, and their cures degraded into poor vicarages, or stipendiary curacies; an injustice, and injury to the cause of religion, which seven succeeding centuries have viewed with indifference and failed to redress. The benefices thus appropriated were those of Mettingham, St. Andrew, St. Laurence, and St. Margaret Ilketshall, and two out of the three which Saxon piety had founded in the town, St. Mary and St. Thomas. The church of Roughton, in Norfolk, a rectory valued at eighteen marks, was likewise appropriated, and its revenues added to their gifts. To these, and the scanty private donations of the founders, were speedily added the benefactions of the noble and the pious, as is shown by the long and interesting charter of Henry II., who confirmed them to the nuns in the nineteenth of his reign.²⁸

Roger Bigot, with a zeal singularly displayed by the roughest and most licentious chieftains of the day, granted them his water-mill at Wangford,²⁹ and confirmed to their use his "lands of Limburne" in Homersfield, with all their appurtenances, in perpetual alms, excepting service to himself and his heirs, and the payment of 8*d.* per annum.³⁰ The which grant and confirmation he makes to them for the good of his soul and the souls of his father and mother, and of all his ancestors and friends.

In the fifty-second of Henry III., Sir James de Ilketshall mortgaged for 27 marks and a half of silver, to the lady Sarah, Prioress of the church of the Holy Cross of Bungay, certain lands, from the feast of the nativity of the blessed Virgin, to the purification following; and if the money was not then paid, the nuns were to have the lands for ever.³¹

It would appear that the money was not repaid within the prescribed period, for in the following year this Sir James de Ilketshall conveyed an acre of land, and the advowson of the church of St. John Baptist of Ilketshall, by fine, to the priory of Bungay.³² The prioress and nuns had a rent out of a shop in the Drapery at Norwich, given them in the year 1272.³³

The advowson of Redenhall, in Norfolk, was granted by Margaret, daughter and coheirress of Thomas de Brotherton, to Bungay Nunnery, by the King's license and the Pope's bull; which grant was afterwards confirmed by Alice, her sister, and Sir Edward de Montacute, her husband; and in 1349, its revenues were appropriated by the bishop of the diocese to pay ten shillings to each nun towards finding her clothing. The bishop

²⁸ Monasticon.

³¹ Blomefield.

²⁹ Id.

³² Id.

³⁰ Ex carta orig.

³³ Id.

and his successors were to nominate a vicar, every vacancy, and the prioress was obliged to present him. The bishop had also a pension out of the rectory of three marks and a half; and the newly erected vicarage was taxed at thirteen marks.³⁴ In 1441, at the complaint of the vicar, the church was disappropriated, and became a rectory again, on condition that the rector should pay a yearly pension of forty shillings to the prioress, and that the bishop should for ever nominate to her; and if she did not immediately present the person so nominated, the bishop then might collate him in his own right. This pension is still paid by the rector of Redenhall to the Duke of Norfolk, in right of Bungay Priory.³⁵ The prioress had some interests in the parish of St. Martin's at Plain, in Norwich, and had also a house near Tombland, and in the parish of St. Simon and Jude, in the same city. In 1515, the dean of the college of St. Mary in the Fields, at Norwich, paid ten shillings to the prioress of Bungay, for certain tithes in Moulton that were hired of her.³⁶ William de Curzon, of Stanfield, in Norfolk, gave also five acres of land to Bungay Priory, out of Kanghai's manor in that county, which Alice, the prioress there, and the convent, granted to Robert Skilman, of Hetherset, and his heirs.³⁷ The priory had also much real property, as is evident from a deed of conveyance from the prioress and convent to Sir John de Norwich, in 1360, to which was affixed the seal of the priory.



†: †CIPRIANUS: DOMUS: †: CRUCIS: MC: BUNGEY.

But the interests and estates of this monastery will be most apparent from the

³⁴ Lib. Instit. pen. Epis. Norw.

³⁵ Id.

³⁶ Blomefield.

³⁷ Id.

following confirmation of their grants and charters, given them by King Edward IV., on the 5th of January, 1466.

“ Rex omnibus ad quos, &c. salutem. Inspeximus cartam domini Edwardi nuper regis Angliæ progenitoris nostri in hæc verba, &c. Inspeximus cartam quam inclitæ recordationis dominus Henricus quondam rex Angl: progenitor noster fecit in hæc verba: Henricus Dei gratia rex Angliæ et dux Normanniæ et Aquitanniæ, et comes Andegaviæ, &c.

“ Sciatis quod a petitionem Rogeri de Glanville et Gundredæ comitissæ uxoris suæ concessi, et presenti cartâ meâ confirmavi sanctimonialibus de Bongeia ibidem Deo imperpetuum regulariter servientibus ecclesiam Sanctæ Crucis de Bongeia, quæ sita est in libero maritagio ipsius comitissæ Gundredæ cum omnibus pertin: suis, et preterea decem solidos de molendinis ejusdem Rogeri et Gundr: com: in villâ de Bongeia ad luminaria in profatâ ecclesiâ eidem sanctimonialibus annuatim reddend: scilicet, V Sol: ad Pascha, et V Sol: ad festum Sancti Michaelis, et multuram ipsarum sanctimonialium de domo sua de Bungcia quietam. Et preterea quatuor ecclesias quæ similiter sitæ sunt in libero maritagio prædictæ G: com: scilicet, ecclesiam omnium sanctorum de Metyngham et ecclesiam Sanctæ Margaretæ de Ilketeleshall, et ecclesiam Sancti Andreæ de Ilketeleshall, et ecclesiam Sancti Laurencij de Ilketeleshall cum omnibus rebus ad prædictas ecclesias pertinentibus et quidquid præfatis sanctimonialibus rationabiliter collatum est, et quidquid imposterum ab aliis ipsis collatum erit in liberam puram et perpetuam elemosinam, sicut cartæ ipsius Rogeri et com: G: et aliorum donatorum earum rationabiliter testantur. Quare volo et firmiter præcipio quod præfatæ sanctimoniales et earum homines habeant et teneant omnes terras et possessiones et elemosinas suas cum soka³⁸ et saka,³⁹ et thol⁴⁰ et theam⁴¹ et infangetheof⁴² et cum omnibus libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus et quietantiis suis in bosco, et plano, in pratis et paseuis, in aquis et molendinis, in viis et semitis, in stagnis et vivariis, in mariseis et piscariis, in grangiis et virgultis infra burgum et extra, et in omnibus rebus et in omnibus locis solutas liberas et quietas de sectis shiris et hundredis et placitis et querelis et de pecunia danda pro forisfacto de murdro et de wapentac et scutagio et geldo et danegeldo et hidagiis et assisis et de operationibus castellorum et parcorum et pontium et calcear: et de ferdwita et de hengewita et de flemmefremthe et de hamsoka et de wardpeni et de averpeni et de blodwita et de leerwita et de hundredpeni et tremmingpeni nisi in introitu et suit quietæ prædictæ sanctimoniales et homines sui per totam terram meam de omni theolones et de omnibus rebus quas ipsæ vel homines sui poterant assecurare quod emant et vendant eas ad proprios usus ipsarum sanctimonialium vel hominum suorum absque venditione ulterius facienda, et de passagio et pontagio et lestagio et stellagio et de omni seculari servitio et opere servili et exactione et omnibus aliis occasionibus et consuetudinibus secularibus, excepta sola justitia mortis et membrorum. Hæc omnia concessi præfatis sanctimonialibus in liberam et puram et perpetuam elemosinam pro dei amore, et salute animæ meæ et omnium antecessorum

³⁸ Soka, the privilege of administering justice and executing the laws.

³⁹ Saka, the power of holding a plea in causes of trespass, and imposing fines and amercements thereon.

⁴⁰ Thol, a payment in towns, markets, and fairs, on goods or cattle sold therein. It was also used to express the exemption from these.

⁴¹ Theam, a power to have, restrain, and judge their bondmen and villains with their children, goods and chattels, wherever they should be found in England.

⁴² Infangetheof, the privilege of trying thieves and felons taken within the limits of any place, to which it was granted. The Prioress of Bungay, however, as the charter in another part states, had not the power of touching life and limb.

et successorum meorum. Testibus Hugone Dunelm: et Johanne Norwic: episcopis, Willielmo comite Sussex, comite David fratre regis Scotorum, Rann: de Glanville, Willielmo de Hum: constabulario, Waltero filio Roberti Setico de Oumci, Willielmo Marescallo, Galfrido filio Petri, Richardo de Camvill, Stephano de Turnelham apud Gaittington.

“ Inspeximus etiam quandam aliam cartam quam celebris memoriæ dominus H quondam rex Angliæ proavus noster fecit in hæc verba. Henricus Dei gratia rex Angl: dominus Hiberniæ, &c. Sciatis nos intuitu Dei concessisse et hac carta nra confirmasse pro nobis et hæred: nostris Deo et ecclesiæ Sanctæ Crucis de Bungeya et sanctimonialibus ibidem Deo servientibus omnes donationes et concessiones subscriptas videlicet, de dono Gundredæ com: totam terram suam de Weston, et de Weynesford, et 24 acras terræ in Kova, et sedem molendini ad ventum in Northales et totam terr: in Kove quam tenuit de Rad: fil: Thom: et 12 acr: prati in novo prato de Barsham, et dimid: acram prati et marisci juxta Hepesflete et 12 demarat reddit de annuo redd suo de Sidingeia: et totum ortum attingentem super Quave, et præter hoc viginti pedes versus villam ad ampliandum cimiterium ecclie suæ et 20 pedes versus domum Hug: le Bakur: et pratum in loco qui vocatur Holium: et turbarium, &c., et de dono ejusdem G: com: talem libertatem quod ipsa Comitissa nec hæredes sui nec successores sui aliquam fœminam ponent in conventu prædic: Scimonialium, nec instituent velandum, nisi de gratiâ et purâ voluntate priorissæ et assensu conventus; et non tradent clericum laicum vel fœminam custodiendos ad victum et vestitum habenda, nisi de propriâ voluntate ejusd: priorissæ et conventus. Sed quiet: habeant et teneant ecclesias et terras quas eis in puram elemos: dedit et concessit, et solutas ab omni seculari dominio de se et hæredibus suis. De dono Rogeri de Glanville eccliam Sce Mariæ de Ruckton. Dd Roberti de Beleperche terram in Ilketeshall. Dd Rogeri Bigod, com: Norff: totam terram suam de Kyngesfen in Ilketeshall in escambium duarum marcatarum terræ in Coleby. Dd Hugonis Bigot, com: Norff: campum qui vocatur Hallecroft. Dd Rogeri Bigot, com: Norff: molendinum suum de Waineford. Dd Ric: Bacun de Lodnes 10 acras terræ in Osmundeshag. Dd Rogeri de Huntingfeld, Alvenam, quæ fuit uxorem Rog. Brunston, et Thomam fil: ejus primo-genitum cum toto ten: suo quod ad prædicto Rogero tenuerunt in Medefeld ac pertin: de Mendham. Dd ejusd: Rogeri Walterum Wudard de Medefeld hominem suum cum homagio suo et cum toto ten: et cum totâ sectâ suâ et toto servitio suo. Dd Roberti Wadenger unam acram terræ in Denton et 4 particulas terræ in eadem villa. Dd Thomæ fil: Gilberti de Ilketeshall terram quæ vocatur Thurstanewett. Dd Rogeri de Hugeshall totam terram suam de Lymburne. Dd Werreis de Cadamo duas acras terræ et dimid, et unam rodam, quæ vocatur Caterig in Ilstede. Dd Bartholom Sauzaveir 30 acras terræ in Jerpeston, et homagium et servie Rogeri Thurnod cum toto ten: et tota secta sua et homag: Rogeri de Hales, cum toto ten: suo. D.d. diversorum aliorum terras et tenementa et reddit: et servitia et in Kove, Northales, Lingwud, Chebenhall, Sturmesmedwe, Thordeshag, in marisco de Stikewanesfen, Stowegate, Ginessoft, Denton, Gernemuth, Waineford, Frostend, Keteringham, Weston, Redesham, Lymburne, Sueresgate, Redesham, Wyngefelde, Tyrington, Strummesmede, Sturmesmede, Coleshord, Hemmehaule, Crofto, Bungeya, Ilketeshall, Suacer, Northales, habend: et tenend: eisdem scimonialibus et successoribus suis in perpetm. Quare volumus, &c.: Hiis testibus, &c. Dat: per manum venerabilis patris Radulphi Cicestr: episcopi, cancellarij nostri apud Bromholm 13^o die Martij anno regni nostri 19^o. Nos autem donationes concessiones et confirmationes p̄d̄cas ratas habentes, et gratas eas pro nobis et hæredibus nostris, concedimus et confirmavimus, &c. Hiis testibus, &c. Dat: per manum nostram apud Lincoln quinto die Julij anno regni nostri quinto. Nos autem cartas et litteras prædictas et omnia et singula in eisdem contenta rata habentes, et grata ea pro nobis et heredibus nostris acceptamus et approbamus, ac dilectis nobis in Christo nunc priorissæ et scimonialibus loci prædicti, et success: suis tenore presentium ratificamus et confirmamus sicut cartæ prædictæ rationabiliter testantur. In cuius, &c. Teste Rege apud Westmonast: quinto die Januarij.

“ Pro tresdecem solidis et quatuor denariis solutis in hanaperio.”

The following is a copy of the receipt of 13s. 4*d.* paid for the above confirmation.

“Nunc priorissa et sanctimonialia de Bongeia dant 13 sol: 4 den: solutos in hanaperio pro confirmatione quarundam cartarum diversorum progenitorum domini regis nunc, quondam regum Angliæ, de diversis concessionibus et confirmationibus nuper priorissæ et sanctimonialibus loci prædicti, predecessoribus ipsarum nunc priorissæ et sanctimonialium et successoribus suis factis nuper confectarum habenda.

“Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium quinto die Januarij.”⁴³

In the reign of King John, William le Bigot disputed the title of the nuns to a part of Gundreda's endowment. The prioress contended that the disputed property, which seems to have been a carucate of land lying in Kove and Weston, and recited in the preceding confirmation, was granted by Gundreda, who had full power to do so, by her seneschal, who put her in full possession. She rests her claim upon the testimony of Roger Bigot, who witnessed the gift, and relies on the justice of her country.⁴⁴ It is not apparent how the suit was contested, but the issue was in favour of the prioress, whose successors retained the estate at Kove till the dissolution of their house by Henry VIII. In 1251, Henry III. issued letters of protection to the prioress of Bungay for ten years from the feast of St. Benedict, the abbot. These letters are dated at Norwich on the 20th of March in that year.⁴⁵ In 1309, the prioress and nuns obtained the appropriation of the tithes of the church of St. John Ilketshall, the advowson of which had been conveyed to them in 1268, by Sir James de Ilketshall. It was granted by the King on the 20th of March, by the fine of half a mark.⁴⁶

“Pro priorissa de Bungeya. Rex omnibus ad quos, &c. salutem. Sciatis quod per finem quem dilecta nobis in Christo priorissa ecclesiæ Sanctæ Crucis in Bungeya fecit nobiscum, concessimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris quantum in nobis est, eidem priorissæ et conventui ejusdem loci, quod ipsi ecclesiam Sancti Johannis Baptistæ de Ilketshall, Norwyc: dioc: quæ est de advocacione suâ propriâ, appropriare, et eam appropriatam in proprios usus tenere possint, sibi et successoribus suis imperpetuum.

“Teste Rege apud Westm: xx die Martij, per finem dimidiæ marcæ.”

In 1355, John de Bedingfeld, prior of the cell at Aldeby, was appointed by the prior of Norwich to take the confessions, to absolve, and to enjoin the penances of the prioress and nuns of Bungay.⁴⁷ It has been shown, that in the year 1258 the convent was sufficiently wealthy to advance, by way of mortgage, a considerable sum of money to Sir James de Ilketshall; but a century later the affairs of the establishment appear in a far less prosperous condition; for on the 8th of November, 1373, the King granted his letters patent to the prioress and convent “ob paupertatem exilis prioratus de Bungeye,”—“quod ipsi terras, tenementa et redditus ad valentiam decem librarum per

⁴³ Rot. Fin. de an. 5 Ed. IV. m. 1.

⁴⁴ Dugdale.

⁴⁵ Rot. Pat. 35 Hen. III. m. 10.

⁴⁶ Rot. Pat. 2 Ed. II. p. 2, m. 27.

⁴⁷ Blomefield.

annum, juxta verum valorem eorundem de feodo suo proprio adquirere possent.” The letters patent commence by stating the King’s desire to free the convent from debt.

“ Nos, concessionem nostram prædictam, effectui debito mancipari volentes, concessimus, et licentiam dedimus pro nobis et hæredibus nostris Rogeri Rose, vicario ecclesiæ Sanctæ Trinitatis de Bungeye, et Johanni Duncon, capellano, quod ipsi unum messuagium, unum toftum, quatuor cotagia, 175 ac: terræ, 18 ac: prati, 4 ac: pasturæ, 4 ac: alneti et dimidium, et 34 solidatas redditus cum pertin: in Ilkettleshall, Metyngham, Flixton, et Dichyngham; et Rogero Longo, personæ ecclesiæ de Sanderoft, et Willielmo Ramysholt, personæ ecclesiæ de Homerisfeld, quod ipsi unum messuagium, 30 ac: ter: 2 ac: prati, 2 ac: pasture, et 6 ac: alneti cum pertinent: in Southelmham, de quibus quidem tenementis unum messuagium, unum toftum, duo cotagia, 120 ac: terr: 10 ac: pr: 4 past: et 2 ac: alneti, ac redditus prædictus de præfatis priorissa et conventu, et residua tenementorum illorum de aliis quam de nobis tenentur, quæ etiam tenementa præter redditum prædictum valent 56 solidos per an: in omnibus exitibus juxta verum valorem; dare possint, et assignare præfatis priorissæ et conventui habend: et tenend: sibi et eor: success: in plenam satisfactionem terrar: tenement: et reddituum ad valorem decem librarum prædictor: in perpetuum.

“ Teste Rege apud West: viij die Novemb:”⁴⁸

In the year 1376 an event occurred, which, from the heinous nature of the offence, and the high connexions of the culprit, must have excited the most painful sensations among the inmates of the convent. This was no less than the flight of Katherine de Montacute from the Nunnery. Among the records preserved in the Tower of London,⁴⁹ is an order for seizing the person of this fugitive, who is described as wandering in concealment about the country in a secular dress, heedless of her sacred order, and to the danger of her soul. The following is the mandamus issued by Edward III. for the apprehension of this apostate nun.

“ D’ apostata capienda.

“ Rx dilecis & fidelibz suis Johi Trailly, Chivaler, Andree Cavendissh, Chivaler, Waltero Amyas, clico, Hugoni Fastolf, Edmundo Gourney, Johi Caltoft, & Edmundo Spicer, saltm: Quia Katerina de Monte Acuto monialis in monasterio de Bungeye, Ordinis sc̄i Benedci, Norwicen: dioc̄: rite & legitime p̄fessa, spreto hitu ordinis illius, in hitu seculari de pria, in priam in div̄sis ptibz regni n̄ri Angl: vagat & discurrit, in āie sue piculi, & ordinis sui p̄dei scandalū manifestu, sicut venabilis in Xpo pat: Hen̄ Ep̄ius Norwicen: p: Iras suas patentes nob significavit: Assignavim vos & quemlibet v̄rm ad ipam Kat̄inam ubicuq: inventa fūit tam infra libtates qm ext capiend & arestand & eam Priorisse dei monastii de Bungeye, vel ejus in hac pte attorn, libari faciend scdm regulam ordinis p̄dei castigand. Et ideo vob, & cuilibet v̄rm mandam

⁴⁸ Rot. Pat. 47 Ed. III. p. 2, m. 16.

⁴⁹ Rot. Pat. in Turr. Lond. de An^o 51 Ed. III. a tergo 34. “De capiendo Katherinam de Monte Acuto monialem de Bungay apostatum.”

firmit^e injungentes, q̄d circa p̄missa cū om̄i diligētia intendatis & ea fac & exequamini in forma pdca. Damus autem univ̄sis & singulis vicecomitibz, majoribz, ballivis, ministris, & aliis fidelibz n̄ris, tam infra libertates, qm̄ ext, tenore p̄senciū in mandatis, qd vob & cuilibet v̄rm in p̄missis faciend & exequend intendentes sint consulentes & auxiliantes quociens & put p vos seu aliquem v̄rm sup hoc ex pte n̄ra fu^e int p muniti. In cuj &c. T. R. apud Westm: vij die Marcij.”

This erring and unfortunate lady must have been a descendant or connexion of Edward de Montacute, who died a few years before, lord of Bungay Castle. The awful pmishment awarded to such a crime is well known, but the fate of this maiden has eluded my researches; neither does tradition relate that any one has yet discovered

“ her bones
Whitening amid disjointed stones,
And, ignorant of priests’ cruelty,
Marvel such relics here should be.”⁵⁰

But the author of the preceding lines informs us, that “ among the ruins of the Abbey of Coldingham, were some years ago discovered the remains of a female skeleton, which, from the shape of the niche, and the position of the figure, seemed to be that of an immured nun.” In 1350 occurs the name of Katherine de Monte Acuto, as prioress of Bungay, but we can hardly suppose her to have been the apostate, but recovered fugitive.

The last of the immunities granted to the nunnery at Bungay was issued in the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. by the Pope, through the Metropolitan and the Bishop of the Diocese, to Elizabeth Stephenson. Among other privileges, his holiness conferred on the prioress and her successors the power of affording sanctuary to all men who had been guilty of committing rapes.

The sum of 12^s. 4^d. was annually expended in this monastery in alms to the poor, on the anniversary of Gundreda, Countess of Norfolk, who was considered the foundress; and also for wax-lights to burn around her tomb on the same day.

Thomas de Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, held on the day of his death, as of fee of our Sovereign Lord Richard II., late King of England, the advowson of the Priory of Bungay.⁵¹

⁵⁰ Scott’s ‘Marmion.’

¹ Inquis. p. mort.

PRIORESSES OF BUNGAY.

Anno	
1228	Alicia.
1270	Maria.
1296	Sarah de Stafford.
1306	Elizabeth Folyoth.
1308	Margaret de Thebbryge. Maria de Castell.
1335	Katherine Falstoff.
1349	Elena Ulseworth.
1380	Katherina de Montecuto.
1396	Margaret Smallburgh.
1399	Margeria Park.
1408	Sarah Richeres.
1433	Margaret Takill, or Cabell.
1439	Emmota Roughed.
1451	Ellena Tolle.
1452	Ann Rothenhale.
1454	Emma.
1465	Margaret Dalinger.
1497	Anne Page.
1520	Elizabeth Stephenson.
1535	Cecilia Falstoffe.

There was also a Johanna, Prioress of Bungay, whose seal is engraved beneath. It represents St. John the Baptist in the usual dress, bearing the Paschal lamb on a roundel in his left hand; the right being upheld in benediction. In the base is the Prioress in the attitude of prayer.



✠ S: JOHANNÆ: PRIORISSE: DE: BUNGAY:

I have not ascertained at what time Johanna presided over the convent; but as the design of the seal would lead us to ascribe it to a period about the reign of Edward I., or possibly a little earlier, and as there is a lapse of forty-two years between the presentment of Alicia and Maria, the latter of whom was prioress in 1270, Johanna's presidency most probably occurred in the interval.

In the time of Edward I., Bungay Nunnery contained a prioress and fifteen nuns, and its revenues then amounted to £40 per annum,⁵² but at the Dissolution its inmates were reduced to a prioress and only eleven nuns. Dr. Tanner asserts from a manuscript in the library of Bennet College, Cambridge, that there were but seven nuns at that time.

The site and possessions, with all the tithes of the dissolved Priory at Bungay, were granted on the 18th of December, 1537, to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk. The grant is in capite, by the twentieth part of one knight's fee, and £6. 4s. 3d. annual rent. Its value is therein stated to be £62. 1s. 1½d.; but its gross value was returned at £72. 19s. 3d.

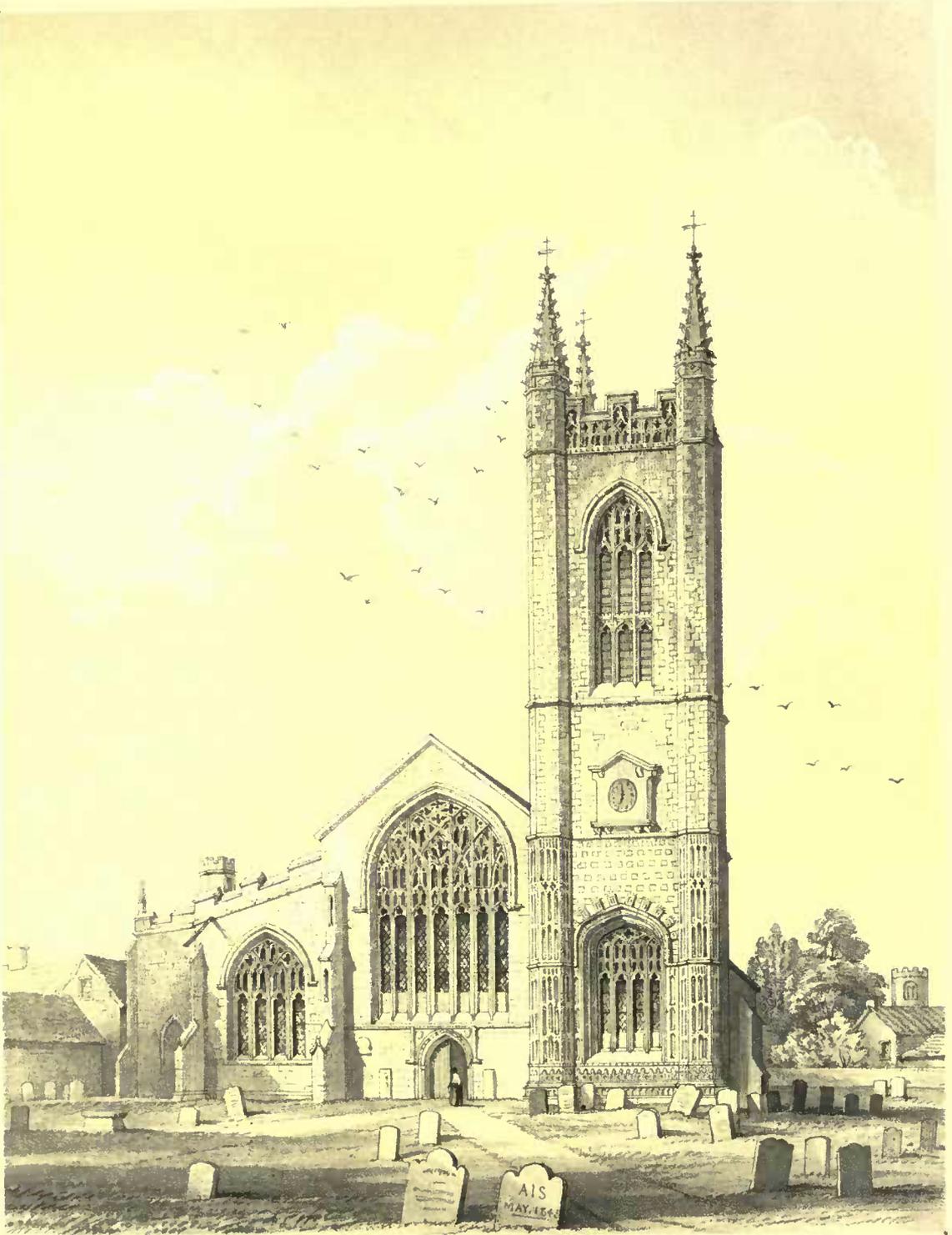
The silver seal of Maria de Huntingfeld, probably the Maria of 1270, was ploughed up in the town lands of Bungay by Mr. Valentine Lumley, who then farmed them. It was afterwards in the possession of Joseph Watson, M.D., of Harleston,⁵³ from whom it passed into the hands of Charles Garneys, Esq., of Hedenham, and from him to the late Dr. Camell, of Bungay.



✠ SIGILLUM: MARIE: DE: HUNTINGFELD.

⁵² Item advocatio prioratus de Bungeye, ubi una priorissa et xv moniales nutriantur, et valent spiritualia per annum xl lib. Inq. p. mort. 35 Ed. I. n. 46.

⁵³ Jermyn MSS.



A. T. Spink del.

F. Bedford, Litho.

The remains of Bungay Nunnery are very inconsiderable, with the exception of the conventual church. The cloisters stood on the south side of this edifice, as is evident from the doorway which led from them into the south aisle, and the ends of the oaken beams which sustained their roof, which are yet visible. The north aisle is a fine piece of flint-work, with elaborate battlements, pinnacles, and window-tracery; all of which are much corroded and injured by time. Its date is about the year 1450. This aisle was originally open to view, and perhaps formed, with the line of buildings to its eastward, the grand façade of the convent, before the modern houses in the market-place were built.⁵⁴

The chancel is in ruins, but its extent and proportions are clearly defined. At the end of this, stands a shattered wall, pierced with a few windows, and two doorways; the westernmost of which, only, is original. The part abutting upon the chancel, and diverging at a slight angle from its line, was probably a chapel; and from its position, dedicated to St. Mary. This supposition of the writer is strengthened by the fact, that by an "inquisitio ad quod damnum," held at Beccles in the forty-seventh of Edward III., provision was made to find a chaplain to perform divine service in the chapel of the Virgin Mary in the priory of Bungay.

"Rex concedat Rogero Rose et Johan Dunkon quod ipsi 2 cotag: 55 acr: terr: 8 acr: prat: et dimid: alneti cum pertinent in Ilketilishall, Metyngham, Flixton, et Dychyngham; et Rogero Longe Personæ eceliæ de Homersfield, quod ipsi unum messuag: 30 acr: terr: 2 ac: prati in Southelmham dare possint, ad inveniendum unum capellanum divina duobus diebus qualibet septimana in capellâ beatae Marie prioratus prædæ, pro animabus &c. celebratur: in perpet: et præd: mess: et ten: valent p: an: 24 solidos."

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY

was parochial, previous to the dissolution of the nunnery, as well as conventual; and probably its handsome western front, which was built subsequently to the north aisle, formed the grand approach from the town. It is yet called 'Lady Church' by old inhabitants in the place. At the great fire in 1688 it suffered considerable damage; but the statement of the Brief that it was burnt to the ground is an exaggeration. The old benches, and possibly the font—for the present one is modern—might have been consumed, as was evidently the roof of the south aisle, which was relaid and finished in 1699; but the fine oaken roof of the nave escaped. Nor were all the bells melted in the conflagration, the writer having furnished to one of the churchwardens, some years since, a translation of the old Longobardic legends which encircled two of them, which have since been re-cast. The inscription on one of them ran thus:

ROS: THOM: MERITIS: MERCAMUR: GAUDIA: LUCIS.

⁵⁴ Jermyn MSS.

The interior of this edifice is light and elegant, its clerestory being supported on each side by five columns composed of clustered shafts. The want of a chancel mars the justness of its proportions very considerably; but its greatest disfigurement is a huge and ugly altar-piece. One or two ancient piscinas have lately been laid open, but their workmanship demands no especial notice. The tower, of slender but delicate proportions, stands at the west end of the south aisle, and the massy bands of iron with which its internal columns are braced together attest the injury its foundations have sustained by an injudicious grave-digger, who nearly brought it to the ground in 1790, by excavating a vault beneath its base.

The old parish book commences in 1523, and contains the churchwardens' accounts before the Dissolution. It is a very curious record, in high preservation, and some of its entries show that many popish observances were retained at Bungay long after its nunnery was stript and ruined.

1523.	
Paid for the easse that the crosse lyethe yu	vj ^d .
It: for ij Albys washyng	ij ^d .
It: for mendyng all the surples decayid	ij ^d .
1542.	
Payd to the clark for washyn and mendyng a albe	ij ^d .
It: paid to Thomas tynkar for mendyng of ye grete laten candelstyeke	xij ^d .
It: paid for mendyng of ye best crosse	ij ^d .
P ^d for ffettyng the brassen leeterne from Metyngham	iiij ^d .

The last entry proves that the good people of Bungay had taste enough to procure and employ an elegant piece of church furniture, which the inhabitants of Mettingham disregarded.

'The brassen leeterne' was, I presume, brought from the chapel of the dissolved college there; an edifice fitted up in most elegant style. Subsequent fanaticism, however, has failed to spare what the rough hands of the reformers left uninjured.

The following armorial bearings formerly ornamented the windows of this church.

Ufford, sab., a cross engrailed or. Kenton, sable, a chev. arg. between 3 cinque-foils or.

Fitz-Otes, az., 4 bars or, a canton erm. quartering

Knivett, arg., a bend sable.

Montacute, erm., 3 fusils in fess gules.

. a bord. az. charged with 8 martlets or.⁵⁵

Monuments.—In 1612 there was a stone for Reginald Barrow.⁵⁶

⁵⁵ Jermyn MSS., from MS. church notes by Sir John Blois.

⁵⁶ Id.

Reginald Brown, Gent., died Jan. 2, 1767. Arms, arg. on a bend az. 3 eagles displayed or.

Richard Nelson, Gent., died Dec. 2, 1727. Arms, per pale arg. and sab. a chev. between 3 fleurs-de-lis counterchanged.

Robert Scales, who gave the organ to the church, died Nov. 7, 1732.

James Browne, Gent., died Jan. 9, 1755.

Henry Williams, died May 25, 1768, aged 79.

Edward Cooper, late surgeon in Bungay, died March 31, 1764. Arms, az. a tortoise, pale-wise, or.

Valentine Lumley, Clerk, died April 26, 1794, aged 70.

Thomas Bewicke, Clerk, died Feb. 7, 1842, aged 74. Arms, arg. 5 lozenges in fess gul., each charged with a mullet of the first, between 3 bears' heads erased sab.

Gregory Clarke, Gent., died May 10, 1725. Arms, arg. on a bend gules 3 swans prop. between as many pellets.

John Davie, D.D., Master of Sidney Sussex Coll., Camb., died Oct. 8, 1813, aged 36.

Lancelot Davie, died Oct. 9, 1816, aged 33.

Thomas Bardwell, portrait painter, died Sept. 9, 1767, aged 63.

Bungay St. Mary, as a benefice, has been a perpetual curacy only, since the dissolution of the nunnery.

PERPETUAL CURATES OF BUNGAY ST. MARY.

Curates.	Date.	Patrons.
William Baker . . .		
Harry Anstis . . .	1762	Earl of Effingham.
Peter Forster . . .	1766	Sequestrator.
J. Paddon . . .	1814	
Thomas Sworde . . .	1823	
George Glover . . .	1830	

The church contains 846 sittings, of which 216 are free.

Among the plates in the fourth volume of Betham's 'Baronetage of England' is the representation of a very curious and rich "Atchievement of Le Seneschal de Buxton, Seneschal of Bourdeaux, temp. Ric. II.," which was taken from the priory of Bungay in the time of Henry VIII. The writer requested permission of the family to have it re-engraved for the present work, but not having been favoured with an answer to his application, he does not consider himself at liberty to enrich his volume with this desirable illustration.

THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

was early appropriated to the Nunnery, and being an appendage, probably fell with it. It was standing, and in use in 1500, but has been so long down, that its site is not exactly known. According to the Norwich Domesday Book, it paid an annual rent of £1. 8s. 1*d.* to the prior of St. Olave at Herringfleet.

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

The circular tower of this church is, probably, as ancient as the reign of Edward the Confessor, and a careful survey of its interior will amply repay the student of ecclesiastical architecture. It was much damaged some years ago, by lightning, which split the walls, and melted all the bells but one, which remains the solitary occupant of the belfry. It is encircled by the following legend in old characters :

FAC: MARGARETE: NOBIS: MEC: SUPERA: LETA.

It appears by the churchwardens' books that a large bell was made for this tower in 1566, which cost £8. 10s., and weighed 25 cwt., except 10 lbs. It was sold in 1755 by John Meen and William Pell for £82. 7s. 6*d.*, and the produce applied towards enlarging the church. The octangular parapet of this ancient tower is enriched with eight shields bearing the armorial cognizances of Bigot, Brotherton, Montacute, Beauchamp, Westminster, Edward the Confessor, Bury, or Norwich See, and Spencer, Bishop of Norwich. Some of them commemorate families and individuals once powerful here.

The church to which this tower is attached exhibits marks of considerable antiquity; but neither its keeping nor condition can merit commendation. It comprises a very lofty nave, divided from a south aisle by clustered columns with plain moulded capitals, which sustain pointed arches. This aisle was probably erected by the Bardolphs, as their arms are cut in stone on its western angle.

There are two very lofty and wide windows, which occupy the greater part of the north wall of the nave. They contain perpendicular tracery; as do the other lights in the church, except the east window, which is below criticism.

The ruins of the chancel were removed in 1754, or the following year. The part of the church now used as such is *deemed* a chancel only, as appears by the churchwardens' books. Before the chancel was ruined, a screen was erected about 1558; for in that year the 'Churchreeves' paid to Robert Bateman for timber, work, and meat, for making a partition between the church and chancel, 13s. 4*d.* It is said that this chancel perished by fire.

The only elegant fitting now in this edifice is the pulpit, which is finely carved out of brown oak, and dates as high as Queen Elizabeth's reign. In the Churchreeve's books is a charge of 5*s.* paid in 1558 "for making the pulpit;" but I think this could scarcely have been completed, even then, for so small a sum.

This church possesses no font, its use being supplied by a wooden moveable stool; though there is little cause, perhaps, to lament its disappearance, disreputable as is its successor. It could not have been very elegant, for we learn, from the authority above quoted, that in 1558 the churchwardens "paid the mason and his lad for 3 days work making the font, wages and meat, 3*s.* 9*d.*" In the centre of the church is a large faculty pew, now the property of Mrs. Barlee, but granted in 1705 to her ancestor, Gregory Clarke, and his successors for ever, as proprietor and occupier of a mansion near Duke's-bridge. The gallery over gallery erected at the end of the nave of this church shows how serious an injury the pew system has proved to the interests of religion. Before the Reformation the two parishes of St. Mary and Trinity buried their dead in Trinity church-yard, the former parish having no cemetery; the present burial ground being then the private property of the Priory. The public road, which now separates the two church-yards, was a foot-path only till within a very few years, and has been abstracted from Trinity church-yard. No hole can be dug in this road without disturbing human bones, and there is reason to think that the garden which now abuts upon the south side of Trinity church was once also a receptacle for the dead.

In the "Churchreeve's Books" which I have already quoted, are several notices deserving of extract, which I here introduce.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
"1558. Received a legacy given by Mr. Edwards towards building the church: God pardon his soul: and from many others for the said purpose in money, wheat and malt	13	4
Paid Thomas Codd for two great latten candlesticks to stand before the altar	1	2 0
Paid to the stainer for repairing an image of the Trinity		8

This reparation of an emblem deemed by the reformers to be especially papistical is strangely contrasted by the zeal displayed in the following entry.

"1558. Paid for stopping up the place where the holy water steps (Qu. ? stoups) stood by the church door	7	½
Paid for writing diverse things of the service into the book of common-prayer		20 ^d .
Paid for the great bible	13	4
Paid for a book of the commands that was sit on the wall	1	6

Next follow some interesting entries respecting the "Church Ale-games," a species of saturnalia which formerly disgraced our Sabbaths.

	£.	s.	d.
“ 1566. Received the collection at the church Ale-game on Trinity Sunday, when Mr. Hesson did procure his neighbours of Beccles and other places to come	17	1	1
Borrowed apparell, late my Lord of Surry's, for the Interlude. Provisions for the Interlude	4	6	¼
For the church Ale-game	1	3	8

There is a singular mixture of the mournful and the ludicrous in thus beholding the “apparell late my Lord of Surry's,” figuring at the interlude of an ale-game. The fair Geraldine, shrouded in romance—the genius—the untimely end of the accomplished “Lord of Surry”—the tyranny of his heartless monarch—all crowd into the imagination to be expelled by the buffoonery of a country clown! “To what base uses we may return.”

	£.	s.	d.
“ 1567. Expences for the interlude this year	4	14	7¼
“ 1568. Collected at the game in the castle yard	20	0	6¼
Paid for making a communion cup of a chalice	14	11	
Received of Edwards all the game players gowns and coats, made of old copes			
Received for old copes sold	2	3	7
“ 1587. Paid Thomas King for blotting out ‘Pray for the souls’ in the glass window			3
“ 1588. Paid for a quart of wine that was sent to Mr. Linnaker on Good Friday, when he preached to Mr. Throgmorton			8
Paid a year's whipping the dogs out of the church	1	4	
Paid at the court at Beccles for not punishing those which kept not their church	2	0	
“ 1591. Received for the players coats	5	0	

There was, before the Reformation, a much venerated image of Henry VI. in this church; for in 1502 Agnes Hamond bequeathed “a hedkirche of hemp cloth to kovyr with gode King Harry in the church of the Trinity, Bungay.”

Monuments.—The most ancient and interesting is a small brass plate on the floor of the aisle, inscribed to the memory of Margaret Dalinger, formerly Prioress of Bungay, who died about the year 1497.

Orate p̄ aīa dñe Margarete Dalinger nup̄ p̄orissa īstis loci.

“Captain Thomas Stanton, formerly commander of the good ship *Returne*, to and from Surat in East India, who by his indefatigable industry made y^e said voyage in twelve months: the like not done by any since. In his returne he fought and beat a Dutch man of war, and brought y^e said ship (to his never dying fame) safe into the river Thames.” He died at Bungay 30th of April, 1691, aged 67 years.

“Major-Gen. Kelso, late Colonel of the 1st Royal Veteran Batt., died Oct. 13, 1823, aged 63. This lamented officer served his king and country 43 years in every quarter of the globe, with distinguished honour and credit. Was at the capture of St. Eustatia in 1781; the naval action off the Chesapeak; and in those under Lord Rodney on the

9th and 12th of April, 1782, and was at the capture of Martinique, Guadaloupe, and St. Lucie; and at the reduction of the Mauritius had the honour of being nominated to the command of a brigade."

There is a monument to the Rev. Thomas Wilson, and Catharine his wife, with their arms. Wilson: per pale, az. and arg. 3 gambs erased, bar-wise, counterchanged; impaling or, 3 bars sable, and a canton gules. This learned divine was nearly forty years Vicar of this parish, and left a legacy to Baliol College, Oxford, of which he had been a distinguished tutor.

Matthias Kerrison, Esq., died April 12, 1827, aged 85. Mary his wife died March 15th, 1812, aged 65. Kerrison bears, or, on a pile az. 3 pheons of the field, and bears Barnes in pretence. Arg. 2 bars counter-crenellated gules: in chief 3 tourteauxes.

This benefice, having been granted by Hamon Bardolph, of Ilketshall, about the middle of the thirteenth century to the Canons of Barlings in Lincolnshire, shared the fate of the other churches in this town, and sunk into a vicarage. The grant of Hamon, with the confirmations of his successors, is contained among the Cotton MSS. in the British Museum. The nomination to the vicarage was part of the ancient revenues of the See of Norwich, taken from it by the Act of twenty-seventh Henry VIII., 1535, and given to the King.⁵⁷ On the 17th of June, 1600, Queen Elizabeth granted to Martin, Bishop of Ely, and his successors, the rectory of Bungay Trinity, valued at £4.⁵⁸ The impropriation, with the presentation to the vicarage, is still with the See of Ely.

In 1506, Trinity Church was held with Rainham St. Margaret's in Norfolk, by union.

VICARS OF BUNGAY HOLY TRINITY.

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
Sequestration of the Vicar .	1308	
Robert Hausted . . .	1308	The Bishop, by lapse.
Robert Somerton . . .	1311	Nomination of the Bishop, and presentation of the Abbey of Barlyngs.
William de Lopham . . .	1314	Id.
John, son of Thomas de Walpole	1324	Id.
Oliver de Braddeley . . .	1330	Id.
Roger Rose	1349	The Bishop, by lapse, eo quod Abbas et Conv: de Barlyngs præsentare recusarunt juxta nominationem eis factam.

⁵⁷ Blomefield.

⁵⁸ From Queen Elizabeth's grant to Bishop Heton.

ANTIQUITIES OF THE

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
Roger Blase . . .	1381	Nom ⁿ . of Bishop, and presentation of Convent.
John Sparwe . . .	1388	Id.
John Hereward . . .	1392	Id.
John Bakere . . .	1393	Id.
John Hyrde . . .	1401	Id.
Robert Keudaunt . . .	1437	Id.
John Baxter . . .	1462	Id.
Alexander Blenkinsop . . .	1479	Id.
Robert Nicolasson . . .	1489	Id.
Oliver Goodreston . . .	1521	The Bishop, quia recusar: nominare.
Richard Dalyson . . .	1538	Ad præes: assig: Dni Norw: Epi, veri patroni.
William Stallon . . .	1555	The Crown.
Nicholas Lincoln . . .	1561	Id.
Roger Tyller . . .	1575	Id.
William Johnson . . .	1583	Id.
Edward Blencorn . . .	1592	Id.
Christopher Smith . . .	1602	Id.
Robert Chapman . . .	1631	Id.
Nicholas Judd . . .	1638	The Bishop of Ely.
William Pix . . .	1640	Id.
Thomas Ralph . . .		Id.
Samuel Slipper . . .	1667	Id.
Samuel Crisp . . .	1681	Id.
Charles Cock . . .	1688	Id.
Thomas Wilson . . .	1733	Id.
Thomas Walker . . .	1735	Id.
Thomas Wilson . . .	1736	Id.
William Oldham . . .	1774	Id.
Herring Thomas . . .	1795	Id.
Edward Benezet . . .	1803	Id.
Thomas Collyer . . .	1834	Id.

Estimatio ecclie xvi marc: Estimatio Vicariæ vi marc: Synodal: ii^s. ii^d. Denarij S. Petri, vi^d. ob.

The registers of Trinity parish commence in 1557. There is also an old register book dated 1541, in the parish chest, which belonged to some other church. It could not, however, have been the record of the parish of St. Thomas in this town, as the church there was in ruins when this register book commences.

THE SCHOOL.

There was a Grammar-School at Bungay previous to the year 1592, and Thomas Popson, whose name is usually spelt Popeson, M. A., and formerly Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, was master in that year. By indenture dated the 16th of January,

thirty-fourth Elizabeth, Thomas Popson, M. A., then schoolmaster at Bungay, granted to the master, fellows, and scholars of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, a yearly rent of £ 4, during the life of himself and his wife; and after their decease a yearly rent of £ 6, out of his messuages and premises called Monks, and out of two pieces of land, on each of which a tenement had been erected; one being a close of $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and the other a small pightle in Bungay; and the then feoffees of the town lands thereby also granted to the said master, fellows, and scholars, a yearly rent of £ 6, out of their close called Copilles' Close in Hempnall, containing by estimation 50 acres; and in consideration thereof the master, fellows, and scholars, covenanted that they would allow to every scholar, placed in any of the ten scholarships in Emmanuel College, of the foundation of Sir Walter Mildmay, Knt., therein mentioned, 4*d.* weekly, and that the ten scholars should have such privileges and advantages as therein mentioned, and that when any of the ten scholarships should be vacant, the master and fellows should give notice thereof to the schoolmaster of Bungay school, and the chief constable of Bungay; that the vacancies might be yearly supplied, &c.

The messuages, lands, and premises were conveyed by deed of indenture of feoffment of the 26th of May, 1592, pursuant to covenants contained in a second deed, dated 20th April, thirty-fourth of Elizabeth. By a deed dated 29th Sept., 1728, which recited the deed of the 16th of January, thirty-fourth of Elizabeth, and that the school had for several years been entirely neglected, and in a manner lost, the feoffees granted to the master, fellows, and scholars of Emmanuel College, the yearly rents of £ 6, and £ 6 before mentioned, and the master, fellows, and scholars covenanted to send such a sufficient person to be schoolmaster to teach the scholars there, and to take bond from him in £ 200, to be made to the churchwardens of Bungay, for duly teaching the scholars, &c.; and it was agreed that if the master, &c., should neglect to send down a schoolmaster after any vacancy, and after four months' notice, the feoffees should nominate a schoolmaster, and the master, fellows, &c., should lose their nomination of that time. By a deed dated 1st March, 1728, Henry Williams, for the love and affection which he bore to the town of Bungay, and for the better support of a schoolmaster there, &c., granted unto certain trustees, and their heirs, the perpetual advowson and right of presentation to the vicarage of St. Andrew Ilketshall, upon trust, that they should present the schoolmaster of the town of Bungay, as parson or vicar of the said parish church.

In consequence of the smallness of their endowment, the ten scholarships are now reduced to four. Robert Scales, by will dated 4th November, 1728, devised certain lands and tenements in St. Laurence Ilketshall to the master, if he should be a minister of the church of England, to read prayers every Wednesday and Friday mornings, and teach poor boys of the town, approved by the trustees, not exceeding ten.

Popson drew up certain ordinances and rules for the government of his school, some of which are curious. "Some of the hygest forme shall weekly, by course, instruct the first forme, both in their accidence, and also in giving them copies to write, &c.;" from which it appears, that the *monitorial* system, about the *invention* of which there was so much contention between Bell and Lancaster, in the nineteenth century, was prescribed and acted upon by Popson at Bungay as long ago as the sixteenth century.

The town of Bungay has given name to many of her sons who are recorded in the pages of history.

In 1239, Remer de Bungeye was Sheriff of Bungay, and in 1250 the King granted to Lambert de Leges, that of £4. 15s., which were due to him of the debt of this Remer, he should receive of Lambert one mark annually.⁵⁹

Reginald de Bungay was Lord Mayor of London in 1241 and 1242.

In 1286, Jeffrey de Bungay was Sheriff of Norwich. Thomas de Bongecic or Bungay died in 1290. He was D. D. of Oxford, and going to Paris, was there perfected in the same degree with great applause; after which he became logical professor at Oxford.

Roger de Bungay was Rector of Whepstead in 1349. In 1452, Nicholas Bungay, a Carmelite friar, on the union of Peterson Priory to that of Walsingham, was presented to the rectory of Beeston in Norfolk. In 1497, Thomas Bungay was Vicar of Freethorp. When Shelfanger was resigned in the twenty-eighth of Henry VIII. to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, Robert Bungay was prior. The chaplain of Guildhall Chapel, Norwich, received 2s. yearly for celebrating an annual for the soul of Robert Bungeye, from a tenement, late the said Robert's, in the nether row.⁶⁰

Richard Belward, of Pembroke College, Cambridge, died in a farm-house of his own in Bungay, in concealment. He was concerned with the Lords Balmerino and Cromartie, in trying to effect the restoration of the Stuarts in 1745. He escaped, and remained an exile for years: after some time he ventured to return to this country, and live upon this small remnant of his estate in seclusion.⁶¹

Mrs. Chalker, an inhabitant of Bungay, died there about ten years since, aged 103 years.

The population of Bungay amounted in

1803 to	2349
1812	2828
1821	3290
1841	4109
	St. Mary, 1861 } Trinity, 2248 }

In 1593, Thomas Wingfield devised £170 to be laid out in the purchase of a rent-

⁵⁹ Rot. Fin. 34 Hen. III. m. 2.

⁶⁰ Blomefield.

⁶¹ MSS. Mrs. Barlee.

charge of £10 a year, and directed that out of the same the following payments should be made. £5 per annum for the help of necessitous people in Bungay; 10s. a year for an anniversary sermon; 40s. a year for raising a stock to be lent in small sums to tradesmen; and 10s. to be bestowed on his funeral day, yearly, in good cheer, for such of the feoffees as should be present; and the residue to the use of two poor scholars in Cambridge. In 1712, Henry Webster devised his acre of land in Parnow Meadow, in Ditchingham, for teaching poor children to read and write; and Henry Smith gave a portion of rent, which for the year 1828 was £36. 12s. 8d., and the amount is distributed in bread among poor persons.

Christian Wharton, in 1577, by will, directed the persons enfeoffed of her five almshouses in the parish of the Holy Trinity to dwell therein, and take the profits of the same while they should dwell there. These almshouses consist of five small tenements under one roof, and are occupied rent free by poor widows. There are also church lands belonging to each parish, and several minor charities, the aggregate amount of which, arising from various sources, is about £470 per annum. The town lands are vested in, or under the management of, the Townreeve, and feoffees of the town or town lands of Bungay.

FARTHINGS, OR TRADESMEN'S TOKENS RELATING TO BUNGAY.

- No. 1.—Ob., arms of the Company of Brewers, circumscribed * THOMAS NOWELL.
Rev., in the centre T. N., circumscribed * IN BUNGAY. 1660.
- No. 2.—Ob., in the centre T. W., circumscribed ⊕ THOMAS : WALCOTT.
Rev. ,, T. W. ,, OF : BUNGAY. 1660.
- No. 3.—Ob., in the centre a castle, circumscribed BIGGOTTS+IN . BONGAY.
Rev. ,, T. T. (town token) 1664, circumscribed FOR CHANGE NOT FRAUDE.
- No. 4.—Ob., in the centre arms of Drapers' Company, circumscribed * HENRY WEBSTER IN
Rev. ,, $\begin{matrix} W \\ HI \end{matrix}$,, * BUNGAY DRAPER. 67.
- No. 5.—Ob., in the centre arms of Grocers' Company, circumscribed * HENRY BLOMFIELD
Rev. ,, $\begin{matrix} B \\ HI \end{matrix}$,, * OF BUNGAY. 1670.

A seal, supposed to relate to the foundation of one of the churches at Bungay, was lately in the possession of Mr. James Fenner, who formerly kept the White Lion Inn at Eye. The matrix is of brass, and excellently preserved. The figures represented are the Virgin and Child, the former seated on a throne, the child on her lap. In the front of them is a monk in the attitude of prayer, from whose mouth are issuing the words "Ave M.; Hail Maria!" The circumscription is very obscure, but is thus read by the Rev. Mr. Duck, a Roman Catholic clergyman of Bungay: "Sigillum propitiæ ecclesiæ et pendentibus de Beongei;"—the seal of her propitious to the church, and

those relying on her. This reading is very ingenious, but I fear the letters are not sufficiently clear to warrant this version altogether, though I confess I have no better interpretation to offer.



	A.	R.	P.
St. Mary's parish contains			
Arable, pasture, wood, and buildings	867	3	29
Public roads and waste	14	2	12
Half the river	2	2	24
	885	0	25
Holy Trinity parish contains			
Arable, pasture, &c.	1301	3	29
Roads, &c.	25	2	18
Half the river	4	3	8
	1332	1	15
Outney Common	401	3	31
Half the river	7	2	27
	409	2	18
Stow fen	87	2	27
Half the river	1	1	20
	89	0	7
Total	2716	0	25

Gross Rent-Charge payable to the Titheowners in lieu of Tithes for the Parish of Bungay Trinity, in the County of Suffolk (including £ 2. 3s. 6d. for appropriate Tithe of Glebe, at 5s. per acre; and 7s. 2d. for Vicarial Tithe of Glebe, at 9d. per acre), £ 347. 7s., viz. :

		£.	s.	d.	
	To the Vicar	75	2	8	
	Appropriator	242	11	6	
Total Rent-Charge paid to Impropiators	{	William Denny, Impropiator	21	7	0
		The Rev. Courtenay Boyle Bruce	0	13	0
		The Devises of John Cuddon	1	5	4
		Frances Barlee	2	9	6
		The heirs of Robert Butcher	0	14	0
		The Duke of Norfolk	3	4	0
		£ 347	7	0	

ILKETSHALL ST. JOHN.

This is a small parish, containing about 740 acres of land, with a population of only 71 souls, according to the last census. It is now the manor of the Rev. Jeremy Day, of Hetherset.

The advowson of St. John's Church was conveyed in the year 1267, by Sir James de Ilketshall, with one acre of land, which he held of Robert de Meynwayn, to the Prioress of Bungay; whose successor, with monastic rapacity, obtained its appropriation in 1307, as has been already shown. It passed with the other possessions of Bungay Nunnery, in the sixteenth century, to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, and lapsed to the Crown, on the attainder of his unfortunate grandson, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. It has never been re-granted; and is one of the Crown livings in the patronage of the Lord Chancellor.

There is an ancient and singular intrenchment in this parish, about three quarters of a mile eastward of the church, which consists of a conical hill encircled by a moat, and strengthened with a breastwork and outer ditch on the south. The hill, which is now not more than fifteen feet high, is about ninety feet in diameter at the base; and the breastwork measures one hundred and eighty-six feet, from east to west, which is its greatest extent, projecting only one hundred and eleven to the south. The whole site is closely planted with trees and underwood. Though decidedly not a Roman work, its position near the Roman road, called Stone-street, proves it to have been a speculatory fort, some how or other connected with that military way. It was

probably raised by the Danes, who had a more important fortress on the north side of the river, at Earsham. A spoon, part of a brooch, and a spur, all of brass, have been dug up on the mound, but they are of an age many centuries posterior to the Danish dynasty in England.

The church is a small unpretending edifice, comprising a nave and chancel only, with a square tower at the west end, open to the body of the church. The whole fabric is in sound condition, and most reputably kept. In the tower is one bell with this legend :

Sancte Petre, ora pro me.

A lancet window on the north side of the chancel shows this to be the very edifice existing when the benefice was granted to the Nuns of Bungay. The font is octangular, and bears the arms of Mowbray and Bigot.

Monuments.—Thomas Colman, celebrated for his virtues, hospitality, and devotion in God's house of prayer, fell asleep without sigh or groan, Feb. 18, 1695.

Richard Chase, M.A., Minister of this parish, and Rector of Hempstead cum Lessingham, and Ellingham in Norfolk, died March 23, 1785, aged 70 years.

Samuel Crisp, A.M., Rector of this parish and Ellingham, died July 4, 1717, aged 69.

Ann, relict of John Gooch, of Bungay, was buried Sept. 3, 1679.

In the church-yard are altar-tombs for Richard Day, Gent., of Yoxford, who died May 2, 1811, aged 40. Cath^e. his wife died 13th August in the same year, aged 36. Richard Day, Gent., died Sept. 16, 1802, aged 55 years. Sarah his wife died Jan. 10, 1818, aged 69.

RECTORS OF ILKETSHALL ST. JOHN.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Sim. de Birston . . .	1301	Prioress and Convent of Bungay.
Roger de Kenyngton . . .	1325	Id.
Richard de Melton . . .	1329	Id.
Simon Blakeman . . .	1329	Id.
Robert Serle . . .	1341	Id.
Alex. de Boyne de Beccles	1351	Id.
John Heved de N. Burlingham	1356	Id.
John Pryk . . .	1380	Id.
William Cukhoohoe . . .	1408	Id.
William Botyed de Depham	1415	Id.
Thomas Porter . . .	1435	Id.
Robert Rethford . . .	1460	Id.
William Savey . . .	1462	Id.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
John Hardy . . .	1470	Prioress and Convent of Bungay.
Robert Coseler . . .	1480	Id.
William Spicer . . .	1538	Thomas, Duke of Norfolk.
Robert Hunne . . .	1554	Id.
John Greffith . . .	1555	The King and Queen.
John Leake . . .	1575	William Dix and Will. Cautrell.
Alexander Smith . . .	1579	The Crown.
Clement Bacon . . .	1608	Id.
Abraham Swallow . . .	1609	Id.
Richard Hawys . . .	1626	Id.
Amyas Readinge . . .	1626	Id., revoking the Institution of Hawys.
Michael Adams . . .	1661	
Jonathan Brideoake . . .	1664	Id.
Thomas Castles . . .	1674	Id.
John Pyke . . .	1680	Id.
Samuel Crispe . . .	1687	Id.
Samuel Batho . . .	1717	Id.
John Mingay . . .	1738	Id.
Richard Chase . . .	1761	Id.
William Walker . . .	1786	Id.
William Walker, 2nd time	1820	Id.
Russel Richards . . .	1832	Id.
George Henry Bosanquet . . .	1835	Id.
Charles James Hutton . . .	1837	Id.

Estimatio ejusdem xiiij marc: Synodalia per an: ix^d. Denarij S. Petri, iv^d. ob.

The parish registers commence in 1538.

ILKETSHALL ST. LAURENCE.

Chief part of this parish lies in Sir Windham Dalling's manor of Ilketshall Bardolph. I can discover no traces of the old Bardolph Hall.

There is also a manor called Ilketshall Seckford, which, about the year 1600, belonged to Isaac Cooper, Esq., who had his seat here; for Judith Eachard, widow, by her will, dated June 27, 1657, authorized John Eachard, Gent., and Laurence Eachard, Clerk, of Yoxford, her executors, to sell "all that her manor of Ilketshall Seckford, and all her capital messuage thereupon built, situate and being in the parish of St. Laurence in Ilketshall, &c., which were devised to her by the last will and testament of Isaac

Cooper, late of St. Laurence aforesaid, Esq., her late deceased father." In 1662, the executors surrendered to John Vynar, Gent.; and in 1671, Richard Vynar, his brother and heir, was admitted.

In 1696, Samuel Pycroft, Clerk, and in 1710, Samuel his son, were lords.⁶²

In 1672, Sir Edward Bysshe, Clarenceux, granted or confirmed to this family of Eachard the following arms: Erm. on a bend azure 3 chessrooks or;⁶³ but as their predecessors at Barsham bore the charges, as given in that parish, they were probably at that time assumptive.

THE CHURCH

of this parish was appropriated to the Priory of Bungay by the Countess Gundreda, its foundress, in the reign of Henry II., and became at the Dissolution a perpetual curacy of the certified value of £ 5. 12s. 4d. Its revenues were then granted to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk. Anthony Style, Gent., died in 1739, impropiator of the great and small tithes, allowing a stipend of £ 5 per annum to the curate, "according to ancient custom," who officiated once a month, and performed other occasional duty. In 1810, James Chapman was the impropiator. The benefice has been twice augmented with Queen Anne's bounty, by which means an estate has been purchased which yields to the officiating minister £15 per annum, after paying taxes and repairing the premises; and an additional estate in Toperoft, in Norfolk, which renders about £28 per annum; in consideration of which increase of salary the minister performed divine service, in 1801, once a fortnight. Service is now performed here every Sunday, in the morning and afternoon, alternately; and the fabric of the church, which a few years since was in a most woeful and disreputable condition, has been repaired and restored to a neat and creditable state. The present impropiator is the Rev. Jeremy Day, of Hetherset, in Norfolk, and the incumbent the Rev. James Cutting Safford, of Mettingham, who is also the patron of the perpetual curacy.

The church comprises a small nave and chancel with a square tower, in which hang two bells. On a brass plate on the floor of the nave is the following legend:

Here under lieth the bodie of Richard Beetes, who departed this life the 8 of Februarie in the yeare of our Lord 1613.

Maria Doggett, daughter of James Chapman, of Bungay, died October 18, 1819, aged 10 years.

The registers commence in 1559.

⁶² Jermyn MSS.

⁶³ Harl. MSS. 1103.

PERPETUAL CURATES OF ILKETSHALL ST. LAURENCE.

Curates.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas Lubbock . . .		
Valentine Lumley . . .	1754	John Strange, Yeoman.
Thomas Reeve . . .	1794	Mr. James Chapman.
Henry Stebbing . . .	1824	Henry Stebbing, Clk.
Henry Stebbing, 2nd time	1826	Id.
Edward Barker Frere . .	1830	John Hanbury Williams, Esq.
James Cutting Safford . .	1840	Elizabeth Chartres.

Estimatur ad xl^s. Synodalia per ann: xij^d. Denarij S. Petri, iv^d.

Population, in 1841, 221.

ILKETSHALL ST. MARGARET

contains 2088 acres, 2 roods, and 16 perches of heavy but fertile land, with a population of 315 souls.

On the 3rd of March, twenty-sixth of Queen Elizabeth, Philip Chapman, alias Barker, of Sibton, Gent., in consideration of a certain sum of money, not mentioned, did grant, bargain, sell, &c., unto William Gooche, the elder, John Gooch, the elder, Edward Woodville, the elder, John Cory, the elder, William Gooch, the younger, Robert Gooch, and others, owners of estates lying in St. Margaret Ilketshall, "all those two pieces of land and pasture, adjoining, containing in the whole by estimation 30 acres; be there more or less; lying and being in Peasenhall, aforesaid, &c., to hold, &c., to the said Gooche, &c., their heirs and assigns for ever, upon trust, and to be feoffees for the whole of the inhabitants of the said parish of St. Margaret Ilketshall; that with the issues and profits of the premises, such books and ornaments, meet and convenient for the service of God, which the inhabitants of the parish were bound to find, might be provided—the parish church of the said parish decently and orderly repaired—the old, poor, and aged and impotent people of the said parish charitably relieved, and other charges and burdens of the said parish borne and defrayed."⁶⁴

Henry Smith, Esq., by deed, dated January 26th, 1626, devised a gift to be bestowed in clothing, bread, flesh, or fish, among the poor of the parish of St. Margaret Ilketshall, who have been inhabitants above five years. There is a clause excluding from the benefits of this donation, "any who are guilty of excessive drinking, or profane

⁶⁴ Jermyn MSS.

swearing, pilfering, and other scandalous crimes; or are vagrants, or idle persons, or have been incorrigible when servants, or do entertain inmates.”—“But if any clothing be given, it shall be in upper garments, on the right arm of which shall be a badge with the letters H.S., that it may be known to be the gift of the said Henry Smith.” Is not this sounding a trumpet before thee, when thou doest thine alms? “Upon default of any of the conditions in this bequest being fulfilled, the parish is to lose the benefit of this charity for one yeare.” The estates charged with this donation are situated at Tolleshunt Darcy, in Essex, and produce about £4 per annum.

THE CHURCH

comprises a nave and chancel without aisles, and an ancient round tower at the west end, in which are three bells. The edifice was covered till very lately with thatch, scarcely water-proof, which has recently given place to slate. The interior is neat, and reputedly kept, but the fittings far inferior to what they should be, in a church so well endowed as this is. The fabric is probably very ancient, though the windows partake of the perpendicular character; and the only remarkable feature it possesses is the rather curious stone which forms the lintel of the chancel doorway. There is a narrow arch, now built up in the east wall, which probably led in former days to a chapel now destroyed. The family of Hunne, or Hunn, were formerly of some importance here, and bore for arms, a lion ramp. guardant.

Susanna, Thomæ Hun, gen. conjux, obiit 28 Decemb. 1658, æt. 28. Tobias, ejusdem Thomæ et Susannæ filius, obt. Decem. 14, 1680, æt. 22.

Maria, Thomæ Hunn, gen. conjux, obiit 26 Feb. 1683, æt. 45.

Thomas Hunne, gen. obiit 5 Aug., 1689, æt. 56.

Charles Pinson, Gent., died a widower, September 1st, 1786, aged 78.

The great tithes of this parish having been appropriated to Bungay Nunnery on its first foundation, the benefice has ever since been a vicarage. The impropriation is now in the family of Patteson. The great and small tithes are both commuted; the former for a rent-charge of £528, and the latter for £121. 10s. There are 40 acres and 23 perches of glebe land, belonging to the vicar; and £15 per annum are payable to the Rector of St. John Ilkeshall, as the value of his great and small tithes for 68 acres, 1 rood, and 29 perches of land lying in this parish. The parish registers commence in 1538.

VICARS OF ILKETSHALL ST. MARGARET.

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
William Aleman . . .	1313	Prioress and Convent of Bungay.
Richard de Rattlesden . .	1313	Id.
Richard de Wortham . . .	1323	Id.
William Thornekyn de Colkirk	1327	Id.
Philip Grenlyng de Yakesly	1333	Id.
Reg. Bishop		
Hugo Cleres de Dychingham	1351	Id.
Robert Waryner de Ryburgh	1374	Id.
Hugo de Cantasthorp . . .	1375	Id.
Barth. Beneyt	1378	Id.
Roger de Berneby	1381	Id.
Walter, fil. Gilbert de Tilney	1383	Id.
John de Middleton	1388	Id.
John Cappe	1394	Id.
John Norman de Beston . .	1395	Id.
Galf. Crow de Wyrtingham	1418	Id.
William Skirbek de Multon	1421	Id.
Robert Richardson	1453	Id.
William Warnyr	1457	The Bishop, by lapse.
William Warnyr	1458	Id.
John ———	1466	Id.
Leon Goldbeter		
Robert Wilson	1504	Prioress and Convent of Bungay.
William Tomson	1513	The Bishop, by lapse.
William Boys	1541	Rich ^d . Wharton, Arm. assign. Prioress. et Conv.
John Greffith	1554	Thomas, Duke of Norfolk.
Richard Mericocke	1557	Id.
Thomas Gooche	1567	Id.
Robert Richardson	1570	Id.
Richard Bradley	1572	The Bishop, by lapse.
William Buck		
Hugo Ashley	1576	Will. Dix and Will. Cautrell.
Alexander Shipdham	1625	The Earl of Arundell and Surrey.
John Strowger		
Eliazar Sheene	1663	Henry Howard.
Henry Fenton	1679	Henry, Duke of Norfolk.
John Hacon	1694	Charles, Duke of Somerset.
William Evans	1731	John Anstis, Garter King at Arms.
Valentine Lumley	1755	Valentine Lumley.
John Clement Ives	1794	The Duke of Norfolk.
Patrick Ballinghall Beath . .	1812	Id.

Estimatio ecclie xvij marc: estimatio Vicariæ illius vj marc. Synodalia per ann: ii^s. viij^d. Denarij S. Petri, xvj^d.

Mettingham.

THE name of this village in Domesday Book is Metingabam ; and in subsequent records it is written Metynham, and finally Mettingham. It is a compound of three Saxon words, signifying a village or dwelling place situated near low meadows.

The higher part of this parish lies on a range of hills forming the southern boundary of the valley of the Waveney, and commands a pleasant prospect over the meadows below, and the opposite hills on the Norfolk side. The soil is rich, and the air salubrious, bracing, and healthy.

At the time of the Norman Survey, Mettingham was returned among the possessions of Earl Hugh. It had then a church endowed with twenty acres of glebe, and was an improving estate.

In the reign of Edward I., Sir John de Norwich was lord, and obtained from that monarch, in 1302, a grant of free-warren in Mettingham, Shipmeadow, Redesham, &c. In the ninth of Edward II., Walter de Norwich held it, and in the reign of Edward III. it was the manor of Sir John de Norwich, the same who built the castle. He died in 1361, when the manor devolved to his grandson, also named Sir John, who dying at Mettingham Castle, in 1373, appointed his body to be buried at Raveningham, by the side of his father, Sir Walter, "there to rest, till it could be removed to the new church of Norton-coupe-cors," to the building of which he gives £450. Leaving no issue, his cousin, Catharine de Brews, inherited as next heir, being daughter and heiress of Thomas de Norwich, brother to the founder of the castle.¹ In the reign of Richard II., Catharine de Brews, being then a nun, at Dartford, in Kent, conveyed this manor to the college in Mettingham Castle,² lately removed thither from Raveningham, in Norfolk. It continued to augment its possessions till the reign of King Henry VIII., who granted it, in 1541, to Sir Anthony Denny. By an inquisitio post mortem, taken at Bury on the 16th of April, in the fourth of Edward VI., Sir Anthony was found to die on the 10th of September preceding, seized, inter alia, of the castle and manor of Mettingham, held of the King in capite.³ In the fifth of Elizabeth, Henry Denny held them, with license of alienation to Nicholas Bacon ; and in the eighth of Elizabeth, this Nicholas occurs as lord and patron of the church ; with right of free-fishery in the waters of Bungay, Shipmeadow, Barsham, and Beccles, with license of alienation to Sir Robert Catlin. This change, however, seems never to have taken place, as the Bacons were lords in the twenty-sixth of the same reign,⁴ and retained possession till 1675, when they transferred

¹ Tower Records.

² Id.

³ Cole's Esch. v. p. 27.

⁴ Harl MSS.

the manor and castle to John Hunt, Esq., whose grandson, Tobias Hunt, dying in the following century without issue, these estates fell to Mary and Grace Hunt, his coheiresses. James Safford, of Ipswich, Esq., married Grace, the younger sister, and was the father of the Rev. James Safford, late Vicar of Mettingham, who died without issue; and of John Safford, who married Martha Smith, and was the father of Samuel Safford, Esq., who married Mary Cole, and held, in right of his grandmother, a moiety of the castle and estate, and was the father of the Rev. James Cutting Safford, who resides at the castle, and is the sole lord of the manor, having derived the other moiety of this estate from his great uncle, Burham Cutting, the son of Mary Hunt, the eldest coheiress of Tobias Hunt, aforesaid, by her husband, Burham Cutting, Esq. The Rev. James Cutting Safford, who thus holds Mettingham castle and manor, married Louisa, daughter of the late Rev. James Chartres, B.D., and has issue.



The old court book of the manor of Mettingham Castle is in quarto, and now in the possession of Mr. Safford. All the initial letters are beautifully drawn, and illuminated: it is entitled, “*Nomina tenentium in hoc libro Manerio de Mettingham Castle, pertinent: alphabetice descripta.*”

The family of De Norwich, so early encoffed of Mettingham, and to whom the village owes its principal attraction at the present day, is believed by the most judicious genealogists to have descended from the Bigots, Earls of Norfolk. About the reign of Richard I., surnames began to be adopted in England for the distinction of families; and younger brothers, knowing that the elder only kept their father's names, assumed to themselves surnames from the places of their birth, or from manors and lands allotted to them. According to this custom, Sir John de Norwich assumed for his surname the place of his birth, changing his father's armorial cognizance in some particulars, but retaining the same partition and charge; and seated himself at Mettingham. Thus, as the arms of Bigot were, per pale, or and vert, a lion rampant gules; Sir John took for his coat, per pale, azure and gules, a lion rampant ermine; which bearing is remaining in a north window of the nave in Mettingham church. This descent of the family of De Norwich from the powerful Earls of Norfolk is in a great measure confirmed by the fact, that we find it, from its very origin, filling places of high trust and confidence.

Mr. George Buck, in his commentary upon Domesday Book,⁵ at the end of the description of Norfolk, says, in title 'liberi homines regis,' there is named a Gozelinus de Norwich, who is styled a Baron by King William the First. I can hardly, however, consider him as belonging to the Mettingham family, which must have branched at a later period. In the year 1204, mention is made of Galfridus de Norwich, "Justiciarius Judæorum," who, with Robert Fitzwalter and Stephen Ridel, was the first agitator of the insurrections against King John.⁶

In the thirty-seventh of Henry III. occurs R. de Norwico, Chancellor of Ireland; and in the fifth of Edward II.⁷ we meet with Walter de Norwich, one of the Barons of the Exchequer, constituted locum tenens of the Treasurer till the King could provide one. On the 25th of October in the same year, he was admitted one of the Privy Council, and in 1314 summoned to Parliament. Two years afterwards he was appointed Chief Baron of the Exchequer,⁸ and in the twentieth of the same reign made locum tenens of William de Melton, Archbishop of York, and Treasurer to the King.⁹ This distinguished member of the family married Katharine, daughter of John, and sister to Sir Simon de Hetherset, and was father of Sir John de Norwich, his no less distinguished son, who founded Mettingham Castle. In the eighth of Edward III.,¹⁰ Sir John was appointed Admiral "versus partes orientales," and subsequently summoned to Parliament as a Baron. He was governor of Angoulême in France, where he saved his garrison by a stratagem, in which his finesse appears more remarkable than his valour.¹¹ He was, however, a gallant soldier, and several times employed in the wars carried on against France and Scotland, in which he performed such signal services, that the King rewarded him, not only with two allowances out of his Exchequer—the one of £ 60. 14s., and the other of five marks per annum,—but also granted him a license for a market on Fridays, weekly, and a fair for three days, annually, at his manor of Great Massingham in Norfolk, with permission to make castles of his manor-houses at Mettingham in Suffolk, and Blackworth and Ling in Norfolk. He had a brother, Thomas de Norwich, also a great warrior, who in 1378 received a commission from Richard II. to buy two great and two small cannons in London, or any other place; and also to purchase certain quantities of saltpetre, sulphur, and charcoal, with large stones, &c., for ammunition.¹²

⁵ MS. pen. D. Benham, Esq., of London.

⁶ Tower Records.

⁷ Tower Records, memb. 12.

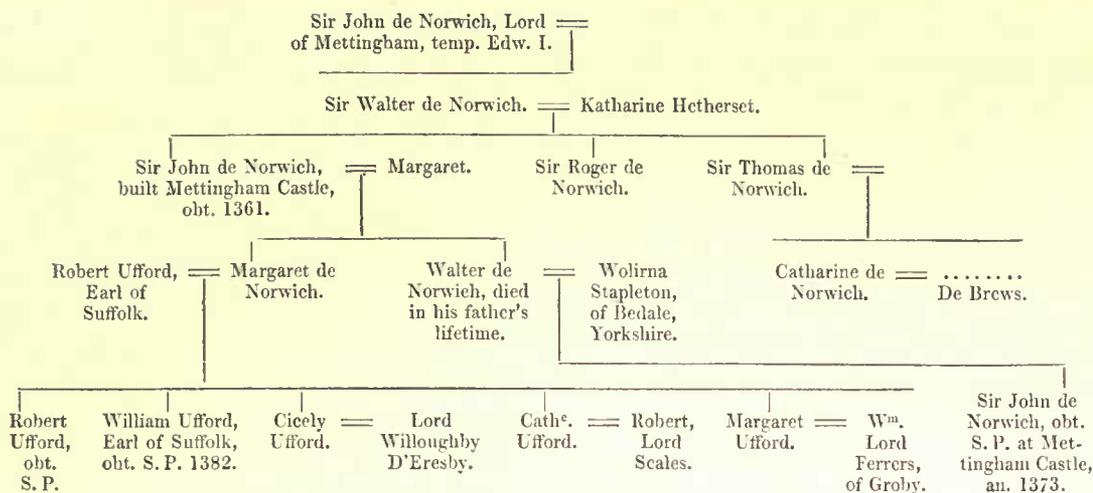
⁸ Id. memb. 11.

⁹ Id. memb. 24.

¹⁰ Id. memb. 4.

¹¹ Froissart (Johnes), vol. ii. chap. 118.

¹² Rymer.



Although the manor and castle of Mettingham were transferred to the college there, the greater part of the possessions of Catharine de Brews devolved, on her retiring from the world, to her kinsman, William de Ufford, the son of Margaret de Norwich, who died suddenly while entering the House of Lords, in the year 1382.

His widow, Isabell, daughter of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, took the veil soon after, in presence of the Lords Willoughby and Scales, who had married her husband's sisters. The transaction is thus recorded in the register of Thomas Arundell, Bishop of Ely.¹³ "Item memorand: q^d nobil: Dña Isabella, Comitissa Suff: 21 Marcii supradic: coram summo altare eccl: prioratus prædicti, (de Campesey) in presencia Rev^{dor} Patrum et dominorum Thome Epi, Elien, Missam tunc ibidem solempniter celebrantis, et Henr. Norwicen: Epi, pontificalibus induti, et alior: plurimor: Abbatum et Priorum eisdem assistencium, Votum vovit solempniter castitatis prout sequitur in hec verba.

" "Jeo Isabella, jadiis la feme William de Ufford, Count de Suff: vowe a Dieu, et a nre dame Seynte Marie et a toux Seyntes en psence de tre reverentz piers en Dieu, Evesq: de Ely, et de Norwiz, q^d jeo doi estre chast dors en avaunt ma vie durante."

"Et Dño Elien, vice et auctoritate dei dñi Norwicen votum tunc recepit et admisit, et mantellum, sive clamidem, et anulm diete voventis solempniter benedixit, et imposuit super eam. Presentibus eciam ibidem comite Warwici, dño de Wyloweby, dño de Scales, ac aliis militibus et armigeris, et aliis in multitudine copiosa."

On the partition of William de Ufford's property, an interest in Mettingham Castle seems to have remained with Lord Eresby, in right of his wife Cicely, the eldest daughter

¹³ Cole's MSS. vol. xxiv.

of Margaret de Norwich; for we find this nobleman and his successors presenting five several masters to Mettingham College, as patrons of that establishment. Their last presentation took place in 1452.

John de Mettingham, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in the reign of Edward III., was probably born here, as there is no other parish of a similar name in the kingdom; though the assertion of some writers that he was a scion of the family of De Norwich is unsupported by any record. His character for learning, justice, and integrity, would, however, reflect lustre on any descent. Fuller tells us, "to his eternal praise, that when the rest of the judges were fined and ousted for corruption (18 Edward III.), this Mettingham, and Elias de Beckingham, continued in their places, whose innocence was of proof against all accusations; and as Caleb and Joshua, amongst the jury of false spies, so these two amongst the twelve judges, retained their integrity." The same author informs us that in the twentieth of the same reign, the King directed a writ to John de Mettingham respecting the number of attorneys-at-law. "The Lord the King hath enjoined John de Mettingham, and his assistants, that they, according to their discretion, provide and ordain a certain number out of every county, of such persons which, according to their understanding, shall appear unto them of the better sort, and most legal, and most willingly applying themselves to the learning of the law, what may better avail for their court, and the good of the people of the land, &c. And it seem likely to the King and his Counsel, that seven seore may suffice for that purpose. However, the aforesaid justices may add more, if they see ought to be done, or else they may lessen the number."

"Some conceive," continues Fuller, "this number of seven seore confined only to the Common Pleas, whereof Mettingham was Chief Justice. But others behold it as extended to the whole land, this judge's known integrity being intrusted in their choice and number; which number is since much increased; and no wonder; our land being grown more populous, and the people in it more litigious."

Amongst the benefactors to the University of Cambridge, prayer is directed to be made "pro animâ Dñi John de Metyngham."

In 1561, Mettingham had three freeholders out of the one hundred and sixty-nine, which the Hundred of Wangford then contained.¹⁴

Amidst the voluminous collection of charters preserved in the British Museum is "Carta Constantini Mortymer, et Johannis fil: Johannis de Norwico, Willielmo Garneys et Elizabethæ, uxori suæ, filiæ Radulphi Bigot, Mil: de duobus molendinis aquaticis, cum stagnis, aquis piscariis, &c., et cum terr: in Elyngham, Broom, et Pirnowe, in Norfolk, Metyngam, et Shipmedow, in Com: Suff.;" dated the fourth

¹⁴ Lansdowne MSS. vol. v.



A. J. Sturking del.

F. Bedford litho.

THE GATE-WAY OF METTINGHAM CASTLE.

of Henry IV. There is also, without date or seal, "Carta Danielis de Beceles Roberto Thirkild, de ter: in vill: de Metyngham;" and an indenture, dated the thirty-first of Henry VIII. (1539), between Charles, Duke of Suffolk, and Thomas, Bishop of Ipswich, guardian and master of the college of Mettyngham, concerning the manor of Monkekyrby.

THE CASTLE.

About a mile to the southward of the church stand the shattered walls and massive gateway of the castle,—mouldering emblems of its original grandeur. This fortress was founded by Sir John de Norwich; who obtained a license from Edward III. to castellate his residence here, in reward for his services in the French wars. The foundation deed is dated on the 21st of August, 1342.

Edwardus Dei Gr̄a Rex Angl: et Francie et Dominus Hibnie omnibus Ballibis et fidelibus suis ad quos presentes literē p̄veniunt salutem. Sciatis qd̄ de gracia nostra speciali concessimus et licentiam dedimus pro nobis et heredibus n̄ris dilecto et fideli n̄ro Johi de Norwico qd̄ ipse mansā manior suor de Metyngham in comitatu Suffi et Blak-worth et Lyng in com Norff muro de petra et calce firmare et kernellare et mansā illā sic firmatā et kernellatā tenere possit, sibi et heredibus suis in ppetuum sine occasione vel impedimento n̄ri vel heredum n̄rom vel ministror n̄ror quorunq. In cuius rei testimonium has litteras n̄ras fieri fecimus patentes teste me ip̄o apud Westmonasterium vicesimo primo die Augusti Anno regni n̄ri Anglie decimo septimo regni vero n̄ri Francie quarto.

p. Itre de pribato sigillo.

Endorsed of the farm and fortified castle of Metyngham, granted to the Lord John de Norwich.¹⁵

The seal attached to this deed is an impression, in green wax, of the great seal of England, the matrix of which was made by order of King Edward III., about two years previous to the grant. It is circular, and four inches and a half in diameter; and represents the King on his throne with a rich triple canopy over his head, and seven compartments of tracery panelling behind him. A lion sits at each knee, and beneath a pointed arch on either side is suspended a shield, quartering France and England. The King holds the orb in his left hand: his right rests on his thigh, and

¹⁵ From the original license, copied by the author in 1820, and then in the possession of J. B. Plowman, of Normanston, Esq.

behind his arm stands the sceptre. The circumscription reads thus: + Edwardus : Dei : Gracia : Rex : Francie : et : Anglie : et : Dominus : Hibernie. The reverse bears the same legend, and encircles Edward on horseback ; charging at full speed. He is completely armed, his helmet closed, his sword drawn, and his shield slung before him ; on which are blazoned the arms of France and England, quarterly. The surcoat of the monarch and the trappings of the charger are embroidered with the same heraldic bearings. The execution of this device is spirited and fine.

The form adopted by Sir John de Norwich for his castle was a parallelogram, of which the north and south sides were rather the greatest ; and its area, taking in the site of a college of priests, afterwards attached to it, included nine acres and a half. Being compelled to return to the French wars, the completion of the castle was intrusted to the charge of Dame Margaret, his wife, who built the keep, or citadel of the fortress, which she placed on the west side of the first court. We are indebted to old Leland for this anecdote of her ladyship, who says, " *Accepi hujus Norwici uxorem antiquiorem castelli partem, eo militante, construxisse : hæc pars antiquior est in interiori parte domus, nec conferenda cum novis ædificiis.*"¹⁶ The castle had a massive square tower at each angle, but the principal entrance was through the great gate-house on the north, which remains tolerably entire. Here may be seen the deep groove in which the porteullis was worked, and part of the projecting barbican, with the entrances to the machicolated gallery above it. There is a range of wide windows in the curtain westward of the great entrance gate, which, though placed high in the wall, bespeaks a total neglect of the jealous precaution usually exercised in castellated architecture. They are, traditionally, said to have lighted the great banqueting-hall.

In 1382, the castle was conveyed, as will be presently shown, to an establishment of monks, and became thenceforth rather a monastery than a feudal fortress ; and its history furnishes this very remarkable fact, that it existed as a castle only forty years from the period of its foundation, and remained, for about one hundred and sixty, in the hands of ecclesiastics. Its latter possessors must have incorporated much of the church militant into their observances, to have preserved the fortress in a state of architectural integrity.

The keep seems to have been converted into the residence of the master of the college, as the arms of Richard Shelton, one of the last masters, with several matches of his family, ornamented the walls of its apartments. The arms of Ufford, sab. a cross engrailed or, quartered with Beke, gul. a cross flory ermine. Brews, and or, a lion ramp. purpure impaling Brews, were also placed on its walls.

¹⁶ Leland's Collectanea, vol. i. p. 61.

At what period the keep fell into decay as a residence is uncertain, but it seems by the following extract from an original letter in the possession of Sir Thomas Gage, of Hengrave, that the Lord Keeper Bacon resided or visited at Mettingham. Sir Thomas Kitson, writing to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, relates several circumstances which took place "with my Lord Keeper when I awaited on him with my father-in-law, on Easter Wednesday in the morning, at which time we found him newly entered on his journey from his house at Redgrave toward Metyingham, and accompanied him about five or six miles on his way." The castle residence, however, went much into neglect soon after this period, because in 1738, when Buck published a view of it, dedicated to Tobias Hunt, Esq., the remains were then, not much more extensive than they are at present. After Mr. Hunt's decease, the habitable part of the castle was occupied for many years as a farm-house, and the ruins converted into barns and farming buildings; till Samuel Safford, Esq., the father of the present possessor, pulled down the old house, and erected a new mansion on its site, retaining an angle of the old keep.

The writer was resident, as a young man and curate of the parish at the time, and saw much of the work of Dame Margaret de Norwich, which was then laid open. Several of the interior decorations, long hid, were found in excellent preservation,—the colours and gilding of the arms being fresh and brilliant. The discovery of these latter embellishments was the more interesting, as they are recorded in Ayscough's Catalogue, 1301, preserved in the British Museum, which says, "The arms of Ufford, quartering Bec or Beke, are said to be in a parlour in the chapel or college of Mettingham, now in the possession of Mr. Henry Denny."

The family of Bec, or Beke, came over with William the Conqueror. Their name appears in the Roll of Battle Abbey, and is recorded in Domesday Book. They settled at Eresby in Lincolnshire, and from their heiress came the Willoughbys of Eresby, afterwards patrons of Mettingham College.

THE COLLEGE.

On the 5th of July, 1382, license was granted to Sir Robert Howard, Sir John Plaiz, Sir Roger Boys, Knights; John Wolterton and Elias Byntre, Clerks; executors under the will of Sir John de Norwich, Knight, the grandson of the founder of the castle, to remove the master and priests of Raveningham College, in Norfolk, to Mettingham Castle, and to endow them with the said castle, and several manors in Suffolk.¹⁷ This translation, however, was so strongly opposed by the prioress and nuns

¹⁷ Tower Records, 6 Ric. II. memb. 35.

of Bungay, that it was not fully effected till 1393, in which year the King confirmed the "foundation and incorporation of a chantry at Mettingham Castle, translated from Raveningham to Norton Soup-cours, and thence to Mettingham."¹⁸ The endowment of this college was very ample, as it embraced the manors of Ling, How, Blackworth, Hadeston, Snoring Parva, Ilketshall, Shipmeadow, Melles, Bromfield, Wenhaston, Redisham, and Mettingham; the advowson and appropriation of the church of Raveningham and Norton; the advowsons of Carlton Rode and Ling; lands and tenements in East and West Wretham, and Illington; lands in Barsham and Beceles; the manor and advowson of Dalinghow; a mediety of Bunwell; the fifth part of the lordship of Alderton in Suffolk; Holm Hall in Raveningham; three messuages, 86 acres of land, 5 of moor, 6 of alder, 12 of reed, and 4s. rent in Norton, &c.¹⁹ These estates were returned at the time of its dissolution as producing an annual income of £238. 3s. 10½*d.*, and a clear rental of £202. 7s. 5½*d.*

The establishment of the college consisted of thirteen chaplains at the time of its foundation; which number was reduced in 1535 to a master and eleven chaplains or fellows. Fourteen boys were also supported by the college, who served God, and were educated in it, at a charge of £28.²⁰ Richard Shelton, then master, and the fellows, subscribed to the King's supremacy in 1534; but another master was appointed in 1539 by Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, in right of Catharine his wife, daughter of Lord Willoughby D'Eresby. The college was not surrendered to the King till the 8th of April, 1542;²¹ but on the 14th of the same month and year, the whole was granted to Sir Anthony Denny, with the rectories of Raveningham and Norton. Its subsequent transfers have been shown under the history of the manor.

Sir J. Joscelyne, one of the last fellows, had a pension granted him out of the revenues of the endowment by Henry VIII.²²

Rather extensive remains of the college are standing within a quadrangular moat at the south-east angle of the castle. A very picturesque tower, which formed the most attractive feature in these ruins, fell down about seven years since during the night, with so little noise as not to have been heard by the inmates of the castle. It was called Kate's Tower, from Katharine de Brews, who probably contributed part of the inheritance which she derived from her kinsman, Sir John de Norwich, towards its construction; but the tradition, that she therein immured herself for three weeks, to conceal the consequences of an illicit amour, must be altogether false, and a scandalous aspersion on her virtue; because we find her in 1374 a professed nun at Dartford, in Kent, which was several years before the college at Mettingham was built. She was,

¹⁸ Tower Records, 18 Ric. II. m. 4.

¹⁹ Blomefield. Valor eccl. Ind. Monast., &c.

²⁰ Valor eccl.

²¹ Rymcr, xiv. 746.

²² Jermyn MSS.

therefore, not likely to have been at large in Suffolk twenty years afterwards. The chapel of this college was elegantly fitted, and in complete cathedral style, as we learn from the will of Richard Brawnne, master of the college, who by his will, dated in 1506, bequeaths his body to be buried in the church of the college of Mettingham "in choro, coram *stallo meo*, ubi lapis meus positus est." He leaves also to every priest of the college 6s. 8d., and "cuiibet alii sacerdoti venienti xij^d," and to every other person attending his funeral 1d., and to each boy of the college 1d.

The roof of this chapel, "which was a very fair roof," was carried in 1544 to Great Yarmouth, and placed upon the old Guildhall there, and covered with lead.²³ The fate of its brasen lecturn has been related in the account of Bungay, whither it was removed to adorn the principal church in that town. Nor was statuary—so profusely employed as an ornament in olden days—wanting at Mettingham. A piece of land, called Nolloths, was left to the college to find a wax-light for ever, to be burnt before the image of the blessed Virgin in the choir. The fame of St. Wandered, whose image also was here, attracted an annual peregrination to his shrine.²⁴

About twelve or fourteen years ago, Mr. Safford, the present possessor of the site, digging amidst the ruins for the purpose of procuring building materials, discovered a vast quantity of fractured sculptured stones, and one of the chapel windows; all of elegant and elaborate workmanship. They were found at the bottom of a crypt—still partly vaulted over, which was about eight feet deep. The size or proportions of the chapel, it is said, could not be traced; but the writer considers that careful digging would yet develop many interesting fragments and sepulchral memorials; as many of the noble families connected with the founder were buried in this collegiate chapel.²⁵ It is said that six bells, belonging to the chapel, were found about fifty-years since, in cleansing the moat. Two formidable daggers, each about sixteen inches long, are now in Mr. Safford's possession, discovered within a few years, during a like process.

Some of the music that was formerly used in the collegiate chapel was, at no very distant period, in the possession of a person living within a few miles of Harleston, in Norfolk. Application and interest have been employed to obtain a sight of it, but hitherto without effect.²⁶

The last master of Mettingham College was Thomas Manning. He was Suffragan Bishop of Ipswich, and Prior of Butley Abbey.²⁷ Richard Shelton, his predecessor, was Archdeacon of St. Asaph, and "so expert in water-works, that his advice was asked in cutting Yarmouth Haven."²⁸

The arms adopted by the college were those of Sir John de Norwich, the founder.

²³ Manship's Hist. of Yarmouth, MS. Symonds.

²⁴ MS. pen. Epis. Norwic.

²⁵ Jermyn MSS.

²⁶ Gillingwater's MSS.

²⁷ Cole's MSS. vol. xxvii.

²⁸ MSS. Symonds.

The register of Mettingham College is in the collection of his Grace the Duke of Buckingham, at Stowe. It is in folio, and written on paper, and contains five hundred and twenty-six pages. The last two leaves are parchment. The writing is of the reign of Henry VIII., and all in one hand; giving the limits and boundaries of the college possessions; their denominations, rentals, &c.; the grants by which they were obtained, copied from deeds of the reigns of Edward III., Richard II., Henry VI., and Edward IV.; with some charters of Popes, granting privileges and immunities. One is a grant directed "Venerabili et egregio viro Dño Willoughby, Militi, ac Dño de Willoughby, patrono Collegii." The last is dated in the first year of King Henry VIII. There is a memorandum in the inside cover, in Mr. Astle's hand-writing, stating that this Chartulary was formerly preserved in the library of Peter le Neve, afterwards in that of Mr. W. T. Martin, and latterly in that of J. Ives, Esq., of Great Yarmouth.

The seal of the college is a large oval, 3 inches by 2 inches. The only impression I have seen is very imperfect. The Virgin Mary is represented as seated on a richly canopied throne, holding the infant Jesus, who stands on her right knee. There is a shield in the dexter compartment, charged with a lion rampant, the cognizance of the college. The legend is entirely defaced.

MASTERS OF THE COLLEGE.

Masters.	Date.	Patrons.
Roger Withy . . .	1382	Sir John Plaiz.
John Burghwode . . .	1387	Sir John Plaiz.
Richard Cratfield . . .	1389	Sir John Plaiz.
John le Neve . . .	1392	Robert de Willoughby, Lord Eresby.
John Willubey . . .	1403	William, Lord Eresby.
Thomas Whitehead . . .	1425	Robert, Lord Eresby.
Roger Boubridge . . .	1444	Robert, Lord Eresby.
William Fraunsham . . .	1452	Robert, Lord Eresby.
Robert Wright . . .	1480	Sir Richard Hastings.
Richard Branche . . .	1499	Sir Richard Hastings.
Richard Weybred . . .	1507	Sir Richard Hastings.
Richard Shelton . . .	1520	Sir Richard Hastings.
Thomas Manning . . .	1539	Charles, Duke of Suffolk.

THE CHURCH.

There was a church at Mettingham in Saxon times, but the present edifice, though a very ancient structure, is of Norman foundation. It exhibits a very elegant doorway, on the north side of the nave, profusely ornamented with the chevron mouldings.

The stone employed in this elaborate portal is of the very finest quality, and has braved the corroding blasts of our north-eastern gales for above seven centuries with little injury. The hand of man, however, has despoiled it of its columns, and failed to spare what time would have left unscathed.

The church comprises a nave, with a south aisle, a chancel, and a round tower, with a large porch on the south side, in the west wall of which is a fire-place and chimney. The tower is girded, about midway of its height, with a strong band of iron; but an examination of its interior presents no visible rent or decay, requiring such a singular appendage. It was put on about half a century ago, by the then churchwarden; who, as he was also the village blacksmith, has exemplified the truth of the fable, that there is nothing like leather. In the south aisle is an inarched monument, with a handsome canopy: there is also a good octagonal font of stone, with the remains of some very rich stalls, and portions of a once elegant screen.

The interior is kept in a very neat and reputable state, but is sadly disfigured by a barbarous east window. Besides the arms of De Norwich, which yet remain, the windows of this church formerly contained the following cognizances. Ufford quartering Becke; France and England quartered; and, sab. an eagle displayed or.

Having been early appropriated to Bungay Nunnery, this benefice became a vicarage. Upon the suppression of religious houses, the appropriation and advowson were granted, in the twenty-ninth of Henry VIII., to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk; but they were soon afterwards conveyed to Sir Nicholas Bacon, and united with the castle estates; the Rev. James Cutting Safford being the present impropiator, and patron of the vicarage.

The registers of this parish commence in the time of the Commonwealth; and I quote the first page from them to show what advantages were gained by the nation in consequence of the Act of Parliament which deprived the parochial clergy of their custody, and transferred it to laymen.

“METTINGHAM REGISTER BOOKE.

“Wherein are written all the Mariages, Burths, and Burialls, accordinge to the late Act of Parlament made the 22 day of September, 1653.

“Richard Stannard, of the same towne, in the Countie of Suff., Gent., approved by us, whose handes are here under subscribed accordinge to the choice of him made by the Inhabitants of the said Parish, to have the keeping of the Booke, and sworne to performe the Office of a Register accordinge to an Act of Parlament made in the yeare of our Lord God one thousand sixe hundred fifty and three.

SIMON SUCKBOTTLE
NASTY NAN
JOHN GINGERBREAD
HALFBRICTT MAN

JUMPING JONES
BOUNTY BRIDG
DICK DEVILL

Inhabitants of Utopia.

Monuments.—William Gooch, Esq., died 1685. Thomas Gooch, Gent., 1688. Attached to the monument are the arms of Gooch; party per pale, arg. and sab., a chevron between 3 talbots pass., counterchanged; on a chief gules 3 leopards' faces or. These gentlemen were ancestors of the present Sir Thomas Gooch, Bart., of Benacre Hall, whose family appears to have sprung from this village. In 1537, I meet with the name of Thomas Gooch, as witness to a deed, now preserved in the parish chest.

Jacob Twiss, Gent., died 1706. George Robinson, died 1808, aged 79.

There are many monuments of the Belwards, a family of ancient descent; being derived from Hugh de Belward, who came over with the Conqueror. Their arms, which are placed over some of the monuments here, are party per pale gules and argent, 3 pheons reversed, counterchanged.

In the reign of William the Conqueror, Robert Fitz-Hugh was Baron of Malpas in Cheshire, and held above thirty manors under Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, as appears by Domesday Book; but leaving no issue male, this barony, at length, by marriage of the heir female, came into the famous and knightly family of the Belwards, as Camden styles it, of which was John le Belward de Malpas, who lived in Rufus's time: to him succeeded William his son, who was Baron of Malpas in right of his mother, who was Lætitia, daughter and heiress of Robert Fitz-Hugh, and bore for arms 3 pheons, or dart heads. William, who was Baron of Malpas, left no legitimate issue; but Philip, his next brother, and then possessed of the manor of Egerton near Malpas, took, according to the custom of that age, the surname of Egerton from the place of his residence, and spread into many eminent and flourishing families, one of whose posterity is the Duke of Bridgewater.

Viscount Malpas and Earl of Cholmondeley, 1706, descended from William le Belward, Baron Malpas. Robert, by the gift of his father, had the lordship of Cholmondeley, settled there, and assumed the name of the place.

Thomas Cholmondeley, created Earl Delamere, 1821.

Thomas Egerton, Earl of Wilton, descended from William le Belward, who assumed the name of Egerton. The twelfth in descent was Sir Rowland Egerton, created a Baronet in 1617.

The Rev. Henry Belward Belward, of Mettingham (1845) assumed the name of his mother Esther, by the will of Dr. Richard Fisher Belward, who left him his estates.

Maria, daughter of William Belward, Gent., died 1731. Anna, fourth daughter of William Belward, died 1736. William Belward, Gent., died 18th August, 1700, aged 54. Hannah, his fifth daughter, died 1753, aged 58. Susanna, widow of the Rev. Charles Cock, A.M., died of the small-pox, 1738, aged 72. Edmund Purdy, died 1618. William Hayward, died 1753, aged 68. John Youngs, died 1671.

Elizabeth, relict of the Rev. James Chartres, formerly fellow of King's College, Cambridge, and vicar of Godmanchester, and West Haddon, obt. March 20, 1840, æt. 76.

James Cutting, eldest son of the Rev. James Cutting, and Louisa Safford, obt. July 9th, 1842, æt. 16.

The town estate of Mettingham produces a rental of about £100 per annum, and is under the management of feoffees chosen by the parishioners. The lands which produce this fine income were devised some centuries ago for parochial purposes; but the exact intentions of the benefactors are not clearly understood. The proceeds of their bequests are applied to the reparation of the church; in a distribution of coals to the poor; and to other parish purposes, which are, perhaps, not altogether legitimate. Laurence Skete, of Mettingham, and others, gave several pieces of land and meadow ground for the use of the poor. Among the deeds preserved in the office of the Bishop of Norwich is the following record. "Villuta de Mettingham tenet 3 ac: et dim: terræ nativæ tenemti Stambornes Manerij in una pecia de Metyngham. Idem tenet 3 rodas terræ liberæ pertinentis gilde, et jac: in Metyngham inter unam semitam."

Richard Umfrey, or Humfrey, Clerk, vicar of Mettingham in 1517, gave to the poor of this parish, lands, now let at £32. 7s. 6d. The original deed is—or was lately—in the parish chest, and is dated "apud Metyngham, ultimo die mensis Maij Anno regni Regis Henrici septimo."

As the above Richard Umfrey was also a liberal benefactor to the parish in other ways, I transcribe his short will, which contains many very curious and interesting particulars, illustrative of the manners and customs of his period.

"In nōie Dei, Amen. in the yere of our Lorde God MCCCCXvij, the first day of Marche, I Riچارde Umfrey, Clerke, Vicar of the church of All Seynts of Metynghm, beyng in good and hool mynde, make my testamente and laste wille undre this fourme followyng. First, I comende my soule to Almyghtie God, to our blyssed Ladye, and to the celestyall Courte in Hevyn. And my Bolye to be buried in the chauncell of Metynghm forsad byfor the sepultur and grave of Syr John Arcente, my predecessor. And at the daye of my buryeng I will that the maist of the College in Metynghm forsad shall have xx^d. And every brodre of the same College, xij^d. And evy yoman servaunte abidyng in the said College shall have iiij^d, and evy other servaunte and childe of the Almhouse ther ij^d. Also I will that evy other priste that shalbe at my buryeng shall have iiij^d. Also I will that at the same daye of my buryeng the Ladye Prio-resse of the monastye in Bongey shall have xij^d. And evy other Lady of the same monastye vj^d, and their convente priste viij^d, to praye for my soule. Also I bequeath to evy housholder in the said pysshe of Metynghm wheras arn man and wiff, viij^d. And to evy other p^rson j^d at the sad daye to praye for my soule and all crysten soules. Also I gyff and bequeth to the maist of the forsad College and to his brodren all that my Tent called Pyrtewell in Metynghm w^t the gardeyn and the cloos to the sad tent belongyng w^t thapptenents, undre this condicon, that the said maist and his brodren shall hold my anny v^rsary yerly w^t placebo and dirige and masse of Requiem for my soule, my fadres and modres soules, for my fryndes soules, and all cristen soules. And moreov the sad maist and his brodren shall gyff to thoos p^rsones that

shall ryng at Metyngh̄m Church forsaid in the tyme of saying or syngyng of placebo and dirige at the said daye of my annȳv̄sary oon caste of brede and oon gallon of drynk. Also I gyff and bequeth to the Tounesshippe of Metyngh̄m forsaid oon aer of londe lyeng among the londes of the said tounesshippe, undre this condison, that the Churchwardeyns of the same pysshe shall gyffe yerly at the daye of my annȳv̄sary to the Vicar of the sad church of Metyngh̄m, or to his Depute ther saying or syngyng placebo and dirige for my soule, my fryndes soules, and for all crysten soules, iiij^d. And to offer j^d at Masse. Also I will that my cooffeoffes shall delȳ or cause to be delyv̄ed a state and seisyne of the forsaid̄ tent, and all other landes forsade to the p̄fourmaunce of this my laste will, when so ev̄ ther shall be required by my Executors. Also I will have an honest seuler priste to syng and praye for my soule, my fryndes soules, and for all crysten soules, by the space of twoo yers and longer yf yt may extende of my Goodes. Also I gyff and bequeth to the Cathedrall Church of the hooly Trinite of Norwyeh, vj^s viij^d. Also I bequeth to the forsaid Church of Metyngh̄m my vestymente of blewe Velvett powdered w^t flowres. And my chalice for to remayn to the same church as long as ther shall endure. And to the gyldyng of the Tabernacle of Seynt Mychael in the sad church, xx^s. Also I gyff and bequeth to the Ladye Prioeresse of the monastyc in Bongay oon Goun w^t the hooode. And to Dame Anne Page oon gown w^t the hooode and vj^s viij^d. Also I bequeth to Mr. Thomas Wylkynes wiff a gown w^t the hooode: to Mr. Reeves wiff a Goun w^t the Hood: to Hamonde Lynstedes wife a Goun with the Hood. And to John Rooses wife a Goun w^t the Hood. Also I bequeth to Rob^{te} Arwarde my lesser ffrebedde with the bolster. The residue of all my Goodes w^t my detts not bequethed I gyff and bequeth to the Disposicon and orderyng of Mayster Richarde Shelton, Clerk, and Sir Richard Wyburgh, priste, whom I ordeyn and make my Executors of this my Testamente and lastwille, thei to distrisbute and dispose them in Dedys of Charite to the most laude and prayсыng of Allmyghty God for the welth and p̄yte of my soule, my fryndes soules, and for all eristen soules.

“ Geveyn the daye and yer above wryten.”

VICARS OF METTINGHAM.

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
John Develyn de Bungaye .	1319	Prioress and Convent of Bungay.
Walter de Thuriston . .	1331	Id.
Thomas de Wirlingham . .	1333	Id.
John Elmy de South Elmham	1348	Id.
John Osmund	1349	Id.
Walter Thruston	1349	Id.
Nicholas Bury de Brom . .	1361	Id.
William Pepyr	1377	Id.
John Clampayn	1428	On the collation of the Bishop.
Robert Burgh	1431	Id.
Robert Wode	1439	Prioress and Convent of Bungay.
John Arcente	1443	Id.
Robert Coscler	1473	Id.
Richard Umfrey		Id.
Nicholas Nabbes	1517	Id.
Thomas Bacon	1520	Id.

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
Robert Balman . . .	1539	Thomas, Duke of Norfolk.
William Warde . . .	1554	Id.
Edward Grew . . .	1563	Id.
John Lecke . . .	1570	Nicholas Bacon, Miles.
George Whitlowe . . .	1576	Id.
John Moodye . . .	1587	Id.
Henry Hallam . . .	1591	Id.
Charles Twist . . .	1634	Sir Edmund Bacon, Bart.
John Allen . . .	1643	Id.
Samuel Sleppe . . .	1663	Id.
Henry Fenton . . .	1681	John Hunt, Esq.
John Hacon . . .	1694	Elizabeth Hunt, widow.
Isaac Colman . . .	1731	Tobias Hunt, Esq.
Thomas Baker . . .	1734	Id.
James Safford . . .	1758	John Hunt, Esq.
George Pawson . . .	1805	Kitty Safford, widow.
George Pawson (second time)	1805	Kitty Safford.
James Cutting Safford . . .	1824	Kitty Safford.

Appropriatus Priorissæ et Conv. de Bungey. Estimatio ecclie xvj marc: estimatio vicariæ ejusdem vj marc: ds. Synodalia per annum ii^s. viij^d. Denarij S. Petri, xvj^d. Vicarius solvit.²⁹

Population of Mettingham in 1841, 409.

South Elmham.

THIS district includes nine parishes, and forms a subdivision of the Hundred of Wangford, anciently called the liberty, manor, or township of South Elmham. It was granted by Sigebert, King of the East Angles, to Felix, the Burgundian, his first bishop, who fixed his see at Dunwich in 630. Felix probably resided here, and on that portion of his estate which has obtained the name of Felix-town, or Flixton. It is a deanery within itself. Several churches were founded here in Saxon times, the dedication of which to patron saints led to its subsequent division into parishes; of which St. Margaret's became the ville, or principal residence of the township. These parishes are, All Saints; Flixton; St. George; Homersfield, or St. Mary; St. James; St. Margaret; St. Michael; St. Nicholas; and St. Peter. The demesne is returned in

²⁹ Norwich Domesday Book.

Domesday Book as the property of William, Bishop of Thetford; but several smaller manors appear to have then existed within its bounds, and Flixton was held as a separate lordship. Archbishop Stigand had also enjoyed very extensive privileges. In Domesday it is called Almaham only; but the addition of South was soon after applied, to distinguish it from North Elmham, in Norfolk, which was then, likewise, the property of the see. Blomefield, in his History of Norfolk, derives the name of (North) Elmham from *el menna*—two British words signifying little water, of which element there was certainly no deficiency here. My own opinion—though advanced as of little authority—is, that the whole district was included under the name of Flixton for several centuries after its first grant to Felix; but that that manor having become a separate lordship, the other portion of the demesne obtained the name of Almar Ham, or the residence of Almar, who was Bishop of East Anglia in Saxon times, and is returned in Domesday Book as having held this estate in the reign of Edward the Confessor.

Herbert, Bishop of Norwich, and founder of its noble cathedral, built a palace at South Elmham, which many of his successors occupied. Walter Calthorpe or Suffield, who made the 'Norwich Domesday' by order of Pope Innocent, resided here in great splendour. The nature of his establishment at South Elmham may be conjectured from his will, wherein he leaves to the King "one cup, one palfry, and his pack of hounds. To his brother William he bequeaths all his armour, the fine standing cup, and his emerald ring." Roger de Skerning, Bishop of Norwich, died at his manor-house of South Elmham on the 22nd of January, 1278.

The demesne remained with the barony of the see till the reign of Henry VIII., when it was seized into the hands of that monarch in exchange for other lands. In the Cotton Manuscripts¹ is an indenture between this monarch and Edward North, Esq., Treasurer of the Court of Augmentations, dated December the 4th, 1540, whereby the King grants, among other lands, in exchange for Haddenham, Codyngton, &c., in the county of Bucks, "all that his maner of Southelmham, with all and singuler his membres, ryghtes, and appurtenaunces in the countie of Suffolk, and the advowsons, giftes, and p^r-ronage, and p^r-ryshe churches of Sayntt James, Seynte Peter, Sayntt Margarett, Saynete Nycholas, and All Sayntts of Southelmham, in the said countie of Suffolk, and the advowson, gifte, and p^r-ronage of the p^r-ishe churche of Humersfield, in the s^d countie of Suffolk, which manor and advowsons were lately parte and p^r-cell of the ryghtes and possessions of the Busshopricke of Norwiche. To hold all the lands, &c., thus granted, of the King, by the service of $\frac{1}{10}$ of a knight's fee, and the payment of £ 8. 2s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for the manor of Southelmham, &c., into the Court of Augmentations, at the feast of St. Michael, annually, for ever."

¹ Nero. C. ix.

In the forty-third of Elizabeth, Roger, Lord North, died seized of the manor of South Elmham, with all lands and advowsons pertaining to it in St. James's, St. Peter's, St. Margaret's, St. Nicholas's, Homersfield, &c., held of the Queen by military service, valued at £70. 7s. 10d. per annum. His grandson, Dudley, Lord North, held this estate in 1604. This family descended from Lord North, of Catlidge, in Cambridgeshire, and spread itself into several considerable branches, which were seated at Mildenhall, Finborough, and Laxfield, and possessed the manor of South Elmham from the thirty-second of King Henry VIII., as already shown, till the reign of King James I., when by a deed of conveyance from Dudley, Lord North, to Sir John Tasburgh, Knight, dated the 20th of May, in the tenth year of that reign, the former conveyed to Sir John Tasburgh, in fee, for the consideration of £2500, all the manor of South Elmham, with the rectories, advowsons, rights of patronage of the several rectories of St. Margaret, St. Peter, All Saints, St. Nicholas, St. James, St. George, and Homersfield, with the site of the mansion, manor, and all the demesnes, &c.

Sir John Tasburgh's name occurs among the knights created by James I. at the Charter House, on his first arrival in London. He married the only daughter and heiress of Bateman, Gent., by whom he had lands of great value in and near Flixton. His estate was valued at £1400 per annum.²

The lordship of South Elmham remained with Sir John's descendants till their extinction in the male line about a century afterwards; when it passed by marriage to the Wybornes, an ancient family seated at Hawkwell, in Kent. Lettice, the widow of John Wyborne, Esq., and daughter of Richard Tasburgh, Esq., died in 1738, aged 73 years.

Of the Wybornes, this fine estate was purchased by William Adair, Esq., about 1753, and is now the property of Sir Robert Shafto Adair, who was created a Baronet in 1838. He is the son of William Adair, Esq., of Pole House, Devonshire, by the daughter of Robert Shafto, Esq., of Benwell, in Northumberland, and was born in 1786. He married, in 1810, a daughter of the Rev. James Strode, of Berkhamstead, in Hertfordshire. His heir apparent is his son Robert Alexander Shafto Adair, born in 1811, and married in 1836 to a daughter of the Honourable General Robert Meade.

In 1561 the township of South Elmham had the following freeholders:—St. James, 9; St. Peter, 3, among whom was John Tasburgh, Gent.; St. Margaret, 4; St. Nicholas, 5; All Saints, 3; and "Hunbresfelde," 3.³

The ancient family of Shelton possessed estates in South Elmham in the thirty-first of Henry VIII., as did also the Throgmortons, who afterwards removed to Earsham, in Norfolk.

² Harl. MSS.

³ Lansdowne MSS. vol. v.

The estates belonging jointly to this township have been vested in trustees from an early date. The trust requires that the rents and profits shall be applied to the payment of the leet-fee, or common fine of the leet of the town of South Elmham; and for repairing the highways and other common ways, &c., within the township, where it should seem necessary to the trustees, or any three or more of them. The estates comprise a messuage, with a barn and outbuildings, and 27 acres of land, in Aldborough and Wortwell, in the county of Norfolk; and about 18 acres in the parishes of St. Margaret and Flixton; producing altogether an annual rent of about £60. Four reeves are chosen by the trustees, who receive the rents, which are applied, after deducting the amount of quit-rent and land-tax, to the payment of the leet-fee of £2 per annum, to the lord of the manor of South Elmham, and in repairs of the highways, bridges, and footpaths within all the parishes except Homersfield and Flixton: certain portions of the rent being applied to each parish, at the discretion of the trustees; and a portion of the rent, which since 1814 has been eleven guineas per annum, is also set apart for the poor of the nine parishes, and is distributed among them.

ALL SAINTS.

THIS village is not unfrequently called All-Hallows. It contains—including the parish of St. Nicholas, consolidated with it on the 8th of December, 1737—1620 acres, of which 24 are glebe. The tithes of the united parishes have been commuted for £368 per annum, and the population of All Saints contained in 1841, 224 souls. The parish possesses two cottages and a piece of land, containing one acre and a half, which are let by the churchwardens, at rents amounting altogether to £9. 11s. 6d. per annum, which sum is applied towards the reparation of the church, and the payment of other disbursements of the churchwardens' office, in accordance with long usage.

There is an old moated enclosure, which formerly contained the site of a good mansion, just south of the church-yard, which, in all probability, was the residence of the Throgmortons, a family possessed of considerable property in this village during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. John Throgmorton, of All Hallows, who died in 1510, married Jane, daughter and coheir of Henry Baynard, of Spexhall. His shield is still remaining in a north window of the nave in All Saints' Church, with four coats: 1st and 4th, Throgmorton—gules, a pairle reversed or; 2nd, Baynard—or a chevron sab.; 3rd, De la Spine—sab. a chev. arg., between 3 crescents or. This

John Throgmorton was the second son of Thomas Throgmorton, of Throgmorton in Worcestershire, and left a son, Simon Throgmorton, who settled at Earsham in Norfolk, where he died in 1527, and was the ancestor of the Throgmortons of Bungay.

There is likewise a portion of an ancient house, as old as the time of Elizabeth, and still partly enclosed by a moat, which stands abutting upon the north-east side of the church-yard, and is now the estate of Sir Robert Shafto Adair.

THE CHURCH

of All Saints is a very ancient, rude, and singular structure. It comprises a nave and chancel, with a south aisle extending the whole length of the building; a circular tower, with very thick walls, which formerly sustained an octagonal capping, recently removed; and a south porch. The edifice originally consisted of the nave and chancel only, and these were lighted by a series of very small windows, pointed and slightly cusped, and very much splayed internally.

The aisle was added about the year 1250, or a little earlier. Here we meet with two stilted arches between its eastern end and the chancel. The rood-loft was ascended by a steep flight of stairs, rising between two columns of the arches, which sustain the body of the church and chancel, and the aperture being now divested of its steps, presents a very extraordinary appearance. The interior decorations of this edifice offer to our notice an antique Norman font; and much old wood-work in the nave; the poppy-heads of the seats are finely carved, and in excellent preservation. In the south aisle is a piece of carving on the end of an old seat, which deserves a passing notice, though it is not so ancient as the seats just mentioned. On the upper part are the cross keys of St. Peter, with two pointed swords; which would lead us to infer that it was brought from the adjacent village of St. Peter, when the north aisle or chapel of that church was destroyed, or disused. In the centre are the letters I. A., encircled by scroll-work; and in the lower compartment appears a large winged serpent attacking an armed man; but as the warrior is evidently terrified, and has turned his back on the monster, the sculpture can scarcely be intended to represent the heroic encounter of England's far-famed champion, St. George, with the dragon of that engrossing legend.

There are two very large windows in the north wall of the nave, fitted with perpendicular tracery, in which are the shield of arms already noticed, and a second escutcheon with Throgmorton and De la Spine, quarterly. There are also a few rosettes of coloured glass. Several ancient gravestones lying on the floor bear matrices once filled with brass effigies: the outlines accord with the fashion of the latter part of the fifteenth century, and they possibly cover the ashes of the Throgmortons.

Monuments.—Robert Davy, of Ditchingham, died February 5, 1678, aged 65 years. Margaret, his wife, daughter of Philip Prime, of Halesworth, died April 22, 1709, aged 86 years. Five of their children are interred with them. Margaret, aged 14 days. Richard, aged 24 years. Elizabeth, aged 25 years. Sarah, aged 24 years. Philip, aged 6 years.

Davy bears, sab. a chevron engrailed erm., between three annulets argent.

Robert Harvey, of Ditchingham, and afterwards of this parish, died June 12, 1756, aged 71 years. Margaret, his wife, died April 23, 1765, in the 77th year of her age.

In the porch, which deserves notice for the peculiar construction of its west side, lies Hannah, relict of the Rev. Mr. Dinsdale, Vicker of Kinoiton, in Notinghamshire, who died August the 24th, 1746, aged 73 years.

The old parish registers are burnt.

RECTORS OF ALL SAINTS, SOUTH ELMHAM.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Adam Chastayn . . .	1312	The Bishop of Norwich.
Galfridus de Mourdone . . .	1319	Id.
Richard de Cleye . . .	1323	Id.
Joēs de Wymbotsham . . .	1331	Id.
Thomas de Dallyng . . .	1331	Id.
Robt. fil: Joēs de Brunham . . .	1333	Id.
Robert de North Elmham . . .		
Elias de St. Edmundo . . .	1342	Id.
John de Acra . . .	1349	Id.
John de Shaftebury . . .	1353	Id.
Richard Bush, de Hoxne . . .	1360	Id.
Joēs Lovell . . .	1392	Id.
Joēs Ramm, de Gosbercherch . . .	1395	Id.
William Brigham . . .	1424	Id.
Richard Foukys . . .	1426	Id.
Jacobus Multre . . .	1457	Id.
Simon Mayster . . .	1471	Id.
Joēs Peny . . .	1483	Id.
Henry Williamson . . .	1502	Id.
Joēs Gayles . . .	1511	Id.
Nicholas Welden . . .		
Radulphus Grigson . . .	1534	Id.
William Biel . . .	1538	Charles, Duke of Suffolk.
Henry Ringer . . .	1554	Edward, Lord North.
Robert Mauknolls . . .	1580	Assign. of Roger North.
John Sagar . . .	1593	Assign. of John North.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas Wood . . .		. . . . North.
Roger Skipper . . .	1661	Will. Lisle, Esq., p. h. v.
Richard Sadler . . .	1663	Id.
Francis Booty . . .	1683	Sir William Godbold.
John Birch . . .	1705	John Tasburgh, Esq.
Samuel Birch . . .	1706	Bald. Conyers, Esq.
Thomas Fuller . . .	1737	Dr. Ellys, p. h. v.
Francis Turner . . .	1743	Grace Britten, widow.
Thomas Paddon . . .	1790	Alexander Adair, Esq.
John Holmes . . .	1820	Id.
George Sandby, jun. . .	1831	Id.

Estimatur ad xij mare.¹

Flixton.

FLIXTON is one of the largest of the nine parishes, containing 1761 acres of land, and a population, in 1841, of 192 inhabitants. Although it was returned by the Domesday Commissioners amongst the property of William, Bishop of Thetford, it seems, in great measure, to have been held by other possessors.

Osketel, a free-man, held a manor here, which belonged to the soke of Archbishop Stigand; and Briht, a bastard, but a free-man, had possessed a manor, formerly the property, and included in the soke of Bishop Almar, of which William de Noiens was then owner. There was half a church attached to the Bishop's estate, which I conceive to mean the patronage of a moiety of the benefice; for we find the tithes of the church at Flixton divided into medieties, as late as the beginning of the fourteenth century; the one part belonging to the convent then established here, and the other appertaining to the Bishop of the diocese.

About the year 1200, the principal manor and a moiety of the advowson were in the family of De Hanes, who had a mansion on their estate; and the second manor was held by the family of De Bosco or Bois, whose name is yet retained by a small lordship in the parish. An humble dwelling called Bois Hall, in all probability, points out the site of their once more extensive residence.

Margery, the daughter and heiress of the former race, married Bartholomew de Creke, lord of Creke, in Norfolk, and brought her husband considerable estates;

¹ Norwich Domesday.

amongst which were the manors of Helmingham and Flixton. By a pleading at Ipswich, held in the twenty-fourth of Henry III. (1239-1240), Robert de Pirho, William de Blund, and Robert de Blund, were found to owe to Sir Bartholomew de Creke £14 out of these estates, assigned for the maintenance or jointure of his wife.¹

In 1258, Margery de Creke, being then a widow, and resident at her manor-house of Flixton, transferred her interests here into the hands of a community of religious females, who appear by her charter to have been already inmates of her mansion.

“Sciānt p̄sentes et futuri quod ego Margeria de Crek in purā et legitimā viduatate meā, pro salute anime mee, et pro salute animarum bene memorie Galfrid: de Hanes, p̄tris mei, et matris mei, et omnium antecessorum, et pro salute anime Bartholomei de Crek, quondam mariti mei, et animarum liberorum meor: successor: et aliarum familiarum mearum, de pleno assensu Rob̄ti de Creke, primogeniti filij mei et heredis, dedi, concessi, et hāc p̄senti cartā confirmavi in purā et perpetuā elemosinam mulieribus religiosis servientibz deo, et Sce Marie, et Sancte Katharine, et omnibus sanetis *in capitali messuagio meo de Flixton*, regulam Beati Augustini p̄fessor: et quasdam alias regulares observantes, &c., totum manerium meū de Flixton, quod ad me, jure hereditari, spectabat, &c.

“Hiis testibus Dño Simone de Wanton, Norwicen̄ Ep̄o; dñnis Willmo de Blume, Rob^t de Valoines, Will: de Medifonde, militibus; Rogero de Throkin, rectore ecclie de Cammibell, Radulpho, rectore medietatis ecclie de Flixton; Galfro de Crek, Johanno de Crek, frat: suo, Walthero de Redisham, Eudone de Tylneye, elieo, et aliis.”²

From this period we see the revenues of Flixton absorbed for near three hundred years by a monkish community; which, in conformity with the notions of a mistaken creed, and overlooking the obvious sense of Scripture, sought to please God by an abandonment of those active and social virtues, in the due performance of which lies every christian's duty. Negative virtue is a low step in the scale of christian perfection.

To the preceding grant the foundress added her moiety of the advowson of the church at Flixton; the witnesses to which deed of gift were Sir Robert de Valoines, Sir Roger de Ratliden, Sir Walter de Redesham, and Sir John de Stow, Rector of Helmingham. The seal of Margery de Creke, appended to this deed, was quarterly, 1st and 4th, a bend surtout between two roundles; 2nd and 3rd, three roundles. These were, probably, her paternal bearings. The legend was “Sigillum Margerie de Crek.” In 1264, the foundress gave to her nuns of Flixton the advowson of the church of Dunston, in Norfolk, by whom it was appropriated, with the sanction of Simon de Walton, Bishop of Norwich, on condition that the nuns should have the whole of the rectory, finding a priest to perform the duty, and paying him for so doing.³ The rectory of North Creke was also conveyed to them about the same period, together with

¹ Blomefield.

² Carta fundat: de Flixton. Lansdowne MSS. 447.

³ Blomefield.

that of Fundenhall, in the same county, with a messuage, and twelve acres of land, and many rents and services.⁴ A water-mill at Flixton, and a mill at Combes—the former valued, in 1534, at £1. 13s. 4d., and the latter at 20s. per annum—were also annexed to this house. In 1280, the patronage of this establishment was granted by the foundress to the Bishop of Norwich and his successors.

In 1292, an inquisition was taken of the temporalities of Flixton,⁵ and an extent, or survey of the priory lands and possessions, drawn up at the same period. This extent will not only furnish us with a view of the condition of the establishment, but will illustrate the manners and customs of the times.

EXTENT OF FLIXTON PRIORY.

“The number of the nuns of Flixton is limited by the foundress, Margery de Creke, to wit, eighteen, and a prioress—every one of whom has been accustomed to receive, per annum, for garments, 5 shillings: for whose sustentation the said foundress gave the manor of Flixton, with the advowson of the moiety of the same church: the profits whereof are worth, per annum, in gardens, orchards, pools, and other profits, 40^s. Item, woods and alders, in divers places, worth, per annum, 30^s. Item, there are 308 acres of arable land, which are worth, per annum, £11. 12. 4.—price, per acre, 8^d. Item, there are 38 acres of meadow for mowing, and they are worth, per annum, £3. 16. 0.—price, per acre, 2^s. Item, there are 3 small pastures in divers places, which are worth, per annum, £7. 11. 0.— $\frac{2}{3}$ of rent of assize. Item, the said customary tenants owe, per annum, 225 days ploughing, which are worth £3. 16. 3.—price, per day's ploughing, 3^d. Item, the same customary tenants work, in winter and summer, 658 works, which are worth, per annum, £1. 12. 8.—price of each work a half-penny. Item, the same in autumn, 603 works, which are worth, per annum, £2. 10. 3.—price, per work, a penny. Item, the same customary tenants owe, per annum, 65 averages, which are worth 2^s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d.—per average, a half-penny. Item, pleas and perquisites of the tenants are worth, per annum, 13^s. 4^d. Item, two mills are worth, per annum, deducting the expenses, 13^s. 4^d. Item, the moiety of the church of Flixton, remaining to the proper uses of the said prioress and convent, is fixed at £4. 13. 4. Item, the church of Dunstone to their proper uses, is taxed at £5.

“Amount of the whole Extent, £43. 18. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$.”

The endowment of this priory seems to have been always inadequate to the maintenance and necessary wants of its inmates; and although the foundress limited their number to eighteen nuns, and a prioress, it never reached that number, and at the Dissolution appears to have contained not more than six or seven nuns. It was this consideration which induced John Salmon, Bishop of Norwich, to permit the appropriation of the second moiety of Flixton church; the patronage of which the convent had obtained in exchange for that of Helmingham. In 1321, an inquisition was taken in the church of Flixton, relating to a presentation of a Vicar to that moiety of the benefice which belonged to Flixton Priory; and in the same year, a charter was granted

⁴ Blomefield.

⁵ Jermyn MSS.

by the bishop to the prioress and convent, for uniting the other moiety of the church to that before possessed by them, and appointing a portion to the Vicar.

THE ENDOWMENT OF FLIXTON VICARAGE, 1321.

“Brother John, by divine permission, bishop of Norwich, to his beloved daughters in Christ, the prioress of the conventual church of the blessed Katharine of Flixton, in South Elmham, and the convent of the same place, of the order of St. Augustine, in our diocese, greeting; grace and benediction. Amidst all the cares incumbent on our pastoral office, and to which we are specially bound, that surely should be chief, to assist the urgent necessities of those under our care, weighing their merits in the scale of our Holy Father; and particularly to assist religious women, who by their sanctity of religion, holiness of life, and devout works of charity, are rendered acceptable to God, and most welcome to mankind.

“And whereas, you having discarded your own appetites, and left all worldly pleasures, and having chosen to yourselves a celestial bridegroom, with whom, in the utmost devotion, to dwell under regular observance: and whereas, it is notorious that for long time past, and as yet, by unfortunate and adverse circumstances, you have been, and are now reduced to such poverty, as not to have wherewithal to supply yourselves and servants with meat and drink, the necessaries of life; and to support the charges incumbent upon you; and especially, as it is well known, that all which you have at present, or can have, is incompetent for you to exhibit to the wants of the poor, and strangers, continually resorting to your house; considering, moreover, the great burden of debt now pressing upon you, and particularly as your lands and possessions are, by unfortunate events, become so barren, that the fruits and profits thereof, supporting these necessary charges, will scarcely suffice for half the year; nor have you any means of supporting and relieving these burdens out of your temporal possessions, by purchasing in mortmain: We, therefore, on account of the premises, directing to you our paternal affection of piety, and being willing, for the sake of the religion which you laudably exercise and profess, with devout veneration, graciously to assist your wants by ecclesiastical provision and collation of a benefice, viz.: the moiety of the church of Flixton, in Southelmham, in our diocese, now vacant, in which you have obtained the right of presentation; which moiety, with all its rights and appurtenances whatsoever, to the other moiety of the church aforesaid, to you and your monastery, of old time canonically appropriated, on account of the smallness of each moiety we do unite, and by tenor of these presents do re-unite, and so united decree it perpetually to be, and upon you and your monastery, to your proper uses, through motives of charity, do confer by these presents, and by pontifical authority, depute and grant it to be perpetually possessed. And because the portion to you of clothes, of old time deputed, yearly to be received, is very mean and slender, we will and ordain, that the several nuns of your house shall receive every year from the hands of your chamberlain, out of the fruits and profits of the church aforesaid, two shillings in silver, in addition to the portion above-said; that so your indigence, as to this matter, may be more easily consulted. Reserving to ourselves especial power, out of the rents and profits of the same church, so renewed and united, to depute a reasonable portion to the perpetual vicar serving in the same; to the vicarage thereof, whensoever vacant, by you and your successors, to us and our successors, canonically to be presented; and on which portion he may be able, properly, to support himself, as the law require; and support episcopal and other charges incumbent on him: saving in all things the episcopal customs, and rights and dignity of our church of Norwich. And that all matter of altercation and dispute as to the portions of tithes, and the lands and fruits, and profits of the church aforesaid, to be received between you and the vicar of the church aforesaid, for the time being, hereafter may rest quiet, we have thought fit thereupon thus to ordain.

“Imprimis—we will, and by decree do ordain, that you and your successors shall receive and have in

the name of the rectory of the church aforesaid, the manse, which the rector of the church aforesaid named, on the part of the bishop, was accustomed to inhabit, situated on the west part of the said church, with the croft to the same adjoining. And also the meadows assigned to the same moiety, to wit, at Caldewell, half an acre, and in east meadow, one acre, and one rood, and at Fretheg, one rood and a half, lying in three pieces. And all tithes of sheaves, arising from all kinds of blade within the limits or tithings of the said parish: the tithes of blade, growing in the gardens of the said parish, only excepted. And that the vicar of the same church and his successors, in the right and name of the vicarage aforesaid, may, and shall have a manse of the north part of the same church, formerly assigned to the vicarage of the moiety of the same church, named on the part of the nuns. And also tithes, as well personal as mixed, oblations, and small tithes of the whole parish, to wit, wool, milk, flax, and hemp, lambs, pigs, eggs, fowls, hens, pigeons, ducks, cygnets, fruits, trees and gardens, as well sown as planted, by whatsoever term they may be understood; and if corn be there sown; mills, fisheries, groves and woods, turbary, and also all other obventions of what kind soever, which are contained under the name of Altarage. The said vicar shall also receive all tithes, as well personal as mixed, of all those whose habitations or dwellings are within the limits of the said parish, situated without the inclosures of the monastery; although the said inhabitants personally serve in any office or function within the aforesaid inclosures. And also all demesne lands, to each moiety of the church deputed of old time, wheresoever they lie or consist, the said croft alone excepted, whose fruits and profits, they shall freely receive without any payment of tithes whatsoever. The said vicars shall have, also, two acres of meadow, one whereof lies in Stock-meadow, and the other at Milling. And also the tithes of hay of the whole parish, except the tithe of hay arising from your meadows, which at the time of this present ordination you have obtained in demesne. But if you, or your successors hereafter, acquire any meadows lying within the said parish from any person whatsoever, by any kind of gift, for them you shall pay the tithes to the vicar and his successors abovesaid. You shall receive, also, all obventions or oblations in your conventual church, as well from foreigners and strangers, as from your servants and ministers, whensoever made; and if the persons so administering are parishioners of the church aforesaid; saving, nevertheless to the vicar parochial right, in ordinary and customary oblations, as from his parishioners by right to be received. You and your successors, from the payment of tithes of your own animals whatsoever, within the limits of the said parish feeding and couchant, we will to be free and quit; but for the animals of all the parishioners and strangers in your houses and folds, the vicar shall receive the tithe wholly, as is lawful. And the ordinary charges on the said church incumbent on you and your successors, to wit, as to the repairs of the covering of the chancel, and glass windows of the same, shall support whenever repairs are necessary, or require building anew. The vicar also, for the time being, shall pay procurations, and synodals, and shall bear, and be at the expense of repairs of books, vestments, and other ornaments of the church whatsoever. And as to all extraordinary charges on the aforesaid church incumbent, we will you should undergo, and to this be bound: saving to us and to our successors, free power of adding to, and withdrawing from, the premises, and also reconsidering them whensoever urgent necessity or utility requiring it, seem proper. In witness and testimony whereof to these presents, we have thought fit to put our seal. Done and dated in our manor of Blofield, the 7th Kalends of November, in the year of our Lord 1321, and of our consecration the 22nd."

From the preceding charter it appears, that by the endowment the priory was obliged to keep the chancel belonging to Flixton church in repair; but on account of the slender provision above mentioned, made for the maintenance of its inmates at first, and the great distress they afterwards experienced from the plague, they were so far

reduced as to be unable, we apprehend, to prevent the chancel from falling into ruins.⁶

In the same year, 1321, John, Bishop of Norwich, issued his mandate to Nicholas de Rudham, ordering him to put the prioress and convent in possession of the moiety granted them by the said Bishop. This order from the diocesan is accompanied by a deed of the said Nicholas de Rudham, witnessing the execution of the said mandate.

Although Margery de Creke was the real foundress of the priory of Flixton, its success—such as it was—appears to have been promoted through the advice and assistance of William Bateman, who was consecrated Bishop of Norwich in 1343. This prelate drew up the statutes by which the house was afterwards governed. His roll, containing the rules of this nunnery, commences thus: “A le honneur de Deu, Pere, è Fitz, è Seynt Esprit, Sirè William, par la susfraunce de Deu, eveske de Norewie, patrum de la meson de Dames de Flixtone, de doum de la noble dame, Dame Margeric de Crek,” &c. Bishop Bateman resided much at his adjacent palace of St. Margaret South Elmham, to which place he was much attached. He purchased considerable property in the neighbourhood, and seems to have been partial to Flixton.⁷ Sir Bartholomew Bateman, his brother, lived in this village, and “was buryed in thys abbey of Flixston.” Sir Bartholomew Bateman, the Bishop’s father, also resided and was buried here.⁸ The seat in which he lived stood on the site whereon the present Flixton Hall is built; and possibly the monastery, which tradition says occupied this place, might have been a chapel, or a portion of Sir Bartholomew’s very ancient residence.⁹

In 1347, Bishop Bateman extended his patronage of the nuns of Flixton by the pernicious and unjust practice of further appropriation; and in that year procured license for these recluses to apply to themselves the tithes of Fundenhall, of which rectory they were patrons. The Bishop reserved an annual pension of two marks to himself and his successors, in lieu of first fruits, and 2*s.* per annum to the sacrist, as to the high altar of the cathedral. The prioress was to nominate and find a stipendiary chaplain, to be approved by the Bishop, and pay him for serving the cure.¹⁰

The spirituals of the prioress of Flixton in this parish were taxed at fifteen marks, and were to pay 20*s.* to each tenth; but in 1347, the nuns being returned to be very poor, they were excused the tax.¹¹

The poverty of the nuns of Flixton was still more strikingly developed in the following year, when the plague raged so fearfully in many parts of the kingdom. This

⁶ Jermyn MSS.

⁷ Id.

⁸ Id.

⁹ Id.

¹⁰ Pat. Rot. Ed. III. an. 22, p. 1, m. 17. Pro priorissa de Flixton, de ecclesia de Fundenhall in Norf. approprianda.

¹¹ Blomefield.

dreadful pestilence began to appear first in the northern part of Asia, in 1346, whence it passed into Greece, and thence into Italy and France; and in the beginning of August, 1348, broke out in Dorsetshire. The disease was so violent in England, that many persons, who were well in the morning, died before noon. About the beginning of November it reached London, and about Christmas attacked Yarmouth, in Norfolk, where, in 1349, it raged with such malignant fury as to carry off, in one year, above seven thousand persons. It raged so furiously in the years 1348 and 1349, that there scarcely remained alive, in most parts of the kingdom, a tenth part of the population. We may judge to what extent the calamity affected the priory of Flixton, from the following instance. The church of Dunston, in Norfolk, was part of the endowment of this establishment, but in 1349, when the general plague had depopulated great part of the realm, it was returned, that most of the parishioners here were dead, and the land left untilled,—so that the prioress could not pay the King's taxes for it, nor the 10*s.* per annum to the Bishop, then usually paid.¹²

In 1370, the revenues of the priory were augmented by the grant of the manor of Fakons, and lands in Stuston, Brome, &c.; notwithstanding which increase of rental the affairs of the priory continued to decline. Walter le Hart, Bishop of Norwich, who died at Hoxne in 1472, being informed of the impoverished state of the nuns, gave by will, to the prioress of Flixton 20*s.*, and to every nun in that house 3*s.* 4*d.*—considerable legacies at that period.¹³

There is an exemplification, dated in 1412, whereby Alexander, Bishop of Norwich, confirms the foregoing endowment of the vicarage of Flixton. The original deeds relating to Flixton Priory, from which great part of the preceding information has been translated, were purchased by Mr. Astle at Martin's sale, and were bound up in one volume. Mr. Astle offered them to the late Mr. Adair at the same price he had given for them, which Mr. Adair declined, observing that he had sufficient deeds to secure the title of his estate.¹⁴

There were annual gifts made to the poor by this priory, on the anniversary of the foundress, which amounted to £ 2. 16*s.* 8*d.*; and £ 5. 6*s.* 8*d.* were given to the priests for performing service on the same day. The arms of Flixton Nunnery, as shown on the following page, were painted on the rood-loft of Fundenhall church, and were also placed in a like position in the parish church of Flixton. Blomefield is wrong in blazoning the field gules.

¹² Blomefield. Jermyn MSS., &c.

¹³ Jermyn MSS.

¹⁴ Id.



Flixton Priory.

PRIORESSES OF FLIXTON.

1259	Alianora Beatrix.
1301	Emma de Beholin. Margery de Stonham.
1345	Isabella de Weltham.
1373	Margery Howell.
1392	Catharine Howard. Elizabeth Moore.
1414	Catharine Pilley.
1432	Maud Pitcher. Marione Dalingho.
1446	Cecilia Creke. Helen.
1466	Margery Artis.
1503	Isabella.
1520	Alice Wright.
1532	Elizabeth Wright.

Elizabeth Moore resigned her office ; as did her successor, Catharine Pilley, in 1432, being old and blind. In consideration of her having governed the house well and laudably, the Bishop, as patron of the nunnery, assigned her a chamber, and a maid to wait upon her, and an honourable pension for life, out of the appropriation of the rectory of Fundenhall.¹⁵

After a struggle for near three hundred years with poverty and adverse circumstances, this establishment was surrendered by Elizabeth Wright in 1528 ; having been suppressed, as one of the smaller monasteries, by the bull of Clement VII. Its revenues at that time amounted, according to Speed, to £ 23. 4s. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., which shows a decrease of nearly one-half of its rental from its valuation in 1292 ; notwithstanding its subsequent

¹⁵ Blomefield.

acquisition of several estates. Its possessions were destined by Cardinal Wolsey to augment the rentals of his colleges at Ipswich and Oxford. That ecclesiastic's disgrace, however, prevented the accomplishment of this design, and brought the lands of Flixton Priory, with the rest of his prodigious wealth, into his master's hands, who by writ of Privy Seal, dated at Westminster, the 10th of July, in the twenty-ninth year of his reign, leased to Richard Warton the site of the late monastery of Flixton, with its houses, barns, dove-cots, orchards, lands, &c. ; the rectory of Flixton, with the advowson of the vicarage, &c., for £19. 16s. 2d. per annum. The premises were granted, however, in 1544, to John Tasburgh, Esq., and passing subsequently with the manor of South Elmham, as already related, are now the property of Sir Robert Shafto Adair, Bart., of Flixton Hall.

John Eyre had the manor of Facons, in Stuston, in the same year.

The site of the priory, which occupies an elevated piece of ground, about a quarter of a mile to the south of the church, is clearly defined by a moat of unusual width, which encompasses an ancient and respectable farm-house, and a portion of the south wall of the conventual chapel, in which is a solitary flattened arch, devoid of tracery. The width of the chapel was about twenty-four feet. Fuller quaintly tells us that "Cardinal Wolsey, by leave from the Pope, suppressed certain small houses of little value, therewithall to endow his colleges in Oxford and Ipswich. He first shewed religious places were mortall, which hitherto had flourished in a seeming eternity. And King Henry the 8th concluded, if the Cardinal might eat up the lean convents, he himself might feed on the fat ones, without danger of a sacrilegious surfeit."

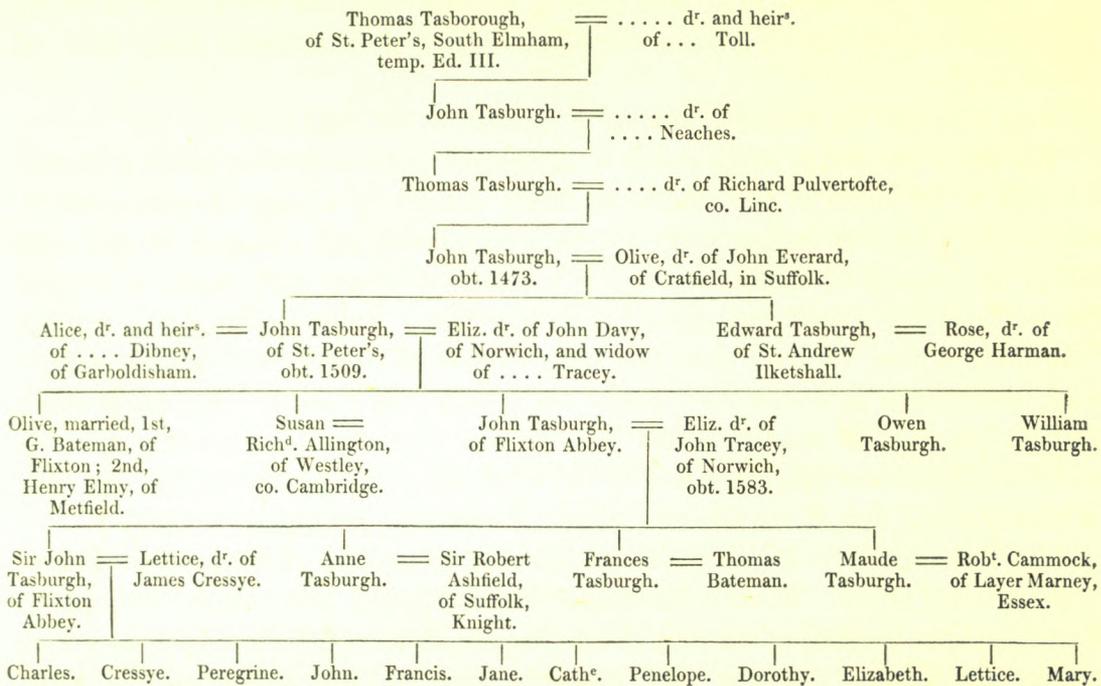
The Tasburghs, who thus acquired the site and possessions of Flixton Priory, were of direct Saxon origin. Torolf, a free-man of Bishop Stigand, held a manor in the parish of Tasburgh, in Norfolk, at the time of the Conqueror's survey,¹⁶ whose successors were Richard and Matthew, his sons; and Ralf, who lived in 1199, and afterwards, about 1239, assumed the name of Tasburgh, from the place of his residence. In 1247, Ralf de Tasburgh was lord of Boylands, or the woodland manor, in Tasburgh, and had infangetheof, or liberty to try all theft committed by his tenants, in his own court-baron and leet there; and to execute them, and take their forfeited goods. In 1280, his son Roger sold this estate to Sir Richard de Boyland. About this time they migrated to Suffolk, and we find them settled at St. Peter's, South Elmham, early in the reign of Edward III. The following pedigree¹⁷ shows their descent from this period to the time of Charles II.

¹⁶ Domesday Book.

¹⁷ Harl. MSS. 1560.



Tasburgh.



The escutcheon attached to the above genealogy is of four coats: first and fourth, Tasburgh; second, Toll, arg., two bars engrailed gules; each charged with 3 birds or: on a canton sable a hand, bend-wise, coupé at the wrist argent. Third, Neaches, party per fess, paly of seven arg. and sable, counterchanged.

Edward Tasburgh, of St. Andrew Ilketshall, had issue three children, Edward, Elizabeth, and Anne; and John Tasburgh, of St. Peter's, had, by his second wife, Sir Thomas Tasburgh, Knt., who married, first, Anne, daughter and heiress of Sir John Baldwin, Knt., and widow of Sir Thomas Paginton, who died without issue; and secondly, Jane, daughter of William West, Lord De la Warr, and widow of James Cressye; by whom also he had no family. In 1599, John Tasburgh, Esq., furnished two horsemen to be conducted to London for defence of the court against secret purposes intended. John Tasburgh, the fourth son of Sir John Tasburgh,

of Flixton, by Lettice Cressye, married Penelope, daughter and coheiress of John Ramsey, Esq., of Wickmere, in Norfolk, and brought him the manor of Wickmere, in that parish. Dorothy, his sister, married Sir William Thexton, Knt., and died in 1641. Charles Tasburgh, the eldest son and heir of Sir John, died in 1657, and left Richard Tasburgh, his son and heir, who married Margaret, daughter of Sir George Heneage, of Henton, Knt. This lady, who is described as very charitable to the poor, a loving wife, and an indulgent parent, was a participator of her husband's imprisonment, who, being a rigid Roman Catholic, was implicated in the pretended Popish Plot, which broke out in 1678. She died in 1705, aged 70, and the following record of her constancy and sufferings was placed on her monument in Flixton church by her grateful husband, who survived her eleven years; dying in 1716, at the advanced age of 83 years. "She was a patient sufferer in prison with her husband, during y^e persecution called y^e popish plott, of which he was accused, and tryed for his life, but by a jury of worthy gentlemen out of Suffolk, had justice done him, for which he beggeth y^e blessing of Heaven on them and their posterity, and heartily forgiveth his enemies and persecutors." Mr. Tasburgh left several children, but they failing of issue, the family became extinct in the male line, and its estates passed to John Wyborne, or Waborne, of Hawkwell, in Kent, in right of Lettice his wife, the daughter of the aforesaid Richard Tasburgh, who survived her husband, and died on the 1st of July, 1738, aged 73.

The Tasburghs were rigid Roman Catholics, and the estate at Flixton is still charged with the payment of a certain stipend, settled thereon at the time of its transfer to the Adairs, for the support of a Roman Catholic priest, who constantly resided in a house in this parish, called the priest's house, till within a very few years, when a chapel was built at Bungay, and the residence of the priest transferred thither.

In consequence of their adherence to the Romish Creed, the family fell under great suspicion at the time of the calamitous fire in Bungay, in 1688, when, tradition relates, pieces of Rue were laid, on the previous evening, at the doors of several houses. The Tasburghs, however, were foremost in affording relief to the panic-struck inhabitants of the town.¹⁸

¹⁸ Since the notice of this event was printed in the Account of Bungay, page 126, I have received the following information respecting the school-house there.

"November 18th, 1845.

"My dear Sir,—In repairing the front of my house, last week, I discovered a stone or slate with the following inscription :

Exurgit lætum tumulo subtriste cadaver,
Sic schola nostra redit clarior usta rogo.

1690.

This clearly shows what I have before heard, the school was built with materials collected from the fire, March 1st, 1688.—F. BARKWAY."

It is probable that the Tasburghs resided some time after their acquisition of this property in the priory at Flixton, as we find several of the family designated, in the foregoing pedigree, as of Flixton *Abbey*. Early, however, in the seventeenth century, they removed to the spot occupied by the present Hall, which is a noble baronial-looking pile, seated in the centre of an extensive park, where the "builder oak" luxuriates in majesty and profusion. It was erected about the year 1616, by Sir John Tasburgh, and the design is said to have been furnished by Inigo Jones; but this, I believe, is tradition only. Many mansions, in almost every part of England, have been attributed to his skill, with scarcely a proof of any kind,—and not a few which are decidedly too common-place for the fertility of his conception. Flixton Hall, however, by whomsoever designed, is the production of no tame or frigid genius: there is a lofty elevation,—an intricacy and variety of outline, aided by deep bays and bold projections, which, with the tall pinnacles and clustered chimneys, give a picturesque effect to the whole pile, vainly sought for in modern mansions. It was originally surrounded by a moat, and approached by a drawbridge, which have been long removed and filled up; and is said to occupy the site of the very ancient manor-house of the Batemans, as already mentioned. If any papers, relating to the erection of this mansion, be in existence, they would furnish curious and interesting details of the price of labour and materials in the seventeenth century. Tradition has preserved an anecdote connected with this house, that when Charles II., in his journey to Yarmouth, passed by this building, he was so struck with its grand and noble appearance, that he inquired who resided in it; and upon being told, by one of his attendants, that it was a popish dog who lived there, his Majesty immediately answered, that the dog had a very beautiful kennel.

The view, which illustrates this description of Flixton Hall, represents the northern and principal front, as it appeared in 1844. The whole fabric is now undergoing an extensive survey, which the wear and tear of time have rendered imperative. Some alterations are being made in the façade, by removing the old pediments which surmounted the windows, and by the substitution of new window-frames. It may be a matter of doubt—which the writer will not venture to determine—how far any ancient fabric, possessed of decided character, is improved by the alteration of any of its features; but he must be pardoned in saying that the addition of a large wing, just erected, looks raw and incongruous, and destroys the dignified repose and unity of design, hitherto so remarkable here.

Though the immediate ancestors of Sir Robert Shafto Adair, the present possessor of Flixton, were settled in Ireland, the family is of Scottish descent, and the earliest ascertained progenitor of the line fell at the battle of Flodden Field.

Alexander Adair, Esq., who died in 1834, at the advanced age of 91 years, married Lydia, daughter of Sir William Thomas, Bart., of Yapton Place, by whom



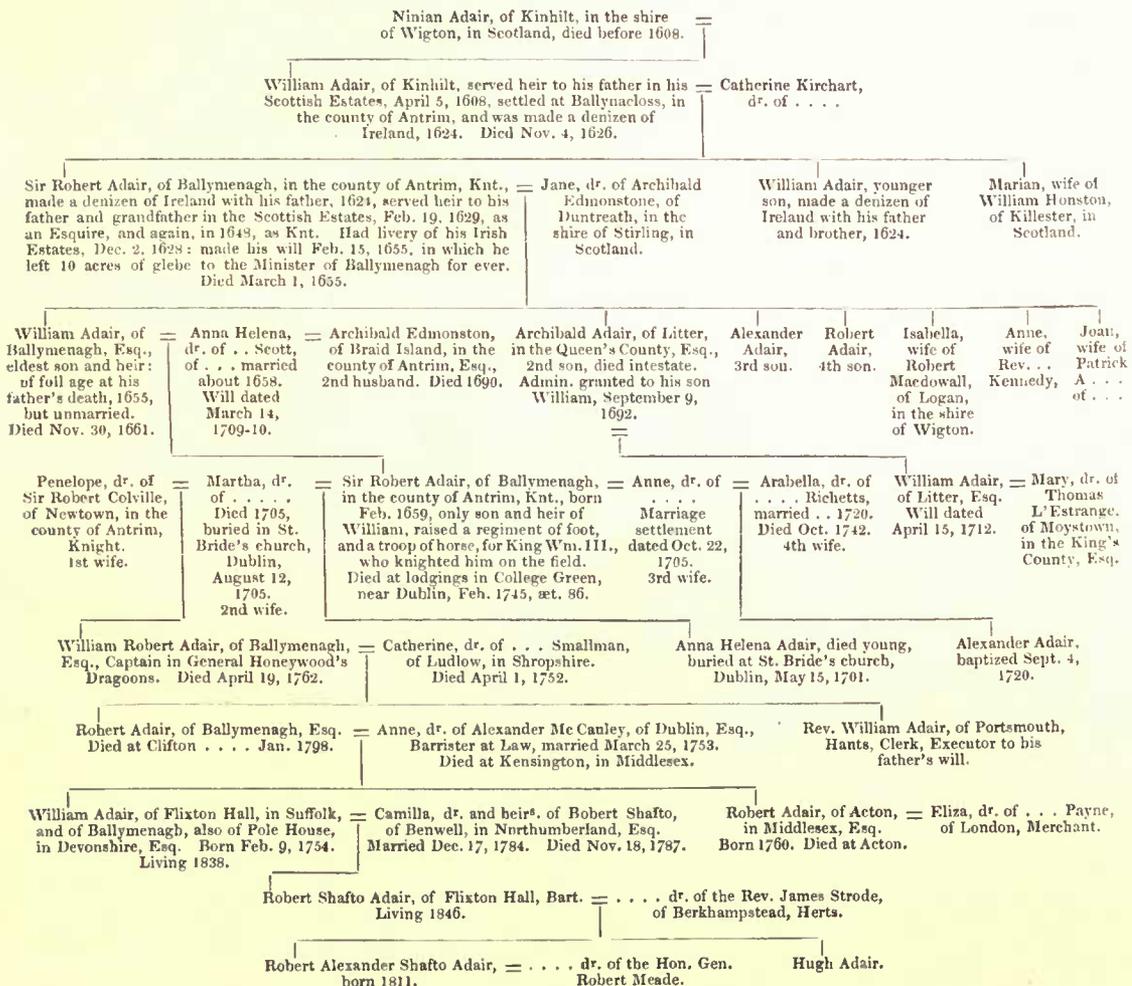
R. B. Coe, del.

F. Bedford, litho London.

he left no issue. He was the nephew of William Adair, Esq., the purchaser of the Flixton estate, and manor of South Elmham; and great grandson of Sir Robert Adair, of Ballymenagh, who died in 1745. The following pedigree of this family was extracted from the Records of Ulster, King of Arms of all Ireland, on the 1st of July, 1838, and transferred to the Herald's College, London.



Adair.



THE CHURCH

at Flixton comprises a square tower, a nave with a north aisle, and a ruined chancel. The tower is, by far, the most ancient portion of the edifice, being unquestionably of Anglo-Saxon construction. It is built entirely of uncut flints, laid in rude horizontal courses, and is at present entered from the body of the church, through an arch, enlarged in its eastern wall about the time of Henry III., if we may judge by the fashion of the pillars which sustain it. The original entrance was beneath a low triangular-headed arch on the western side; which has been recently discovered by the removal of a coat of plaster from its interior face. "On each side of the lower part of the tower is a circular aperture, equally splayed inside and out. A stage higher, we have on the west, a circular-headed window, splayed at the sill, but not in the jambs or arch. In the next stage, on each side, is a circular-headed window, deeply splayed within, so as to leave but a small narrow aperture in the external face of the wall. The jambs of these windows are very far from the vertical, inclining towards the arch, and being wider at the bottom. On each side of the belfry is a balustre window. The balustre is a cylinder of equal thickness throughout, and is surmounted by the ordinary Norman cushion capital. The arches and jambs of the windows are made up of rag and flint, and here and there a large smooth pebble. The outside face of the arch, with the part of the soffit adjoining, is coated with rough-cast."



The tower leans fearfully towards the south-west, in consequence of the subsidence of its foundations. At what period this took place is unrecorded, but it evidently occurred subsequently to the thirteenth century, as the pillars of the arch in its western wall, constructed about that period, are thrust out of the perpendicular by the declination of the tower. The ascent to the bell stage is by means of a very steep and rude ladder, of curious construction. The north aisle is divided from the

body of the church by four pointed arches sustained by pillars, each of which is composed of four clustered columns, in the style prevalent in our third Henry's reign. We may conclude, therefore, that the old Saxon church, attached to the tower, was demolished about that era, and the present fabric constructed on its site.

There are several appendages of ancient worship, still remaining in this church, which deserve notice. A pew in the aisle is formed by wide panels of oak, in which are a few very small quatrefoil apertures. Tradition relates that this seat is constructed out of the old confessional. Beneath the communion table, lies the ancient altar-stone, of black marble, marked with five small crosses, emblematical of the five wounds of Christ. This must have been removed from the now ruined chancel before the Reformation; and seems to confirm the opinion, previously advanced, that this portion of the edifice fell into decay through the poverty of the nuns of Flixton Priory.

The old iron cradle for sustaining the hour-glass, by which the preacher in earlier days regulated the length of his discourse, remains near the handsome pulpit, which is elaborately carved with armorial devices; while the bold and elegant poppies, or carved finials of the benches, are worthy of especial attention. More beautiful specimens of the carved wood-work with which our ancient churches were furnished in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, are rarely found. They consist of an assemblage of graceful foliage, of various patterns, but one near the south wall is of rather unusual design, and represents a cross-aisled church.



In the year 1268, Henry de Bosco granted a free-man to the church of St. Mary at Flixton, and to Ranulph, the rector, he likewise granted a moiety of the said

church.¹⁹ In 1485, Thomas Bateman, by his will, dated on the 8th day of April, "legat corpus suum sepeliend: et humat: in eccliā bte Marie de Flyxton, prope Elizabeth: nup: uxem suam."

Robert Gilbert, vicar of Flixton in 1639, was ejected by the puritans. Walker says, "he could get no fifth, as I find by an original petition of his wife, now before me, though he had several children to maintain. He lived to be restored."²⁰

In Cole's MSS. in the British Museum,²¹ is the following curious memorandum connected with this parish. "In December, 1768, the Rev. Dr. Gooch, Canon of Ely, and Commissary of Sudbury, gave me the following paper, which was put into his hands, a little before, as a curiosity, but which may be resolved in this way. The registers of parishes being at first very faulty, and negligently kept, it was necessary, and very usual, towards the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and later, to have them transcribed into a new book, which was always signed by the then rector, as certifying the truth of the copy. 'An extract from the register book of the parish of Flixton, in the county of Suffolk, relating to the Rev. Mr. Jonas Luker, minister there. The register begins in the year of our Lord 1547, and was begun by the said Mr. Luker, who might have been minister before that time. His death is registered the 2nd of May, 1639, which makes him ninety-two years vicar there; supposing him to begin with the register book only; and as he could not have been younger than twenty-four, when he came to Flixton, must, therefore, be at least, one hundred and sixteen years old when he died.

	Years of our Lord.	Years of age.
His birth must be dated, according to the above supposition	1523	
Came to Flixton, supposing at the time this register book began	1547	24
Married to Anne Beaumont, 25th of January	1612	89
First child, Richard Luker, baptized May 9th	1615	92
Second child, Richard Luker, baptized Feb. 8th	1618	95
Third child, Mary Luker, baptized Dec. 7th	1621	98
Fourth child, Anna, baptized October 18th	1624	101
Fifth child, Hum. Luker, baptized Nov. 20th	1627	104
The said Jonas Luker was buried May 2nd	1639	116

His widow was buried November 11th, 1672, which was thirty-three years after her said husband.' N. B. This register is all wrote by himself, and his last entering, which was dated 1634, and only five years before his death, is well and clearly wrote. He was one of the first protestant ministers, and during the reign of Queen Mary, nothing was registered. The two churchwardens that signed the book with him, the first year he came to Flixton, were likewise churchwardens together in the same parish forty years after."

¹⁹ MSS. Astle.

²⁰ Walker's 'Sufferings of the Clergy,' Part II. p. 256.

²¹ No. 5806.

Cole's surmise that Mr. Luker had merely transcribed the greater portion of his parish register book is proved correct by the list of institutions preserved in the Record Office of the Bishop of Norwich, by which it appears that Luker, or Lakers, was not presented to the vicarage of Flixton till the year 1590, and that dying in 1639, he was incumbent only forty-nine years.

Monuments.—Sir Wm. Thexton, Knt., dyed 8th of Oct., 1649: and Dame Dorothy Thexton, his wife, dyed y^e 18th of Sept., 1641. Thexton a fret . . . impales Tasburgh.

Charles Tasburgh, Esq., died 11th of Aug., 1657, aged 49. Richardus Tasburgh, filius Caroli, et pater Johannis, ob. 1716, æt. 83. Penelope, wife of Mr. John Tasburgh, and daughter of Mr. John Ramsey, of Wickemere, in Norf., died 1696. George Tasburgh, died Dec. 1736, aged 64. Anne, his second wife, daughter of Josiah Lightfoot, of Ashley, in Staffordshire, died Oct. 11, 1749, aged 71. Tasburgh impales Lightfoot, a chev. between 3 roses. Margaret, the wife of Richd. Tasburgh, and daughter of Sir George Henneage, of Henton, Knt., died Oct. y^e 3rd, 1705, æt. 70. Within the altar rails lies a cushion-shaped stone of white marble. On its upper side are engraved a cross with the letters I H S, and a heart, pierced with three nails, encircled by a nimbus, or glory. It is raised about a foot from the floor; is about three feet long, and eighteen inches wide. It is said to cover a human heart discovered here; but as it is inserted into a slab of black marble, at the head of which are cut the arms of Tasburgh impaling those of Nevill, of Holt—gules, a saltire ermine—while, at the lower part, is an inscription to the memory of John Tasburgh, who died Aug. 12, 1719, in the 57th year of his age, and who married Frances, daughter of Mr. Nevill, of Holt, in Leicestershire, by whom he had three children,—it is more probably a memorial placed to one of these children, who died young. Lettice, relict of John Wybarne, Esq., of Hawkwell in Kent, and daughter of Richard Tasburgh, Esq., died 1st July, 1738, aged 73. John Wybarne, died Feb. 12, 1739, æt. 52. Lydia, wife of Alexander Adair, Esq., and daughter of Sir William Thomas, Bart., died Oct. 8, 1814, aged 66. Alexander Adair, Esq., died March 17th, 1834, aged 91. William Adair, Esq., of Flixton Hall, died May 17, 1783, æt. 83.

Adair impales Thomas: arg. 3 lioncels ramp. gules, and a chief azure.

VICARS OF FLIXTON.

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas de Persore (ante)	1266	
Thomas of Evesham (rec: mediet:)	1301	The Bishop.
Thomas Baldwin (vic: mediet:)	1316	Prioress and Convent of Flixton.
Sequest: vic: mediet: vacantis commissa		
Henrico le Fenn	1321	

ANTIQUITIES OF THE

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas Baldwin (in mediet: eccl: pro pte Epi.)	1321	Prioress and Convent.
Thomas Baldwin (in vic: de Flixton noviter appropriat:)	1321	Id.
Richard le Portere de Stutton	1331	Id.
Semannus Baroun	1335	Id.
Petrus le Mareschal	1338	Id.
Henry Sylvestre	1349	Id.
Galf: de Wymedale de Worlingham	1349	Id.
Rad ^s : fil: Rog: Carlef	1349	Id.
Thomas Praty	1374	Id.
Peter Taliour	1374	Id.
Henry de Scrowteby	1388	Id.
John Hogan, de Prilleston	1394	Id.
John Cooke, de Redenhall	1404	Id.
Will: Frost, de Long Stratton	1410	Id.
John Ringher	1425	Id.
Benj: Pytle		
John Dalton	1461	Id.
Peter Gooche	1469	Id.
Robert Haggar	1478	Id.
William Hudson	1495	Id.
Thomas Underwood	1508	Id.
John Peny	1510	Id.
Thomas Johnson	1515	Id.
Richard Lisson	1519	Id.
Edward Elsley	1555	Bishop, by lapse.
Peter Bates	1577	John Tasburgh, Esq.
Thomas Daynes	1588	Id.
Jonas Lakers	1590	Id.
Robert Gilbert	1639	University of Cambridge.
John Wythe	1674	Samuel Game.
John Pytle		
Henry Woolmer	1690	Edward Merry.
William Nuthall	1695	Id.
Thomas Gunby	1727	Matthew Britten, Gent.
William Adair	1754	Wm. Adair, Esq.
John Jebb	1769	Id.
David Hawkeswell Potts	1776	Id.
John Holmes	1814	Alexander Adair, Esq.
Henry Wilson	1820	Id.
George Sandby, jun.	1842	William Adair, Esq.

Domesday. Portio rectoris de Flixton x marc.

The Rev. George Sandby, the present incumbent of Flixton, is the grandson of Dr. Sandby, formerly master of Magdalen College, Oxford, and Chancellor of Norwich. In Brydges's 'Restituta' ²² is a long account of the latter gentleman, who is described as "beneficed and married in Suffolk, and formerly fellow of Merton College, and son to a prebendary of Worcester: took his D.D. degree at the Commencement, 1760, and is a very cheerful agreeable man. His mother, a Nottinghamshire woman, very ancient, died at his living at Denton, in Norfolk, in 1770. In 1769 he was made Chancellor of Norwich, and has four children, three daughters, and a little boy," &c.

The vicarial tithes of Flixton have been commuted for £145. 3s. 6*d.*, and there are 30 acres of glebe.

ST. GEORGE SOUTH ELMHAM,

called also Saint Cross from the armorial cognizance of that saint,—and Sandcroft from the sandy nature of the soil where the church is situated,—is a rectory consolidated with Homersfield in 1767; and containing 1300 acres, 2 roods, and 7 perches of land, with a population of 258 souls, as returned in 1841. It formed part of the revenues of the see of Norwich till the reign of Henry VIII., though the family of Bateman possessed great interests in it, and presented to the church for several generations. They seem to have acquired the manor early in the fifteenth century, but it must have been held of the bishops of Norwich, because it was included in the property obtained by the Lord North, soon after the Dissolution. This is evident from an *inquisitio post mortem*, taken at Bungay on the 31st of October, 1555, when Thomas Bateman, Esq., was found to die on the 4th of June, in the year preceding, seized of the manors of Sandcroft and Newhall, &c., in South Elmham, with two messuages; and lands, valued at £20, held of Edward North. Thomas Bateman, his ancestor, had held the same manors; for by his will, dated on the 8th day of April, anno Domini 1485, he desires that Robert, his eldest son and heir, should have the manors called Newhall and Sandcroft, with all his lands; and the advowson of the church of St. George de Sandcroft, to be held by the said Robert, and his heirs male; and in default of issue, remainder to William Bateman, his son, and his heirs, with remainder to Richard, his son, and his heirs, &c. He desires a tomb of freestone to be placed over his remains, with those of Elizabeth, his wife, in Flixton church.

From the family of North, as before shown, the manor was transferred to the

²² Vol. iii. p. 245, et seq.

Tasburghs. By an inquisitio post mortem, taken the 30th of May, in the 5th of Charles I., John Tasburgh, Knight, was found to die, on the 24th of April, in the same year, seized of the manor of South Elmham, Boyses, Sandcroft, Newhall, Flixton, &c.¹

The manors, therefore, of Sandcroft, Newhall, Boyses, Flixton, &c., appear to have grown out of the greater or paramount manor of South Elmham at a very early period; for though Almaham, or Elmham, is returned in Domesday as the lordship of the Bishop of Thetford, it is even then said "alii ibi tenent." Blomefield, the historian of Norfolk, asserts that the ancestors of Archbishop Sandcroft, of Fressingfield, derived their name from this village, though Dr. D'Oyley, in his history of that primate, does not notice this circumstance. But the fact that Robert de Sandcroft was patron of this church in the year 1319, goes far to confirm Blomefield's position. The parish of Sandcroft, or St. George, passed from the Tasburghs to the Adairs, and forms part of the Flixton estate. The remains of a very ancient church, called the "Minster," are situated in this village, though they are generally considered as lying in St. Margaret's. The site of this ruin, which is distant about a quarter of a mile from the old palace of the Bishops of Norwich, is encompassed by a moat, evidently once broad and deep, though it could never have retained water, as it is dug on a considerable slope. The area occupies about three acres. The ground-plan of the "minster" exhibits a nave about 72 feet in length by 27 feet in width, to which is attached a chancel 24 feet in length, terminating in a semicircular apse. The width of the chancel is about two feet less than that of the nave. The entire chancel can be traced distinctly, though its foundations rise little above the level of the soil; but the nave presents more decided features, as the walls spring in every part to a height of nearly twenty feet. Narrow fractured apertures indicate the original position of the windows, which were small, few in number, and placed, with jealous precaution, very high in the walls. The only entrance to the body of the church was at its western front, where a rugged opening presents itself. The masonry of the whole structure, which stands due east and west, is of rubble-stones strongly united by coarse mortar, and laid in horizontal courses.

But the most remarkable feature in the edifice, and one which unquestionably refers it to a period of very remote antiquity, is a partition-wall, crossing the nave from north to south, at the distance of 27 feet from the western wall; thus dividing, by two narrow arches, and a thick intermedial and square pier, this portion of the church into two unequal divisions; forming the interior into a tripartite division, or a sanctum sanctorum, chancel, and nave. Neither buttresses nor the slightest protuberance

¹ Cole's Esch. i. 324.

are apparent in the surface of the walls, nor has the strictest search developed the smallest fragment of a dressed stone in any part of the walls or ruined site.

Mr. George Durrant, the present occupant of South Elmham Hall, informs me, that he caused the whole interior to be dug over, five feet deep, about four years since, but discovered nothing besides a few bones, and a small piece of old iron, with one or two ancient keys. It then appeared that the foundations of the walls are full five feet thick at the base, rising with two sets-off to the surface of the soil. Such is the "minster," which I confess myself visionary enough to ascribe, from its ecclesiastical locality, its rude architecture, and its Saxon appellation of the "Minster," to the piety of Felix, to whom the estate was first given in 630; or to one of his immediate successors. It could not have formed the chapel to Bishop Herbert's palace, built after the see was removed to Norwich, because the adjoining site is entirely free from any foundations but those of the "minster" itself; while the frequent discovery by the plough, of urns filled with burnt bones and ashes, seems to confirm the voice of a tradition very current in the village, that the "minster" occupies the site of a pagan temple. Nor is there any absurdity in supposing that a spot dedicated to Wodin or to Thor was purposely selected, in early days, for the situation of a christian church; for among the prudential admonitions of Pope Gregory to his missionary Augustine, he especially advises him, as we learn from Venerable Bede, "not to destroy the heathen temples of the English; but only to remove the images of their gods—to wash the walls with holy water—to erect altars, and deposit relics in them; and so to convert them into christian churches; not only to save the expense of building new ones, but that the people might be more easily prevailed on to frequent those places of worship to which they had been accustomed." How long the "minster" has been disused as a place of worship is unknown; but it must have been desecrated for a very considerable period, as a large oak tree grows from the foundations of the south wall, which from its size and appearance of maturity must be, at least, three hundred years old.

THE CHURCH

was constructed about a century posterior to the Norman Conquest, though it retains few of its original features. It now consists of a good square tower, in which hang five bells, with a nave and chancel only; though the presence of a series of clerestory windows, over a range of lower and more ample lights, seems to indicate that the fabric, at some distant period, possessed a north and south aisle. The interior is very lofty and elegant, and although every architectural member is plain and simple, yet the neat and creditable condition of the fittings, and the fine proportions of the church and

chancel, produce a very agreeable effect. The windows contained much stained glass a few years since, and amidst a rich display of architectural designs were the following arms: Ufford, Norwich, Willington, Bateman; and sable 3 mitres arg. impaling Ardington; and gules a chev. between 3 cross-crosslets fitchee, arg.; also, per pale, arg. and sab., a bend counterchanged. Argentin, gul. 3 covered cups arg., also quarterly, arg. and gules; in the first quarter an eagle displayed sable. There was likewise the following legend:

Prie pour John Bunting.²

A small piscina is still open in the chancel, and over the communion table is placed a painting representing the raising of Lazarus from the grave. The roof of the church was raised at the expense of various contributors, whose arms were emblazoned on the corbels of either side; amidst which, those of Bateman were twice repeated. The authenticity, however, of these memorials of piety is completely destroyed by recent painting; and the pencil of some ignorant mechanic has rendered the series a jumble of heraldic errors. The fine old coat of Bateman—sable, 3 crescents ermine within a bordure engrailed argent, is coloured thus: argent 3 crescents within a bordure engrailed sable. The cups in Argentin's shield are yellow: thus destroying the affinity between the bearing and the name. Little dependence, therefore, can be placed on the other cognizances, among which, however, are seen the bearings of Adair, correctly represented. The arms of Bateman are also cut on the octangular font, which is removed from its original position.

Monuments.—Dorcas Downinge, filia Gulielmi Bloyse, arm: uxor Georgii Downinge, Gen: ob: 2. Sep: 1638. æt. 46.

There is a record to William Smith, A.M., formerly fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, Rector of this parish, and reader in the chapel at Harleston, who died in 1767. He assisted Sir Thomas Hanmer in his edition of Shakspeare, and Dr. Grey, also, in his notes on Butler's Hudibras; and in these works gave evident proofs, both of his literary attainments and his great humour and pleasantry. He left three sons, all clergymen, namely, the Rev. William Smith, of St. John's College, afterwards Rector of Bedford; the Rev. Charles Smith, Rector of Weeting, in Norfolk; and the Rev. John Smith, Rector of Mattishall, in the same county: the two latter were of Caius College, Cambridge. He also left a daughter, named Frances, who married Mr. Cave, of Bedford, and left issue one son.³ John Jebb, M.D., F.R.S., who was instituted Rector of Sanderoft and Homersfield in 1770, resigned these preferments from religious scruples. He was previously fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge,

² Jermyn MSS.

³ Idem.

and died in Parliament Street, Westminster, March 2nd, 1786. The indefatigable collector Cole says in his manuscripts, "Mr. Jebb, a professed Arian, was the great and busy agitator at Cambridge of the petition to Parliament to throw aside all subscriptions, 1772: him, the master of St. John's, Dr. Wm. Samuel Powell, opposed in all his wild schemes of reformation; and when he found his mischief at Cambridge was so ably counteracted, he reluctantly left the place, where he had done more harm by his lectures and activity than one can conceive; and flung off his gown, and publicly avowed his unbelief of the divinity of our Saviour. He now studies physick in London."⁴

Walker⁵ mentions "William Evans, Rector of Sandcroft, deprived for neglecting the Parliament fasts; not preaching in the afternoons: prosecuting his parishioners for gadding (to factious lecturers, no question) from their own parish church: reading his Majesty's declarations; and for saying they were cursed, who gave a lent to the Parliament: nor was it possible, to be sure, that such an one could be other than a notorious drunkard."

The tithes of St. George have been commuted for £197. 10s., and there are 25 acres, 1 rood, 7 perches of glebe land. The registers commence in 1558. This rectory was consolidated with Homersfield on the 19th of June, 1767.

RECTORS OF ST. GEORGE.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
William de Hardrichishull	1319	Robert de Sandcroft.
Petrus le Munk		
Robert de Ebor	1329	Id.
Oliv: fil: Jōis Humfrey	1329	Id.
Joēs de Longâ Stratton	1347	Emericus de Wellyngham, Miles.
Joēs Penne, de Letton	1389	Will: Middleton de Mendham, et Tho: de Wynchestre.
Joēs Cates, de Swanton Abbots	1414	Robert Bateman de Flixton, jure hered: pat.
Thomas Pittohe de Wicklewood	1424	Id.
William Brixy	1429	Id.
Joēs Cowper	1430	Id.
William Merveyn		
Robert Gerard	1439	Thomas Bateman, Esq.
William Freeman		
Joēs Dyke	1485	Robert Bateman, Esq.
Robert Burdall	1505	
Jacobus Billingford	1520	Thomas Bateman, Esq.

⁴ Cole's MSS.

⁵ 'Sufferings of the Clergy,' Part 11., p. 238.

ANTIQUITIES OF THE

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Robert Thompson		
William Offrey	1554	Thomas Bateman, Esq.
Robert Thompson, (restored) .	1561	
George Grayme		
John Lytherland	1576	George Bateman, Esq.
James Levitt	1585	Thomas Bateman, Esq.
John Archer	1616	Sir John Tasburgh.
William Evans	1639	Henry Rich, Earl of Holland.
Thomas Pye	1661	Richard Tasburgh, Esq.
Thomas Le Grys	1693	Mary Le Grys, p. h. v.
William Smith	1722	William Smith, p. h. v.
William Adair	1767	William Adair, Esq.
John Jebb	1770	Id.
Samuel Baker	1776	William Adair, Esq.
David Hawkswell Potts	1787	Alexander Adair, Esq.
William Clarke	1789	Id.
Courtenay Boyle Bruce	1832	Id.

Estimatur ad xv marc.

Homersfield,

OR

ST. MARY SOUTH ELMHAM.

THE name of this village, as written in Domesday Book, is Humbresfelda; which signifies the land of Humbre: whence it would appear that some Danish rover, sailing up the broad channel of the Waveney, had seized on this bold promontory, and established himself in the demesne of the Saxon bishop, by compromise or the strong arm. In either case, he has left his name to posterity, as an evidence of his occupancy.

At the time of the Norman Survey, this village comprised two manors; two endowed churches, a mill, and the hamlet of Linburna—the modern Limburne. William, Bishop of Thetford, held a manor, which Bishop Almar had possessed in Saxon days, in which was a church, endowed with twelve acres of glebe, and the mill. The bishop claimed the soc and the sac of Stigand's tenants, and also of the lands of Limburne, belonging to Bury Abbey, for which he had the testimony of the Hundred

Court; and he was in possession of a grant, of the time of Edward the Confessor, whereby he was entitled to the exercise of sac and soc over the lands of St. Edmund and his tenants. In Saxon times, the woods on this manor were large enough to fatten six hundred swine, but they had been so reduced as to maintain only two hundred when the Survey was made.

A free-man of Bishop Almar still retained a manor with a church and thirty acres of glebe land, then valued at 9*s.* and 4*d.* The Saxon owners of this estate seem to have been undisturbed in their possessions here, for it is further recorded that twenty-three free-men still held 80 acres of land, which formerly had been worth 40*s.*, but were now valued at only 30*s.* This manor was one leuca in length, and half a leuca in breadth, and paid 20*d.* land-tax.

Saint Edmund, that is, Bury Abbey, held thirty acres of land in Linburn, with five bordars, or labourers, two acres of meadow, and the fifth part of a mill: the whole was worth 10*s.*, but it is expressly stated that the Bishop of Thetford had the soc and sac.¹

The manor and advowson of Homersfield remained with the bishops of the diocese till the reign of Henry VIII., when they passed to the Norths, as parcel of the manor, &c., of South Elmham, and now belong to Sir Robert Shafto Adair, Bart.

In the collections of the late Thomas Martin was a confirmation of six acres and a half of land in Homersfield to Robert de Sandcroft, ancestor to Archbishop Sandcroft, which Robert Husbond, tenant or servant to John of Oxford, Bishop of Norwich, gave him; and of three acres and a half, which Gervaise, son to Robert Husbond, sold to the aforesaid Robert de Sandcroft for 4*s.*, and released and abjured it in the bishop's own chamber at Homersfield; to be held by the rent of 16*d.* a year to the bishop's manor of Homersfield, and 5*d.* to every aid, or tax, laid on that town.

In the reign of Henry III., the Bishop of Norwich obtained a license for a market and fair to be held at Homersfield.² The former is obsolete, but there is still a small annual fair, held in May.

Walter de Suffield, Bishop of Norwich, gave the third part of the tithes of his demesne in Homersfield to the Norman's Spital, or St. Paul's Hospital, in Norwich.³

Linburna, or Limburne, which signifies a contributory stream, appears to have been alienated by the Abbot of Bury soon after the Norman Survey was completed; for Roger Bigot confirmed to the nuns of Bungay "his lands of Limburne" in 1160; though the Abbot always retained an interest in it, and at the dissolution of Bungay Nunnery, when the rental of the manor of Limburne was £ 3. 13*s.* 3½*d.*, had an annual payment of one shilling. The site of this manor was held in farm, before the dis-

¹ Domesday Book. Terra Epi de Tetfort. Sci Edmundi.

² Claus: 11 Hen. III., m. 3, pro feria et mercat: apud Humersfeld pro Epis. Norwic. ³ Blomefield.

solution, by Robert Middleton, Gent., of Middleton Hall, in Mendham. Being parcel of the possessions of Bungay Priory, it was included in the grant of that establishment to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, by Henry VIII. In the seventh of Edward VI., it was held by John and Thomas Wright; but in the seventh of Elizabeth was again in the Norfolk family, when the rental amounted to £4. 10s. 7d. In 1564, or the following year, Richard Wheatley, Rector of this parish, died seized of this manor; and about 1567, James, son of Edward Berdewell, of Mendham, as heir male of his family, released it to Bassingbourn Gawdy, Esq.; and in 1569, Sir Bassingbourn Gawdy, Knt., of Middleton Hall in Mendham, died seized of it. In the thirty-seventh of Queen Elizabeth's reign, Bassingbourn Gawdy, Esq., and Dorothy, his second wife, daughter of Sir Nicholas Bacon, Knight, are described as Lord and Lady. In 1696, John Rayner, Gent., held his first court; and in 1709, James Whiting, of Homersfield, was lord. It was soon after purchased by Alexander Adair, Esq.; and Sir Robert Shafto Adair is the present lord, in whom all the manorial tenures are merged. Kirby says, "there are but few or no tenants belonging to this manor, and it would scarce be known, if it were not for the water-mill, which still retains the name of Limber Mill." This mill was sold some years since to Aldous Arnold, of Lowestoft, Esq., and is at present the property of the Rev. Richard Aldous Arnold, Rector of Ellough.

The manor of Wadker's in Wymondham, in Norfolk, extended into Homersfield, and was held by the family of Hare.⁴ This ancient race sprung originally from a branch of the illustrious family of Harcourt of Lorraine, in France, and came into England with William the Conqueror.⁵ The armorial cognizance of this family was gules, two bars or: to which an augmentation of a chief indented of the second was given to Sir John Hare, who married Ann, daughter of Eustace Crew, Baron of Montalt. Hugh Hare, of Homersfield,⁶ was living in the first of Henry the Seventh's reign, and was succeeded by Nicholas Hare, of Homersfield, Esq., who had issue, by Margaret his wife, two sons, John, and Thomas, who was a Doctor of Civil Laws and Chancellor of Norwich.

A branch of the Bateman family had an estate in Homersfield in the 17th century, which they held for some generations, till they moved to Mendham. There is a bridge in this parish over the river Waveney, which was built in 1763 by William Adair, Esq., who was the lord of the manor of South Elmham, and had a right of toll on passing and repassing this bridge, and which right exists at this day.⁷ It appears from records that the lands of this village, which are of a light and gravelly nature, were formerly field lands, marked with meres and doles, laying open as a common field, and

⁴ Blomefield.

⁵ Id.

⁶ Jermyn MSS.

⁷ MSS. Norman.

in a variety of ownerships.⁸ The place, some centuries ago, contained so many ale-houses as to give rise to the following distich, which is now, happily, inappropriate.

“Denton in the dale, and Arbro’ in the dirt,—
And if you go to Homersfield, your purse will get the squirt.”⁹

Homersfield contains 981 acres of land; of which nine only are glebe, though eight hundred years since there were forty-two.¹⁰ At the time of the last census the population amounted to 291 souls; eighteen persons being included in this number who were then dwelling in tents and the open air.

THE CHURCH

at Homersfield is an ancient structure, very picturesquely situated on a bold knoll of land, encompassed on the west and north by the meanders of the Waveney. The spot is so admirably adapted to the ancient plans of fortification, that had not the manor been the property of the church at the time of the Conquest, it would, undoubtedly, have been selected as the site of a castle by some of the Norman barons, among whom our soil was parcelled out. The lands of the great ecclesiastics and the abbeyes were, however, uninvaded by the Conqueror,—a measure resulting from policy, I apprehend, rather than from religious motives. The fabric, which comprises a small nave and chancel, with a square tower containing three bells, is in a very dilapidated state. The walls, however, appear firm and sound, except in one place where the ivy has been permitted to penetrate, and a judicious architect might effect much here, at a comparatively small expense. Our ancient churches should never, but in extreme cases, be removed to make way for modern erections. Their walls are time-hallowed, and they are dear to us from the associations connected with them.

Passing through a very elegant little chancel door, we enter the interior of this edifice, which, though neatly kept, is very indifferently furnished. There is a Norman font, resting on five pillars, and one or two very ancient windows. Humble as this fabric is, it was once adorned with stained glass: the legend

Orate p̄ aīabs Johī Droll, et Elizabeth: consortis sue

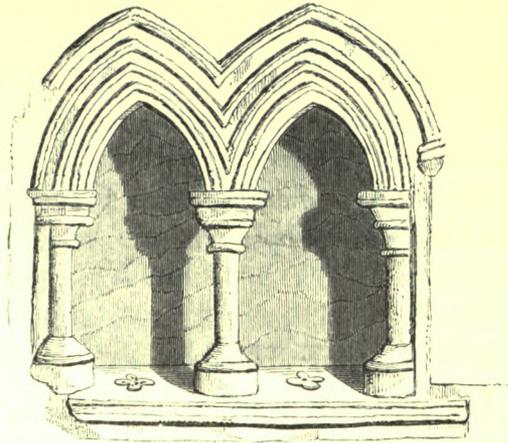
has disappeared, but the figure of a bishop remains in the upper part of the east window, in a sitting posture, having his mitre on his head, his pastoral staff in his left hand, and his right hand elevated as in the act of pronouncing the benedicite: the

⁸ MSS. Norman.

⁹ Fuller's 'County Proverbs.'

¹⁰ Domesday.

colours are much faded. In the south wall of the chancel is an elegant double piscina, of early English character.



Monuments.—On the floor is a grave-stone with the arms of Bateman, sab. 3 crescents erm. within a bordure engrailed argent, thus inscribed. Barnabas Bateman, Gent., died 25 March, 1655.

John Bateman, Gent., died 1649, aged 66.

Thomas Le Grys, Rector of this parish and Sandcroft, died June 10th, 1722, aged 58.

There is an old stone in the nave with an illegible inscription and these arms 3 greyhounds' heads erased collared with a crescent for difference, impaling per pale and 3 eagles displayed

The rectory of Homersfield was consolidated with Sandcroft on the 19th of June, 1767. The date of the oldest register is 1558. The tithes have been commuted for £143.

RECTORS OF HOMERSFIELD.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Robert de Haustede	1311	The Bishop, pleno jure.
Richard de Notyngam	1320	Id.
William de Lopham	1329	Id.
William de Rammesholt	1350	Id.
John Newman	1391	Id.
John Salyng, alias Algar	1394	Id.
John Hanwille	1394	Id.
Walter Wardeboys	1395	Id.
Nicholas Abel	1399	Id.
William Hebbe	1405	Id.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas Kensale	1408	The Bishop, pleno jure.
Thomas Foxton	1410	Id.
William Wode	1411	Id.
Thomas Waytelove	1412	Id.
John Lingeford	1418	Id.
Thomas Eppes	1420	Id.
Edward Sperhawk	1422	Id.
Adam Kede	1449	Id.
Richard Faulkys	1455	Id.
Oliver Warner, alias Wetherale .	1466	Id.
Andrew Smith	1466	Id.
William Sutton	1484	Id.
Roger Mundes	1501	Id.
John Yate	1513	No patron mentioned.
William Overey	1541	Edward North, Esq.
Henry Carter	1560	Id.
Richard Wheatley	1563	The Bishop, by lapse.
Robert Downes	1565	Roger, Lord North.
Edward Ellesley	1566	Id.
James Levytt	1585	John North, Esq.
Thomas Dorington	1594	Id.
Valentine Dey	1612	Assig. of Lord North.
Christopher Spendlove		
Thomas Pye	1662	Wm. Lisle, Esq.
Thomas Le Grys	1693	Mary le Grys, p. h. v.
William Smith	1722	William Smith, p. h. v.

Estimatur ad viij marc.

Robert Downes, M.A., instituted Rector of this parish in 1565, was installed fourth Prebend of Norwich Cathedral, February the 8th, 1576.

Charities.—Two acres and a half of copyhold land, held of the manor of South Elmham, were left by Sir Nicholas Hare for charitable purposes. They are held by trustees, and produce about 50s. per annum, which are distributed among widows and other poor persons at Christmas time.

ST. JAMES SOUTH ELMHAM.

As a member of the lordship of South Elmham, the manorial history of this parish has been already detailed. It lies at the south-west angle of the demesne, and comprises

1301 acres of land, of which nine are glebe. The tithes have been commuted for a rent-charge of £384. 10s.; and the population in 1841 amounted to 289.

There is a small estate in this parish, containing about 15 acres, and let for an annual rent of £20, given by Catharine Skarffe, widow of Andrew Skarffe, formerly of St. James's, who by her last will and testament, bearing date December 21st, 1479, gave all her messuage, tenement, and lands belonging, for certain pious and charitable uses, and for repairing the parish church, &c., vested in the hands of feoffees for the fulfilling the intent and uses of her will; but as part of the uses were abolished with the change of religion in this realm, by an inquisition taken of all charitable and other donations, in the reign of James I., it was settled and decreed that the rents and profits arising from the premises should be applied towards the reparation of the parish church, and the overplus expended in aid of the parish rates. There were also £10 given by William Grudgfield, Gent., to be vested in the churchwarden's hands for the time being, for him to render 10s. per annum, as interest; to be given away yearly, at the discretion of the churchwarden, to the poor of the said parish for ever.¹

The farm in this parish called St. James's Park was anciently a paled enclosure, with a mansion in the centre, and was, most probably, emparked by royal license. It was formerly the property of Robert Palmer, Esq., from whom it passed to Wolfran Lewis, Esq.² It now belongs to his son, the Rev. John Lewis, Rector of Gillingham, in Norfolk.

THE CHURCH

is a spacious edifice, lofty and well proportioned, though it has not altogether escaped neglect and inappropriate reparations. It comprises a nave, opening by a fine arch into a square tower, in which hang four bells; a chancel, and a south aisle; the east end of which was formerly appropriated as a chapel, and dedicated to St. John. Andrew Taylor, who died Rector of this parish in 1474, and whose will was proved on the 9th of January, 1475, desires his body to be buried in this church, before the altar of St. John Baptist; "coram alt: S. Jōis Bapt:"³ Three octangular pillars, with plain moulded capitals, support the like number of arches, and to the west of these is a fourth arch, of like character, but of greater height and span. There are the remains of three sedilia, but the piscina is closed, and the canopies of all have been destroyed.

Considerable care and expense must have been bestowed on this fabric in olden times, as is apparent in every part of it. The chancel door is of very fine workmanship, and the stone employed of superior quality. Though full six hundred years old, the edges of the mouldings remain sharp and uncorroded. The north door of the nave

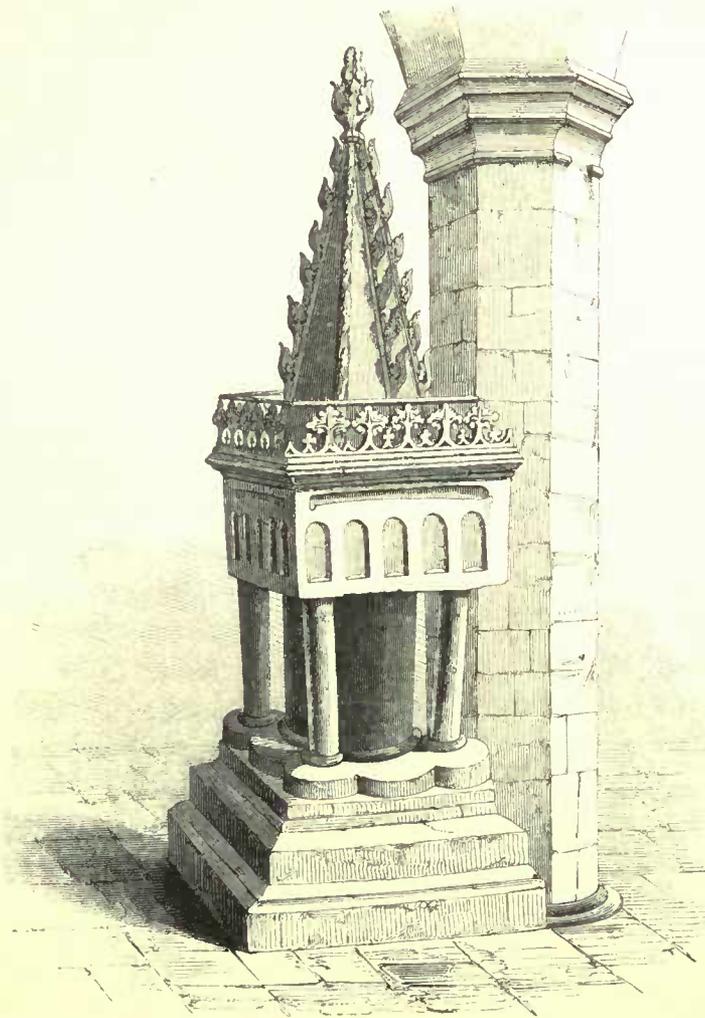
¹ MSS. Norman.

² Id.

³ Will Book, Norwich.

requires also a particular notice. It is pointed, but the architraves are wrought with the Norman billet moulding. Fragments of stained glass in the windows attest the presence of this enrichment in earlier days, when almost all our parish churches were beautified with its tinted, solemn gloom.

The west end of the aisle formed the ancient vestry, and is enclosed by a screen of oak of early English character, which, though simply cut in boards, produces considerable effect. Like every thing in the interior of our churches, it is covered with a wash of lime. At the foot of the western arcade stands a large and very ancient font of Norman construction, sustaining a canopy of oak, richly carved, but of much inferior date. Like the old screen, it is incrustated with whitewash, while the font itself is coloured yellow—a barbarism the more to be regretted as it is carved out of Purbeck marble, a stone which bears the highest polish.



Tombs.—On the floor of the nave lies a small brass plate, about five inches long and two wide, bearing the following laconic inscription :

Edm̄nde Jfreyll Squyer.

There are two brass effigies, of ordinary character, lying in the nave, about a foot long.

Hannah Greene, widow of John Greene, and daughter of William Aldrich, of Rumburgh, Gent., buried 6 May, 1712, æt. 65. John Greene, Gent., died 4 March, 1688, æt. 67. Thomas Greene died x day of May, 1615: he married Agnes Warde, and had 3 sons and 3 daughters.

On a brass plate is the following record :

Here lyethe buried the body of William Grudgfield, who had to wife Elizabeth Battely. He deceased y^e 2 of June, anno 1601, which Willia^m gave x pounce to be payed by his executors to y^e church-wardens wthin 2 yeeres after his decease, for y^e byinge of 5 milsh kyne to be let out to y^e use of the poore of this parish for ever.

In the church-yard, against the west end of the aisle, is a tomb to the memory of George Norman Cracknell, who lost his life while bathing in the river Orwell, 11th of Aug., 1834, aged 16 years.

RECTORS OF ST. JAMES SOUTH ELMHAM.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Robert de Stratton . . .	1334	The Bishop.
Joës de Hoo . . .	1335	Id.
Roger de Stow . . .	1337	Id.
Joës Waynflet . . .	1337	Id.
Robert de Foston . . .	1345	Id.
Simon Gyzoun de Linford	1349	Id.
Joës de Wynston . . .	1349	Id.
Thomas Walton . . .	1349	Id.
William Sillecok . . .	1357	Id.
Robert Day . . .		
Joës Spendlove . . .	1370	Id.
Joës Bredford . . .	1390	Id.
Richard Elyngton . . .	1394	Id.
Joës de Norton . . .	1397	Id.
Henry Yokflete . . .		
Robert Somerby . . .	1402	Id.
Thomas Audemer . . .		
Joës Covyn . . .	1414	Id.
Henry Edward . . .	1419	Id.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas Robyn . . .	1431	The Bishop.
Andrew Taylor . . .	1436	Id.
Thomas Ocley . . .	1474	Id.
Robert Mawnus . . .	1475	Id.
Nicholas Kyrshawe . . .	1511	Id.
Robert Betts . . .	1523	Id.
Joës Radwiche . . .	1557	Edward, Lord North.
William Riccarde . . .	1566	Id.
John Guthrie . . .	1617	Sir John Tasburgh.
Samuel Knapp . . .	1622	Thomas Knapp, p. h. v.
Richard Sadler . . .	1665	John Gooch, Esq.
Francis Booty . . .	1684	Thomas Baxter, Gent.
John Birch . . .	1705	John Tasburgh, Esq.
Samuel Birch . . .	1706	Baldwin Conyers, Esq.
Thomas Fuller . . .	1737	Anthony Ellys, D.D., p. h. v.
Francis Turner . . .	1743	Bishop, by lapse.
Thomas Barne . . .	1790	Alexander Adair, Esq.
Archibald Brice . . .	1795	Id.
Courtenay Boyle Bruce . . .	1828	Id.

Estimatur ad xii marc.

ST. MARGARET SOUTH ELMHAM.

This parish formed the nucleus of the ancient demesne of South Elmham. The bishops had a residence here from the time of Herbert de Lozinga, who obtained the see of Norwich in 1094, to their final disseisin of the estate in the reign of Henry VIII. In the early mansion, which has been conjectured¹—I think without reason—to have occupied the site of the residence of the Danish leaders, Herbert and his successors dwelt, occasionally, in feudal magnificence. Walter de Suffield, a prelate of the thirteenth century, who united the character of a strict devotee with a free indulgence in martial and sylvan sports, kept great state at South Elmham; and we may infer that his pack of hounds—considered worthy the acceptance of his monarch—made the merry woods of St. Margaret re-echo with their notes. He died in 1257, and bequeathed to Gotle of South Elmham, who was probably his steward, a legacy of 3 marks. Walter de Skerning, his successor, died at “his manor-house” of South Elmham on the 22nd of January, 1278, but was interred in the Lady chapel of his cathedral at Norwich.

¹ Jermyn MSS.

Bishop Bateman, who was advanced to the see in 1343, was much attached to this residence. His partiality to the place arose, in all probability, from its locality to Flixton, where his brother Sir Bartholomew resided. He purchased considerable estates in the neighbourhood. These prelates occupied, without doubt, the mansion erected by Herbert; for the buildings of those days were constructed for duration; though the house appears to have been shortly after demolished: for in the eleventh of Richard II., 1387, Henry de Spencer, "the warlike Bishop of Norwich," obtained a license from his monarch to kernellate, or embattle, his manor-house of South Elmham. His magnificent and martial habits lead us to conclude that this was done on an extensive scale, and in a style which combined much of the castellated with the domestic architecture of the day.

From the lapse of time, and the vicissitudes which the place has experienced, we seek in vain for any considerable remains of Spencer's mansion, once calculated, no doubt, to accommodate the numerous retinue of fental state and rude magnificence. The present house, which occupies a part of the site, and retains the name of its statelier predecessor, is, in all probability, a portion of Bishop Spencer's "kernellated manor-house," though externally modernized and modified to existing circumstances; the durable materials and strong construction of its massy walls referring it to an early period. Its site, which is high and commanding, is encompassed by a broad and deep moat, enclosing about three acres. Within this area arose a vast quadrangular mansion, entered through a lofty gateway-tower, the remains of which were almost entire in the latter part of the seventeenth century. This gate-house was approached by a long and wide avenue of oaks, most of which are still flourishing and majestic, although planted by Bishop Nix in the year 1520. The lofty hall and gigantic kitchen have left no traces to identify their position, and that of the various minor apartments defies speculation. A small room on the west side of the quadrangle, and immediately opposite to the great gate-house, is pointed out to visitors as the chapel of this extensive pile; but no appropriation can be more misplaced. Without noticing its inadequacy to accommodate one quarter of the numerous retainers of the prelates, the proofs of its having been a private and low apartment are evident; and its position, close upon the postern gate and drawbridge, the piles of which were discovered a very few years since, when the moat was cleansed, refer it, with more probability, to a porter's lodge. The room is open to the elements, in its present ruined state, but terminates towards the north in a lofty and acute gable, in which, at regular heights, are holes left for the reception of floor-beams. A wide well of rubble-stone and mortar has lately been laid open, and the pavement of several apartments discovered at the same time, which seemed to have been appropriated to inferior purposes. The tenacity of ancient masonry is strongly exhibited at this place, where several portions of old foundation walls are

lying in the garden, some of which measure three or four yards in length, and have been dragged by horses from a distant quarter of the area, and deposited entire in the spot where they lie. When the moat was cleansed a few years since, by the present occupant, between three and four thousand cart-loads of mud were scooped from its bed; but the only discoveries made were a few earthen jars of a comparatively modern date.

South Elmham Hall, in its prouder days, was much visited by pilgrims, on their way to the chapel of Our Lady of Walsingham, and the flat thin coin known as pilgrims' tokens, stamped with a rose and a cross, are not unfrequently found among the ruins. The farm, which surrounds the remains of South Elmham Hall, is still known in the neighbourhood as the Park Farm.



The family of the late Mr. Norman, of South Elmham Hall, has been settled for several centuries in the township. About the time of the old Pretender, that gentleman's grandfather was deputed by some member of the family, then owners of Flixton Hall, to convey a casket of jewels to a lady residing in a certain convent in France. Having safely delivered his charge to the fair hands of the devotee, through the convent grate, he returned to Dover, where the authorities had been for some time previous on the look-out for the Pretender. Mr. Norman, being habited in the old English costume, with a laced cocked-hat, and having somewhat of a military carriage, was immediately seized as that prince, and lodged in Dover Castle, where he was immured, and

guarded with the utmost circumspection, till letters arrived from Suffolk to certify his indenture.

Gregory Clarke, of Bungay, Gentleman, by his will dated May 11th, 1723, devises to his son, Gregory Clarke, all his houses, lands, &c., in the parishes of St. Margaret, St. Peter, and Flixton, and South Elmham. He leaves to the poor of Bungay £ 5, to the poor of Mettingham 20s., and to the poor of Earsham 20s., to be distributed in the church-yards.

THE CHURCH

at St. Margaret's, which is a moderately sized building, comprising a nave and chancel only, with a square tower, open to the body of the church, and containing five bells, is in sound and reputable condition. The rectory was consolidated with that of St. Nicholas on the 26th of July, 1362,² but it does not appear when they were severed. It was subsequently consolidated with the adjoining benefice of St. Peter in 1734, and so remains.³ The church was built about the reign of King John, though it has been remodified at various periods. It contained, before the Reformation, a Guild of St. Margaret, and an image of St. Thomas. William Thederick, Rector, by his last will, proved on the 11th of January, 1504, leaves his body to be buried in the church of St. Margaret South Elmham, before the image of Saint Thomas.⁴

Against the north wall of the chancel is a small inarched recess, and in various parts of the interior are the following monumental records: Elizabeth Britten, wife of John Carter, died Dec. 3rd, 1748, aged 23. John Buxton, Esq., died 21st of January, 1712, aged 78; his wife died the 11th of May, 1710, aged 58.

This John Buxton was the second son of John Buxton, of Tibbenham, Esq., an ancestor of the present Sir John Buxton, Bart., of Shadwell Lodge. He lived at South Elmham, and was patron of the church of Shimpling, in Norfolk, in right of his wife, who was daughter and heiress of Mr. Proctor, of Burston, in the same county. He left issue three sons and one daughter.

Attached to this monument are the arms of Buxton, arg. a lion ramp. sable: his tail turned over his back, impaling Proctor, arg. a chevron gules. Guillim says "that although this manner of bearing, in respect of the tail, is rarely used, yet it is very ancient, as appears from an old table of the said arms, taken out of the monastery at Bungay, in Suffolk, having been hung up there before the dissolution of religious houses, for one styled Le Seneschal Buxton, which table then remained in possession of the said John Buxton."⁵

Katherine Randall died in the year 1681.

² Lib. Instit. pen. Epis. Norwie.

³ Id.

⁴ Will Book, Norwich.

⁵ Guillim's Heraldry.

The parish of St. Margaret South Elmham contains 589 acres, 15 perches of land, of which 65 acres, 2 roods, 7 perches, are glebe. The tithes have been commuted for £136. 1s. There is about half an acre of glebe, attached to this benefice, lying in All Saints South Elmham. The registers commence in 1679.

RECTORS OF ST. MARGARET SOUTH ELMHAM.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
William Skendelby	1309	The Bishop, pleno jure.
Joës de Tadelow	1312	Id.
Thos. de Wederhale	1326	Id.
Richard de Ulfet	1329	Id.
Will: fil: Math: de Wytresham	1338	Id.
Nicholas Lacy	1346	Id.
Samuel Gysoun	1346	Id.
Joës de Brymchampton, alias Stairlak	1349	Id.
Nicholas de Cranwich		
Andrew de Colney, resigned 1362	1358	Id.
William Skothowe		
Joës Ravene	1373	Id.
Robert Rendylesham	1412	Id.
William Douce	1420	Id.
John Cok	1425	The King.
John Smith de Warden	1426	Vicar-General.
John Robin	1433	The Bishop.
John Dalyson	1458	Id.
Richard Bartholomew	1467	Id.
William Thederick	1479	Id.
Robert Gurnell	1504	Id.
Robert Nooke	1545	Thos. Godsalve, assig. of Sir E. North, Knt.
Christopher Batten	1557	Edward, Lord North.
Thomas Broke	1563	The Bishop, by lapse.
John Morland	1572	Sir Roger North, Knt.
William Goddard	1599	Id.
Thomas Linseley		
Elias Sheen	1631	George Gooch, Gent.
John Woolmer	1679	Robt. Woolmer, Gent.
John Woolmer	1684	Thomas Baxter, Gent.
Thomas Ibbott	1717	Wm. Clayton, Clk., and Jane Clayton, widow.
John Kerrich	1732	Daniel Sayer, Gent.
Peter Routh	1753	Grace Britten, widow.
Charles Jeffryes Cottrell	1802	Alexander Adair, Esq.
Benjamin Evans	1807	Id.
Edward Adolphus Holmes	1833	Id.

Estimatur ad vij marc.

This parish has estates vested in certain feoffees, which were purchased by the proprietors or occupiers of lands therein, of Thomas Gawdye, of Redenhall, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, for certain uses mentioned in the feoffments, which are for the discharge of the leet, here due to the lord, for the repairs of the highways, bridges, &c., within the said parish; and the surplus, if any, to be applied to charitable and pious uses at the discretion of the feoffees. There is, also, a town-farm, supposed to be given to this parish long since, vested, likewise, in trust; and by an exemplification of a decretal order, under a commission of charitable uses in the reign of King James I., dated 1607, Robert Haghe and Thomas Carye are mentioned as donors. The uses of the rent and profits are to aid the inhabitants of the said parish in discharging and paying the fifteenths, tenths, and taxes, and other common local burthens and charges, happening to be charged upon the parishioners of the said parish. All the above lands are now vested in the hands of feoffees, and the rents and profits duly applied.⁶

Population in 1841, 181 inhabitants.

SAINT MICHAEL SOUTH ELMHAM

is a very small parish, containing only 825 acres of land, with a population, in 1841, of 145 inhabitants. The minister has no glebe but the church-yard. The advowson of St. Michael was granted at a very early period to the small cell and priory of Rumburgh. In 1207, William de Munkensy, fil: Will: de Munkensi tulit assisam de ecclie Seti Michael: de Elmham versus Priorem de Rumburgh.¹ The monks appear to have absorbed the entire proceeds of this benefice; for in 1241, when it was returned that the prior and convent of Rumburgh held this church for their own uses, it is added—“nulla vicaria.”² Upon the dissolution of that establishment in the reign of Henry VIII., it fell into the hands of that monarch, to whom it was granted by Act of Parliament in 1533. In 1555, John Redwyke held the impropriation, when the rectory was valued at £4. 18s. 9d.³ In 1627, Bartholomew Andre or Audie held it, and William Myles was curate; and in 1636, Fairfax, curate of Rumburgh, also officiated here. On the 9th of May, 1709, Henry Kifford was the minister,⁴ after which occur the following names.

⁶ MSS. Norman.

¹ Plac. 9 John. Harl. MSS. 972.

² Lib. Inst. pen. Epis. Norwic.

³ Id.

⁴ Id.

John Banks	1764	
Humphrey Waring	1785	William Elmy, Esq.
John Francis Browne Bohun	1802	Bence Sparrow, Clk.
The same, instituted a second time	1805	Bence Bence, Clk.
William Tyson	1816	John Francis Browne Bohun.

Estimatur ad x mare.

It was consolidated, as a perpetual curacy, with that of Rumburgh, Nov. 2nd, 1805.

The impropriate tithes passed from the Rev. Bence Bence to John Norman, Gent., of St. Margaret South Elmham, and are now the property of his son-in-law, Mr. George Durrant. Many portions of the tithes, however, have long been disposed of to the proprietors of lands within the parish.⁵

The manor was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Edward North,⁶ and passing with the other property in South Elmham, is now held by Sir Robert Shafto Adair.

THE CHURCH

of St. Michael is a small, humble fabric, but boasting considerable antiquity; and has a fine Norman doorway on the south side of the nave, with billet mouldings, in good preservation. It comprises a nave and chancel, with a square tower, in which now hangs one bell only; two broken bells having been sold from it about five-and-twenty years since. It contains a plain octangular font, and is reputedly kept, though the interior is damp, the edifice standing on a strip of cold wet common land.

Monuments.—Henry Longe, Gent., died 24th of Nov., 1727. Rebecca, his wife, daughter of Timothy Weld, Gent., died 4th of Dec., 1735.

Arms.—Longe a lion pass. impaling Weld, a fess counter-crenellated erm., between 3 crescents.

A piece of land, reputed to contain about two acres and a quarter, has been appropriated, from ancient time, to the uses of the parish. It lies intermixed with the property of the Adair family, and its precise boundaries are unknown. The rent is applied in aid of the church and poor-rates.

ST. NICHOLAS SOUTH ELMHAM

was consolidated and united with Saint Margaret's, July 27th, 1362, by Thomas Ayreminne, Bishop of Norwich, from which it was afterwards severed, and finally consolidated with All Saints, December the 8th, 1737.¹

⁵ MSS. Norman.

⁶ Jermyn MSS.

¹ Registr. Norwic.

An estate, consisting of about sixteen acres, in the parishes of St. Nicholas and St. James in South Elmham, was purchased in 1640 of John Sutton, by the inhabitants of Aldeburgh, in Norfolk, and conveyed by them, by deed to feoffees, to the intent that the said feoffees, their heirs, &c., should at all times employ the rents and profits, yearly, arising from the premises, to the only benefit and behalf of the inhabitants within the said parish: the time for distribution to be left to the discretion of the said feoffees. Annual produce stated to amount to £15, subject to the land-tax and other deductions.²

The church of St. Nicholas, which has long been ruined, was taxed at nine marks.³

RECTORS OF ST. NICHOLAS SOUTH ELMHAM.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Clement de Peckham .	1308	The Bishop.
Thomas de Campania .	1311	Id.
Joës de Reynes . . .	1314	Id.
Simon Swafham . . .	1322	Id.
Gasc. de Islyngton . .	1322	Id.
Joës de Swathefd . . .	1331	Id.
Joës de Briggewauser .	1332	Id.
Roger de Stow	1338	Id.
John de Warsop	1341	Id.
Simon de West Warden .	1345	Id.
Henry de Wyndet . . .	1349	Id.
Andrew de Colney . . .	1361	Id.
Joës Hardingethorn . .	1365	Id.
William Copynger . . .	1391	Id.
Robert Stowe	1411	Id.
Gregory Watre		
Thomas Kingis	1418	Id.
Joës Galle	1422	Id.
Richard Dalby	1422	Id.
Robert Atte Fen	1426	Id.
Henry Halle	1429	Id.
Robert Barton	1443	Id.
Joës Ryngstede	1444	Id.
Joës Lowth	1454	Id.
Joës Key	1457	Id.
Thomas Morton	1464	Id.
Walter Cowper	1471	Id.

² Norf. Charities, p. 2.

³ Norwich Domesday.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
James Key	1476	The Bishop.
Thomas Whetecroft	1483	Id.
Robert Cowper	1492	Id.
William Knollys	1498	Id.
Robert Flikke	1524	Id.
William Wickham		
Henry Ringer	1557	Edward, Lord North.

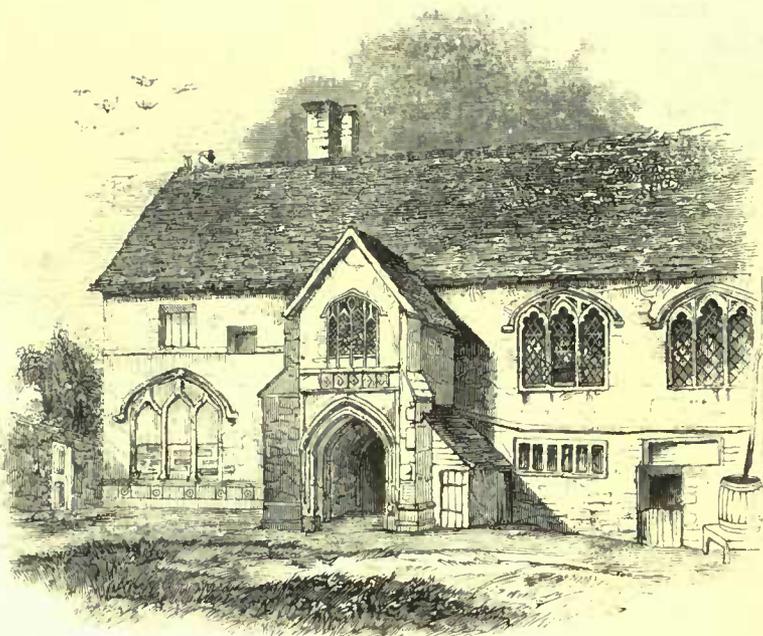
Henry Ringer was inducted to All Saints in 1554; from which period to the present the same incumbents occur in the institutions of these two parishes. It is, therefore, most probable that the church of St. Nicholas fell into decay and desuetude about the above date.

Population in 1841, 90.

SAINT PETER SOUTH ELMHAM.

The manor, forming parcel of the lordship of South Elmham, has passed with that demesne from the see of Norwich to Sir Robert Shafto Adair, as already shown. It is a small village, containing only 571 acres, 1 rood, 30 perches of land, whereof 25 acres, 2 roods, 28 perches, are glebe; with a population of 91 souls, according to the census of 1841. It is chiefly remarkable for an ancient mansion called St. Peter's Hall, which stands about two hundred yards to the north of the church. As the estate on which it is situated was the property of the Tasburghs, as early as the reign of Edward III., and continued to be the place of their residence till the beginning of the sixteenth century, when they removed to Flixton Priory, there can be no doubt as to the *family* of its founder. I have sought, in vain, for a specific document to identify the period of its commencement, but from the analogy of its architecture to that of buildings whose date is ascertained, I should ascribe its erection to John Tasburgh, the father of the grantee of Flixton Nunnery. This gentleman died in 1509. In his will he desires his body to be buried in the church-yard of St. Peter's, towards the west, under the steeple: leaves "3s. to the parson out of Styland and Rokewood medow;" and further bequeathes v marks to the erection of a new rood-loft.

A small portion only of St. Peter's Hall is standing to attest its former importance, which, following the fate of all old mansions, is converted into a farm-house.



The mansion, when entire, formed a quadrangle, as usual, of which stables and offices made up a part. The domestic and ecclesiastical styles are singularly combined in this building, though the latter seems to predominate; and the occasional discovery of old floor-stones, of a sepulchral character, intimates that the projecting porch led to the chapel of the dwelling, not into the hall; and yet the ceilings of the chambers, where the two large and upper windows are observed, on the right hand of the porch, are flat, divided into small squares by the girders above, and covered with plastered mouldings in the manner usually seen in dwelling-houses of an early period. The interior, however, has been divided into its present arrangements, with portions of the demolished part of the house, and the antique character of these greatly deceives a modern investigator, and creates much confusion. It is very remarkable, that although the exterior is rather profusely ornamented with escutcheons, not a single shield is charged with an armorial cognizance. Surely the Tasburghs must have been "gentlemen of coat-armour" long before the fifteenth century. The building is cased with the finest squared stone, but appears, notwithstanding, to be in a very crazy and dilapidated condition. Part of the moat, of very unusual width, shuts in the south side of the premises.

The St. Peter's Hall estate passed from the Tasburghs into the hands of the Barnardistons, from whom it went to a Mr. Price, of the city of London; of which gentlemann it was purchased by William Adair, Esq., soon after his acquisition of the manor of South Elmham.¹

¹ MSS. Norman.

THE CHURCH

comprises a nave and chancel only, with a good square tower of flint-work: it is of Norman construction, but evinces a total neglect of architectural purity in its later embellishments. The tower, which contains three bells, opens with a fine arch into the nave, over which is laid a good oak roof. The door to the rood-stairs, a broken piscina and sedilia, are remnants of papistical observances, happily gone by.

There are a few old floor-stones without legends, but no modern memorials, in the interior. Against the north wall of the chancel is the lower part of a sculptured altar-tomb, which, probably, covers the remains of one of the Tasburghs, though their burial-place was in a north aisle or chantry; which, falling into decay, has been recently pulled down. John Tasburgh, Esq., by his last will, dated 1473, desires to be buried in the chapel of our Lady Mary Virgin, on the north side of the church of St. Peter, before the image of our Lady. He gave the "glasses" of a window, at the west end of the steeple: a table of alabaster for the said chapel; and further wills "that William Rust have 3 acres of land, called Hillys land, and the hows thereon builded: and after the decease of the said William, I will that the foreseyd hows go to poor folks to dwell in without end; and the land to go to his heirs to repair the same hows."² Margery Tasburgh, his widow, by her last will and testament, dated February 16th, 1484, leaves her body to be buried in the chapel of the blessed Virgin Mary, in the parish church of St. Peter, near the body of John Tasburgh, her late husband.³

In the year 1819, while the writer was visiting this parish, collecting the materials which form the matter of the present notice, a person of gentlemanly address drove up to St. Peter's Hall, tenanted by the late Mr. Alden, the then churchwarden, inquiring if the church contained any brass effigies, as he was travelling through the country collecting such records of ancient families, with a view to their cleaning and restoration, promising to return them shortly to their original places. St. Peter's church afforded nothing to add to his collection, having been already stripped by some earlier iconoclast. The writer remembers that the applicant's gig-box was half full of brass effigies, which it is vain to hope ever found again their respective matrices. The observation is simply recorded to expose a system of plunder once recklessly pursued, and to warn all churchwardens to repulse applications of a like nature.

Thomas Tubbing, Rector of St. Peter's, by his last will, proved May 29th, 1504, desires to be buried in the chancel of his church.⁴

The registers of this parish commence in 1678.

This parish participates in the Smith's charity, mentioned in St. Margaret Ilketshall, page 165: the sum received is generally from £6 to £10 per annum, which is distributed among poor persons.

² Will Book, Norwich.

³ Id.

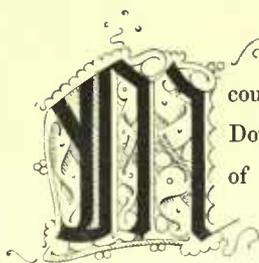
⁴ Id.

RECTORS OF ST. PETER SOUTH ELMHAM.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Joës de Ulfet	1328	The Bishop.
Johannes Wynch	1343	The King ; the See being vacant.
Robert Marlewar	1349	The Bishop.
Robert Morleword de Multon	1349	Id.
Joës Tylay	1358	Id.
Thomas de Welyngton	1364	Id.
Richard de Claythorp	1367	Id.
Joës Austin	1393	Id.
Henry Sturdy	1393	Id.
Richard Turnour	1393	Id.
Thomas Brakmeare	1397	Id.
Joës Peyke	1399	Id.
Joës Lammot	1411	Id.
Thomas Dely	1426	Id.
Richard Palmer	1426	Id.
Joës Payn	1435	Id.
Joës Turney	1443	Id.
William Cosby	1446	Id.
Thomas Medwe	1446	Id.
Roger Burgeys	1452	Id.
Thomas Tubbing		
Joës Kneton	1503	Id.
Joës Shilton	1507	Id.
Thomas Smithe	1510	Id.
Robert Harlessey	1525	Id.
Peter Birde		
Edmund Burton	1554	Edward, Lord North.
George Turnor	1559	Id.
Roger Byrd		
Bartholomew Awdye	1566	Id.
Richard Arton	1605	Dorothea, Lady North.
John Birkenshaw	1625	Sir John Tasburgh, Knt.
Bartholomew Golding		
John Woolmer	1677	Robert Woolmer, Gent.
John Woolmer	1684	Thomas Baxter, Gent.
Thomas Ibbott	1717	Wm. Clayton, Clk., and Jane Clayton, widow.
John Kerrich	1732	Daniel Sayer, Gent.
Peter Routh	1753	Grace Britten, widow.
Charles Jeffryes Cottrell	1802	Alexander Adair, Esq.
Benjamin Evans	1817	Id.
Edward Adolphus Holmes	1833	Id.

Estimatur ad xii marc.—Domesday.

THE HUNDRED OF MUTFORD.



MUTFORD is reckoned a Half Hundred only, in the civil government of the county, and its parishes are included in the Half Hundred of Lothingland by the Domesday Commissioners. It lies in the Archdeacoury of Suffolk, and the Deanery of Lothingland, forming a part of the geldable portion of the county; and, in judicial affairs, is assigned to the Beccles division. In shape it forms a square, measuring about four miles on each side. It is bounded on the east by the German Ocean; on the north by Lake Lothing, and Mutford Broad; on the west by the Hundred of Wangford; and on the south by that of Blything. In 1561, the Hundred of Mutford returned the following list of freeholders: Mutford, 4; Kessingland, 11; Rushmere, 3; Pakefield, 6; Gisleham, 7; and Carlton, 8.¹

The fee of this Hundred was, anciently, in the Crown; and Henry, the son of the Empress Matilda, held it. Edward de Hengrave possessed it in the reign of Edward II. Among the charters in the British Museum,² is the grant of Thomas Langle, and others, granting the Manor and Hundred of Mutford, in Suffolk, to Sir Walter Hungerford, Knt., Lord of Heytesbury, and of Hemet, and to John Tiptoft, Lord of Powys, Philip Courtney, Esq., John Paulet, and others, dated the seventh of Henry VI. In the twenty-fifth of the same reign there is a letter of attorney,³ of Walter Hungerford, Knt., Lord of Heytesbury, Sir . . . Fortescu, Knt., Sir Philip Courtney, and Sir John Stourton, to John Wareyn, and Robert Talyard, to give seizen of the manor of Mutford, with its knights' fees, and advowsons of the churches belonging thereto, to William de la Pole, Marquis and Earl of Suffolk, and to Alicia his wife.

The lordship of the Hundred was forfeited by their descendant, Edmund de la Pole, who was beheaded in 1513; and it was afterwards granted by Henry VIII. to Edmund Jernegan, and Mary his wife. She afterwards married Sir William Kingston, K.G., and died in 1572.

William Tripp and Robert Dawe held the Hundred in 1589, by grant of Queen Elizabeth; and John Arundell and Charles Waldgrave, by license from Henry Jernegan, in 1592. The family of Herne, or Hirne, afterwards held it, by conveyance from Henry Jernegan, and Henry his son. Sir John Heveningham, Knt., and Bridget his wife, were the next possessors, by conveyance from the Hirnes, in 1609. In 1661, it was held by grant of Charles II., by the trustees of Lady Mary Heveningham. In 1679, Sir Thomas Allin, Knt., obtained it by purchase: Alice, wife of Edmund Anguish, enjoyed it by will, in

¹ Lansdowne MSS. Plut. 73, D. No. 7.

² 43, I. 50.

³ Id.

ANTIQUITIES OF THE

1696: Sir Richard Allin, alias Anguish, by settlement, in 1696: Sir Thomas Allin, his son, held it in 1731: Sir Ashurst Allin, Bart., his brother, and Sir Thomas Allin, his son, were next in possession; and in 1794 it was held by Thomas Anguish, Esq.⁴ On his death it passed to the late Rev. George Anguish, his brother, on whose decease, about two years since, it fell to his nephew, Lord Sydney Godolphin Osborne, son of the Duke of Leeds, who, in August, 1844, sold the lordship of this Hundred to Samuel Morton Peto, Esq., of the city of London, who is the present possessor.

The Hundred contains no market town, and eight villages only.

PARISHES IN THE HUNDRED OF MUTFORD.

Barnaby.	Kirkley.
Carlton Colville.	Mutford.
Gisleham.	Pakefield.
Kessingland.	Rushmere.

⁴ Jermyn MSS.

Barnaby.

BARNABY is evidently, by its name, a village of Danish origin, having been the residence of Barne, or Berne. In Domesday Book its spelling is corroborative of this derivation, being therein called Barneby. It must have been a spot of no inconsiderable importance in early days, as a promontory steps from the land abruptly to the marshes, and commands an unimpeded view of the three arms of the estuary which flow past it in their courses to Yarmouth, Lowestoft, and Beccles, and which at high water must formerly have bathed the foot of the hill. The point juts out near the little public-house, called the Blind Man's Gate, and a handful of resolute men might even now maintain the pass against a very superior body of opponents.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, five free-men held, under Burchard, 44 acres of land, and half an acre of meadow, in this parish, then valued at seven shillings. At the time of the Survey, in the year 1086, this estate had fallen to six shillings, in consequence of the depreciation in landed property, which resulted from the battle of Hastings. It was then the estate of Earl Hugh, though the Crown held a moiety of the soke. It had a church, endowed with the unusual quantity of 80 acres of glebe, valued at two shillings, and Hugh, the son of Norman, was the earl's tenant. The lordship appears to have been included in the grant of Mutford, and is now the manor of Mr. Peto, having passed to that gentleman from the family of Anguish. The families of Crofts and Thewt appear to have possessed interests here at an early period; because in the British Museum is a charter of Beatrix, the daughter of Richard de Crofts, to Isabella, her sister, granting lands in Barneby.¹ The deed has neither date nor seal; and in the second of Richard II., 1378, Agnes, late the wife of Thomas Thewt, conveyed an estate to John de Moamforth, situated in Barnaby, and to which is appended her seal.²

The church of Barnaby St. John was granted to the Priory of Butley soon after its foundation in 1171, and confirmed to it by John of Oxford, Bishop of Norwich.³ This convent presented to the church till the dissolution of religious houses, when the patronage fell to the Crown, and was afterwards granted to Gonville Hall, in Cambridge, the master of which establishment presented in 1552. It is now held as a discharged rectory consolidated with the vicarage of Mutford, and the rectory of

¹ 49, A. 15.

² xxix. 78.

³ Kal. But. fol. 46.

Wheatacre All Saints, in Norfolk; and which consolidated preferment is in the gift of the master and fellows of Gonville and Caius College. The Reverend Joshua Burton, who died Rector of Barnaby in 1730, bequeathed by will £10, for the purchasing a rent-charge of five or four shillings a year, if it will thereunto reach, or less; to be paid by his executors into the hands of his successor in the vicarage of Mutford cum Barnaby, within six months after his institution; and which rent-charge was to be purchased by him; and the proceeds to be paid yearly, and every year, for ever, to the Vicar of Mutford cum Barnaby, for the repairs of the chancel of Barnaby church; ⁴ which sum of £10 was accordingly paid by the Rev. Martin Johnson, the executor of Mr. Burton, into the hands of the Rev. Christopher Smear, his successor, as appears by the acknowledgment of the latter gentleman.⁵

The church at Barnaby is a small narrow edifice, devoid of architectural grace or embellishment. It comprises a nave and chancel, without aisles, and has a square tower at the west end, in which hangs a solitary bell. The registers, preserved in the church, commence in the year 1701, but the older parochial records are united with those at Mutford, and bear the date of 1554.

The parish is small, containing little more than 1000 acres, much of which is ordinary marsh-land, and the ample Saxon endowment of 80 acres of glebe has dwindled to less than five. The parish is not yet surveyed in conformity with the Commutation Act. A portion of marsh-land was apportioned to the poor, in lieu of the right of cutting furze on the common, when the parish was enclosed, which now produces about £9 per annum, distributed in coals.

The population in 1841 amounted to 296 souls.

RECTORS OF BARNABY.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Petrus de Skarning . . .	1304	Prior of Butley.
Thomas de Suddon . . .	1327	Id.
Richard de Bedyngfeld . . .	1328	Id.
Robert de Bedyngfeld . . .	1330	Id.
John de Dieleburgh . . .	1333	Id.
Adam de Werlyngham . . .	1349	Id.
Richard Hankyn . . .	1359	Id.
William Slyp . . .	1377	Id.
Roger Borhed . . .	1409	Id.
Richard Smith . . .	1421	Id.
Richard Hallefax . . .	1423	Id.
William Walter . . .		
John Ben . . .	1471	Id.

⁴ Mutford Register Book.

⁵ Id.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Richard Catfield . . .	1473	Prior of Butley.
William Adlard . . .	1486	Id.
William Hoyer . . .	1491	Id.
Joës Mardys . . .	1500	Id.
Thomas Edmunds . . .	1514	Id.
Robert Nudde . . .	1535	Id.
Roger Brandon . . .	1542	The King.
William Wale . . .	1552	The Master and Fellows of Gonville Hall.
Richard Fletcher . . .		
Alexander Smith . . .	1582	The Bishop, by lapse.
William Crowe . . .	1613	Master of Gonville Hall.

Estimatur ad iij marc.

Carlton Colville.

CARLTON signifies the village of husbandmen, and the adjunct of Colville was obtained from a Norman family, that possessed great influence here. At the period of the Conqueror's Survey the parish formed part of the estate of Earl Hugh, but in Saxon times Burchard had held two carucates of land for a manor. It contained wood for 30 pigs, 1 draught-horse, 8 geese, 23 pigs, and 100 sheep; and its value had risen from 30*s.* to 40*s.* The village was one leuca and eight furlongs in length, and ten furlongs in breadth, and paid 4*s.* land-tax. In the same village thirty free-men had held, under Burchard, two carucates of land with six acres of meadow: they formerly had eight ploughs, but now kept only four; and the estate had decreased in value from £4 to 60*s.*

Hugo de Montford also held an estate in Carlton, in which two free-men, as tenants of Burchard, held 30 acres, valued at 3*s.*, and 400 herrings: and another free-man of Burchard farmed 30 acres of land, and half an acre of meadow; and had kept, before the Conquest, a plough, but had then none. The value of this farm had not risen from the old rent, and was still valued at 5*s.*, and 300 herrings. The family of Colville, descended from Gilbert de Colville, who is said to have come over in the army of William the Conqueror, was early enfeoffed here. Sir Roger de Colville obtained a license from the Crown to hold a market and fair in Carlton in the fifty-first of Henry III. In the following year (1267) this Sir Roger was Sheriff of

Norfolk and Suffolk, and received of Robert de Kelling twenty shillings for *not* being a knight. He married Galiena Walpole, the King having honoured his nuptials with his presence. This knight was a person of tyrannical and arbitrary character. Upon the return of Edward I. from the Holy Land, he was charged with an undue exercise of his rights of free-warren, stretching his privileges beyond the license allowed by his monarch; "posuit in defenso de warren: suâ plus quâ id R. ei concessit."¹ And moreover, that under the pretence of having received a writ from the Crown for conducting certain persons to London, he had extorted from Ralph de Becket 40s. and 12 pigs, when the said Ralph had never been to London; and that he had obtained from John le Latimer 30s. in the same way.² A further charge was exhibited against this rapacious knight, that he had raised a certain weir in the river, called Wicflet, and appropriated it to his own use, having no warrant to do so.³ There is a charter extant⁴ which shows the vast estate possessed by this family in Carlton and its neighbourhood, by which Roger de Colville grants to Robert his son, his manor of Coldham, with lands in Huggeshall, Frostenden, Wangeford, Reydone, Estone, Wenhaston, Thuriton, Northale, Henstede, Wrentham, Wiligham, Elech, Soterle, Magna Wirlington, Parva Wirlington, North Cove, Beceles, Endegate, Barsham, Riggesfield, Redesham, Branthorne, Schadenfield, Westhal, and Stovene, in the county of Suffolk, and Giligham, in Norfolk. The Colvilles retained estates in Carlton long after they had alienated the manor; for by an inquisition, taken on Monday after the feast of the decollation of St. John the Baptist, in the second of Richard II., it was found by the jury, that Roger Colville, Knt., held in Carlton and Petoughe one knight's fee, belonging to the castle and manor of Rising in Norfolk.⁵ Roger de Mohaut also held two knights' fees in Carlton and Kessingland of the honour of Chester.⁶

The manor of Carlton Hall passed from the Colvilles early in the fourteenth century, when they retired to estates obtained by marriage with the heiress of De Marisco, or Marsh, in West Norfolk and Cambridgeshire.

In 1348, Sir Bartholomew de Burghursh appears as lord of Carlton Colville. In that year he was in the wars of Gascony,⁷ and obtained for himself and Cicely his wife, and their heirs, free-warren in Carlton Colville, and in all other their demesne lands.⁸ This gallant warrior died on the 5th of April, 1369, his will having been made the day before. He left this manor to Elizabeth, his daughter and heiress, who married Edward, Lord Despencer. Sir Bartholomew constituted Margaret, his second wife, sister of Bartholomew, Lord Badlesmere, and Sir Walter Paveley, his executors. In Dugdale is a long and very interesting account of the funeral of this great warrior, who was buried

¹ Rotuli Hundredorum.

² Id.

³ Id.

⁴ Brit. Mus.

⁵ Blomefield.

⁶ Testa de Nevill, p. 291.

⁷ Froissart.

⁸ Dugdale's Baronage, ii. p. 35.

at Walsingham, in Norfolk, before the celebrated image of the Virgin there. He bore for arms, gules, a lion ramp: double queued or. Edward Despencer, Earl of Gloucester, died, seized of the manor of Carlton Hall, in the forty-ninth of Edward III., and bequeathed his body to be buried in the Abbey of Tewkesbury, near his ancestors.⁹ Richard Despencer, his grandson, dying in 1414, without issue, this manor became the property of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Worcester, in right of Isabel his wife, sister and heiress of the aforesaid Richard Despencer. The manor passed, upon the death of Richard Beauchamp, in 1431, without issue male, to James, Lord Audley, from whose successors it passed, in somewhat less than a century, to the family of Brewes, who retained it about a hundred years. The lordship was next the property of the Heveninghams; Sir Arthur Heveningham holding it in 1624, and William Heveningham, Esq. presenting to the church in 1657. It has subsequently been held by the Allins, who bequeathed it to the family of Anguish, and was held by the late Rev. George Anguish, of Somerleyton Hall, whose nephew, Lord Sydney Godolphin Osborne, sold it in 1844 to Samuel Morton Peto, Esq., of the city of London, who is the present lord.

Carlton Hall is a modern farm-house, having been built about a century ago on the site of the old mansion, which was destroyed by fire. This calamity is thus recorded in the registers of the parish:

“On Sunday, April 18, 1736, Carleton Hall, bake-house, barn, and stables were burnt down by a foul chimney taking fire.

“JOHN CRETAN, Tenant.”

The inhabitants of Carlton Colville claim a right of free fishery in Spratt's, and other waters in Carlton Ham. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth there was a suit between the said inhabitants and the lord of the manor, who claimed an exclusive right of fishing therein; when judgment was given in favour of the inhabitants.¹⁰

THE MANOR OF BROOMHOLM PRIORY.

A manor, with a moiety of the tithes of this parish, was granted at an early period to the Priory of Broomholm, in Norfolk, and continued there till the Dissolution, when it fell to the Crown. On the 22nd of February, 1585, Queen Elizabeth demised the moiety of Broomholm for three lives to Joanna Skeene, the wife of Robert Skeene, Helen Skeene, and Robert Skeene, the son of the said Robert Skeene. The said Queen did afterwards, by letters patent, under the Great Seal of England, dated 27th of June,

⁹ Dugdale's Baronage.

¹⁰ Records in parish chest.

in the fortieth year of her reign, give and grant unto Sir Michael Stanhope, of Sudborne, and Edward Stanhope, and their heirs, amongst other things the said moiety. These parties sold this moiety, on the 23rd of November, eighth of James I., to Robert Skeene the elder, and his heirs for ever, who, in 1661, resold the same moiety to Robert London, Gent. The Londons again sold it for £1000 to Augustine Reeve, Esq., of Bracondale; but in 1682 it was reconveyed to the aforesaid Robert London. On the 22nd of December, 1727, the said Robert London, by his will, reciting that he had agreed with the Rev. John Tanner, commissary, and Vicar of Lowestoft, to convey to him and his heirs, the said moiety of the tithes of Carlton, and a farm in that parish, for £1330, and had received £100 in part payment, devised the said tithes, &c., to be sold to the said Mr. Tanner, by his executors, on payment of £1230. Mr. Tanner devised them to Thomas Tanner, Rector of Hadleigh, who passed them in 1785 to Richard Mills, his son-in-law, for life; with power to Mary Elizabeth, his daughter, wife of Mr. Mills, to dispose of them as she pleased, either in her lifetime, or by will.¹¹ Richard Mills sold this moiety of the tithes of Carlton, with the farm, &c., to Charles Pearse, Gent., in 1803, for £9334. 13s. 4d., whose son is the present possessor.

The manor of Broomholm became united with that of Carlton Hall after the Dissolution. By a deed of indenture, dated April 1st, twenty-second of James I., between Sir Arthur Heveningham, and Dame Mary his wife, on the first part, and Sir John Heveningham, and Dame Bridget his wife, on the second part, Sir John Corbett, and others, on the third part, the manors of Carlton Hall, and Broomholm, and the advowson of the church of Carlton, were settled on Sir John Heveningham and Dame Bridget his wife, for life; and then to their children:¹² but in 1648, William Heveningham, their son, being one of the judges of Charles I., was at the restoration tried and convicted of high treason, and had all his estates forfeited. Being one of the nineteen regicides who surrendered themselves upon the proclamation of the 6th of June, 1660, he was pardoned; and the year following, Mary, daughter of John, Earl of Dover, his second wife, obtained a patent from Charles II., for most, if not all, of her husband's estates,¹³ amongst which was this of Carlton; for we find it held by the trustees of Lady Mary Heveningham. It subsequently passed as has been shown in the descent of Carlton Hall.

The moiety of the tithes here, and the manor, were probably granted to the Priory of Broomholm in 1252; for in that year Gilbert, son of Thomas de Ilketshall, gave to that establishment his tithes in Hedenham, viz.: two garbs of the demans of Gilbert, and also two garbs of the demans of Roger de Mohaut in Kessingland, and also of the demans of Roger de Colville, of Carlton.¹⁴

¹¹ Jermyn MSS.

¹² Id.

¹³ Blomefield.

¹⁴ Id.

The parish contains nearly 2800 acres of land; and the tithes of the Rector's mediety, comprising 1518 acres and 36 perches, have been commuted for £392. 10s., including £5. 10s. as the tithe of the glebe lands. Mr. Hall, Rector of Carlton, let his mediety of the tithes in 1769, for twenty-one years, provided he should so long live, for £120. 9s. per annum.

A national school was built here in 1843, at the cost of £200, towards which the Rev. George Anguish, the late lord and patron, gave £70.—£40 were obtained from the society at Ipswich; £60 from the Privy-Council; the residue being furnished by private subscriptions, of which Mr. Pearse gave £10. The number of scholars educated therein amounts to about 85; the entire population of the parish amounting, in 1841, to 785 souls.

The advowson of Carlton was sold by Lord Osborne in 1844 to W. Andrews, Esq., for £3000.

THE CHURCH,

which is dedicated to St. Peter, is not inelegantly proportioned, but being open to the thatch of the roof, has a very barn-like appearance. It comprises a nave and chancel, with a square tower; and has a porch on the south side, on which is placed a stone cross. A degree of sanctity appears to be still attached to this relic of ancient superstition, as a pilgrimage was made to it not more than two or three years since by a stranger, who remained before it on his knees for a considerable time, and left the parish immediately on the conclusion of his prayers. The church must be of considerable antiquity, as there is a small round-headed window in the north wall of the nave, though the general features of the edifice are of a later period. It contains a good octangular font of stone. There was formerly a chapel of Our Lady here, and provision for finding a light to burn before the image.¹⁵ Some of the windows were also filled with stained glass, as we learn from the will of Robert Dolfyn, who died in 1505. "I bequeath v marc for a glass window to be had in the south est side of the church door, desyring to have in the said window the images of Our Lady, St. John y^e Evan., St. John y^e Bapt., desyring also to have the picture of my fader and moder, with my sons and my daughters."¹⁶ Matthew Belyngeham, of Carlton Colville, by his last will, dated Oct. 18th, 1473, desires his body to be buried in the church of St. Peter of Carlton, and leaves to Catharine, his daughter, £3 in money.¹⁷

On digging a grave in the chancel, in 1837, for Martha, the wife of John Reeve, who died on the 25th of September in that year, the body of John Brown, who died

¹⁵ Rix. 358. 333. Norwic.

¹⁶ Rix. 358.

¹⁷ Harl. MSS.

Rector of Carlton in 1717, was discovered in a nearly uncorrupted state. His head was covered with venerable grey locks, and the shroud perfect. One argument—if any were needed—against interring within the walls of churches: a practice which originated in the superstitions of a darker age, and was fostered by the cupidity of the clergy.

Monuments.—Mary Ann Jermyn, died Nov. 3, 1834, aged 17 years. Sarah, wife of Charles Pearse, Gent., died June, 1740, aged 68. Charles Pearse, died Dec. 29, 1744, aged 68. Pearse bears, vert a bend cotised or, and impales a chev. erm. between 3 crescents.

Charles Pearse, died 28 Sept., 1783, aged 74.

Charles Hall, Rector, died June 13, 1770.

Robert, son of James Selling, died Aug., 1671. Robert Selling, son of Robert Selling, Gent., died 26 Sept., 1686, aged 44. Mary Selling, died Oct. 20th, 1692.

On opening a grave in the church-yard, in May, 1844, the skeletons of about thirty persons were discovered lying close to each other. The clerk says there was a pestilence in this parish some centuries since, and that these were the remains of persons who died infected. The registers of this parish commence thus: "A register book for Carlton Colville p-rish, begun in the year 1710 by John Browne, Rector, being the 40th year from his induction." The older registers were burnt when Carlton Hall was destroyed by fire, as already related.

RECTORS OF CARLTON COLVILLE.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
William de Weston (rec: med:	1326	
Alanus Seger	1329	Sir John de Cove.
John de Sporle	1349	Bartholomew Burghursh, Mil.
Richard Mayster	1361	Id.
William Pyk	1399	Eliz: Dña la Despencer.
John Eyr	1426	Att: Ric: de Bello Campo.
William Hyveden	1444	Jacob: Dñs de Audeley, et Alianor: ux:
Richard Pede	1444	Id.
Nicholas Henley	1447	Id.
John Bempdebow	1455	Id.
Alanus Braytoft	1460	John, Lord Audeley.
John Ifeld	1465	Humphrey Audeley, Arm.
Robert Cade	1465	Id.
William Craske	1473	The King.
Richard Colman	1493	John Audeley, Arm.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Nicholas Fuller . . .	1524	Joanna Brewes.
Robert Bard . . .	1525	Ead., relict of Thomas Brewes, Esq.
John Harrys . . .	1537	Ead.
John Dixson . . .	1540	Ead.
William Stephans . . .	1554	Ead.
Jacobus Lawson . . .		
John Gough . . .	1560	Sir John Brewes.
Robert Tenet . . .	1562	Id.
Robert Tenet . . .	1565	Id.
Robert Seaman . . .	1596	Thomas Brewes.
Robert Seaman . . .	1596	Robert Brewes, Arm.
John Brawlerd . . .	1657	William Heveningham.
John Brown . . .	1670	Charles Cornwallis de Rock ; co: Wig.
Joseph Poolhouse . . .	1717	Sir Richard Allin, Bt.
Robert Wolmer . . .	1719	Sir Richard Allin, Bt., Henry, Earl of Uxbridge, and Sir Hen. Ashurst, Bt.
Charles Hall . . .	1764	His own petition.
John Ewen . . .	1770	Sir Ashurst Allin, Bt.
Edward Jermyn . . .	1806	The King, on lunacy of Thos. Anguish, Esq.

Estimatio ejusdem xxxiiij marc.

Gisleham.

THE Domesday record of this village is very brief. Gurth, the brother of Harold, held the manor, which at the Conquest was transferred to Earl Hugh, and retained its value of 8 shillings. Hugo de Montford had a small estate here, valued at 2*s.* and 6*d.* and 200 herrings, and another farm, valued at 5 shillings and 300 herrings.

In 1270, Alan de Wymenhale had free-warren, with a grant of a fair and a market, in Gisleham, Carlton, &c.;¹ and in 1282, William de Gisleham had the same in Gisleham, Kessingland, Shadenfield, and Brampton.² In the ninth of Edward I., Edward Hengrave held the lordship of Gisleham, from whom it passed to Sir John Ulveston. By a deed, dated at Gisleham in 1356, Ralph le Megre, parson of the church of Kessingland, and Richard le Megre, his brother, released to John de Ulveston all their right and interest in the manor, &c., of Gisleham, and in the lands and houses

¹ Carta 55 Hen. III. p. unica. m. 10.

² Carta 10 Ed. I. n. 19.

in Gisleham, Rushmere, Kessingland, Henstede, Carlton, Beccles, and Mutford, which they held under a demise of the aforesaid John de Ulveston.³ The manor next passed to Sir William Argentein, and from him to Thomas Latymer, Esq.⁴ In the reign of Edward IV. it was the property of the Alyngtons, as the following conveyance will show.

“Noveritis &c. me Joh̄m Alyngton, armiger̄m ordinasse Will: Frances, et attornatos meos ad deliberand̄m manerium meum de Geselham, in Com: Suff, Johi Scott, Willō Hawte, Johi Say, Johi Cheyne, Johi Heveningham, milit, Johi Sellyng, et Margarete uxi ejus, Vincentio Fynch, Thome Gadewelle, civi &c. Lond:, Johi Eyr, et Johi Everard, &c. Dat: 21 Nov., 6 Ed. 4th.”⁵

The Alyngton family, however, retained the manor till the reign of Henry VIII., when it passed to Henry Hubbard, Esq., who was in possession of it in the thirty-third of that reign.⁶ In 1672, Robert Richman was lord, and in 1749, it was the property of Richmond Garneys, Esq., who obtained it by marriage. Charles Garneys, Esq., of Hedenham, died seized of it soon after the year 1800, when it came, by heirship, to Lord Boston, who now holds it with Gisleham Hall, and about 200 acres of land. It is called the manor of Gisleham cum Pyes. The manor of Fastolfs in this parish has now no court kept for it. St. Mary's College, in Brisley and Thetford, had divers lands and revenues in Gisleham, Rushmere, and the adjoining towns, which after the Dissolution continued in the Crown till the twenty-ninth of Elizabeth, when they were granted by that Queen to Edward Wymark or Wymarsh, Gent., and his heirs, to be held by the rent of 3*s.* and 4*d.* per annum.⁷

At the latter end of the 13th century the family of Byskele or Bixley had considerable possessions here. By a deed, dated in 1299, Robert Ulsy of Gisleham, Herbert Faber, and Henry Faber, exchange and grant divers lands to John de Byskelee, and Clemencia his wife; and in the same year, John Brunflet, of Carleton, granted to William Botild, of Gisleham, 2*s.* annual rent, out of his lands lying between the lands of Roger de Welington, John de Biskelee, and Simon Gemy, of Gisleham. Dated at Gisleham “die dominicā p̄x̄a ante fes: Sei Mich: 28 Ed: 1.”⁸ In the year 1343, the Byskeles seem to have held a manor here, as appears by the following charter:⁹

“Universis &c. Reginaldus de Byskelee, miles, saltm̄: noveritis &c. q̄d̄ cū dn̄a Clemencia, que fuit uxor Dn̄i Joh̄is de Byskelee, militis, ten̄t ad terminat̄m vite sue de dono meo manerium de Giselham, et medietatē advocacois ecclie de Resthemere, cū om̄is tr̄is ten̄ in Giselham, Resthemere, Kessingland, Henstede, Mutford, Benacre, Pagefeld, Kyrkele, Barneby, Carlton, Becclos, et Wache, cū p̄ten suis &c. —volo, tamen, q̄d̄ licet dc̄a Dn̄a Clemencia in dc̄is maneriis terris &c.—fecerit vastum, exitiūm, et destruciōn̄, nec ego nec hedes mei propter hoc versus dc̄am Dnam habeamus accoem̄ &c. Data apud Giselhm̄ die martij p̄x̄ia post fm̄ Ann: B. M. V. 18 Ed. 3.”

³ Cole's MSS.

⁴ Jermyn MSS.

⁵ Cole's MSS. vol. xxxv.

⁶ Jermyn MSS.

⁷ Blomefield.

⁸ Cole's MSS. vol. xxxv.

⁹ Id.

Sir John de Biskele, or Bixley, held a manor in Bixley, in the county of Norfolk, in 1303, which he settled on his son Nicholas.¹⁰

The site of Gisleham Hall, which abutted upon the extensive common, enclosed in 1799, is encompassed by a double moat, the outer of which includes about four acres. The space contained within the smaller moat measures 38 yards from east to west, by 45 from north to south.

No traces of the ancient mansion are visible, but Mr. Button, the present respectable tenant, informs me, that he remembers the courts to have been held on the site, when they were adjourned to the present hall, which is a substantial and rather old farmhouse. His father took up the foundations of the drawbridge on the south about the year 1794. Under one of the large timbers were discovered two balls of metal, engraved with coats of arms, which were sent to Charles Garneys, Esq., the landlord, and disposed of at the sale of his effects, after his death, about forty years since.

The site of Gisleham Hall has attained notoriety of late, from having been the scene of a foul murder committed there on the person of James M^c Fadden, an Irishman, employed in the rural police. This unfortunate person was shot in the thigh upon the edge of the moat, in the night of Sunday, the 28th of July, 1844, by one of a numerous and organized gang of thieves, who had long infested the neighbourhood. The murderer was identified, and suffered the extreme penalty of the law at Ipswich, on the 25th of March, 1845. Tradition relates that Gisleham was also early the scene of a sanguinary conflict between the inhabitants of the neighbourhood and a party of Danes, who landed on the coast, and established themselves in the village. A mound of earth at the eastern extremity of the parish, near Pakefield, retains the name of Bloodmore Hill, and is believed to mark the site of the battle-field. A Mr. Downing, in sinking a pit, about the year 1780, at this spot, came upon the remains of armour, spears, horses' bits, and broken stirrup irons. Mr. Reynolds, the then Rector of Gisleham, stopped further search, and insisted on their being reburied; where they probably now lie. These fragments of ancient warfare would appear to belong to a Roman period, rather than a Danish, if the following narration be entitled to credit. "In the year 1768 a skeleton was found in a barrow on Bloodmore Hill, near Pakefield, round whose neck hung a gold medal, and an onyx set in gold. The legend round the medal was D: N: T: AVITVS. On the obverse, a rude head, helmeted, with a cross on the shoulder: on the reverse, VICTORIA AVGGG exergue CONOB. On the onyx was a man standing by a horse, and holding the reins with a "hasta pura" in his right hand, and a star on his helmet."

By the following paper it appears that Gisleham was one of the villages armed by

¹⁰ Blomefield.

Government, in consequence of the Queen's commission, dated 8th March, 1579, "touching the armor of armes" to be provided by townes in Suffolk. The document has no date, but was probably issued soon after the defeat of the Spanish Armada.

The Constables of Gyslam as to bryng in, att the next muster, the armor and wepon hereafter followeing with the men namyd with duble letters, furnyshed as they ar appoynted.

- Roger Hullock, one corslet furnyshyd with one Allman Rivet furnyshyd.
a a Robert Hullocke, a Collyver furnyshyd.
a a Sipprian Hullocke, a Bowe and a sheffe of arrowes.
p p John Butcher, a harquebut furnyshyd, and an Allman Rivet furnyshyd.
p p Thomas Peyton.
p p Robert Frost, a byll and a scull.
g g Thomas Martin, a byll.
p p Thomas Smyth.
a a Symond Robinson, a bowe and sheffe of arrowes, and a skull.
b b Thomas Bary, one cote of platt furnyshyd, and a archur furnyshyd.
p p Johis Maumdy.
b b Thomas Gesse, a payer of splints, a byll and a sallet, and a collyver furnyshyd.
p p Edwar Gesse, a byll, one harquebut and flaske, a tuch box.
b b Robert Whighting, one cote, a payer of splints and a byll.
b Richard Hurrie, a byll and a scull.
p p William Scarfe, a byll, splints, and a sallett and a flaske.
 Walter Bulloeke, a byll.
g g Robert Raynaburrowe, a byll.
p p Robert Thurston, a byll.

brig. R. R.

The family of Woodthorpe has been settled for many generations in this parish. Thomas Woodthorpe, of Mutford, was living there in 1683. He gave 2*s.* 6*d.* to the rebuilding of Kessingland church. In 1691, Thomas Woodthorpe, of Mutford, bought the estate in Gisleham and Rushmere of a Mr. Baker, then living at Beccles. He devised by will, dated in 1704, the said estate to Thomas Woodthorpe, his grandson, eldest son of Thomas Woodthorpe, of Gunton. In May, 1733, Thomas Woodthorpe, son of the late owner, came into possession, by heirship, and in 1774, gave by will unto his eldest son, Thomas, the said estate. In 1826, Thomas Woodthorpe gave it to Mr. Thomas Woodthorpe, the present possessor, whose son Thomas, a minor, is the seventh of that name born in the house attached to the property. This mansion is a good and respectable dwelling-house, much modernized externally, but is certainly as old as the reign of Queen Elizabeth. On a beam in one of the parlours are cut the following dates: 1590, 1667, 1692, 1841. The first date is probably that when the house was built; the second shows when the family of Baker came into possession, by purchase of

Thomas Crowfoot, of Westhall, who had bought it in 1631: 1692 marks the possession of Thomas Woodthorpe, who had purchased the estate the year preceding; and 1841, the last date, records a modern substantial repair.

Thomas Crowfoot, of Westhall, was son of William Crowfoot, living in 1631, whose representative is William John Crowfoot, M. D., of Beccles; whose sister, Anna Maria, married the Rev. J. W. Crabbe, a son of the poet. William Henchman Crowfoot, Esq., now of Beccles, representative of a junior branch of this family, is descended from Humphrey Henchman, Bishop of London in 1663; and has by Mary Bowles, his wife, who sprung from Tobias Rustat, the founder of the Rustat scholarships at Cambridge, William Edward Crowfoot, John Rustat Crowfoot, and Mary Crowfoot, all living, 1846. William Edward Crowfoot, the eldest son, married, in 1833, Ellen Miller, and has issue. These arms of this family are recorded in the Heralds' College.



An old cottage in this parish, formerly the pest-house, was repaired by Mr. Woodthorpe in the year 1838, who, on pulling down a partition between two chambers, discovered a crucifix embossed in plaster, with two or three images of saints. They were covered with reeds and mortar, and again consigned to darkness. In 1630, Edward Hobart, of Langley, in Norfolk, lord of the manor of Gislcham, granted the inhabitants a license to build a house at the end of a lane leading from the church to Rothinghall heath, to be for ever the dwelling of an orderly poor man.¹¹

The parish contains 1344 acres, 2 roods, 3 perches of land, commuted for £410. The glebes amount to 7 acres, 1 rood, 8 perches, including the church-yard. The patronage of the living has always been in the Crown.

Population in 1841, 254.

THE CHURCH,

which is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, comprises a nave and chancel, with a round tower, in which hang two bells. There is a large south porch; and a very fine one on

¹¹ Ex carta orig. pen. auct.

the north side was pulled down not many years since. The entire fabric is covered with thatch. In the interior will be found an octagonal font of more than average merit, and the lower portion of a screen, which in its entire state must have been of surpassing richness and elegance: on it were painted the twelve apostles. In a north window of the nave are two figures standing beneath shattered canopies of painted glass; the heads of both of which are broken. They were intended to pourtray William Gange, and Margaret his wife. The man is habited in blue, with scarlet breeches and yellow stockings; but the female is dressed all in blue. There was also an "Ecce Agnus Dei," and an image of a saint, of which fragments only remain. Some good windows formerly lighted the chancel, which are now built up with masonry: the east window alone remains, put in by the late Rev. George Anguish, while Rector, who also built the parsonage-house. The interior is neat, but has been dreadfully barbarized.

Monuments.—On a brass plate, just within the altar-rails, is this inscription: "Here lyeth buried the body of Adam Bland, of the city of London, Esquier, and Sergeant to her Majesty, who departed this life the xiiij day of October, in the yeare of our lord god, 1593."

Bland bears, on a bend, 3 pheons reversed; with a crescent for difference.

A moiety of the patronage of the church at Wretton, in Norfolk, was in the lord of Wiron Hall, and granted to the Abbey of West Dereham. On the Dissolution it fell to the Crown, and was granted, with the rectory-house and glebe lands, Sept. 14th, 1576, to this Adam Bland, Esq.

William Kess, Gent., died 4 Nov., 1669.

Joshua Burton, A. M., formerly one of the senior fellows of Gonville and Caius Coll., and afterwards Prebendary of St. Paul's, London, and Rector of this parish, died 2 Oct., 1730, aged 66.

Metyer Reynolds, 38 years Rector, died Feb. 17th, 1797, aged 83 years.

Martin Johnson, A. M., Rector, died Feb. 23, 1758, aged 57.

The registers commence in 1559.

RECTORS OF GISLEHAM.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
John of Hemmesby . . .	1330	The King.
John of Martham . . .		Id.
Elias of Hoxne . . .	1339	Id.
William of Whaten . . .	1350	Id.
Thomas of Segbrook . . .	1361	Id.
William Myryfeld . . .	1383	Id.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
John Hynewyk . . .	1384	The King.
John Wayte . . .	1384	Id.
Thomas Myldenhale . . .	1386	Id.
John Breggeham . . .	1393	Id.
Hugo Baxter . . .	1409	Id.
John Pemberton . . .	1435	Id.
Constant Dalby . . .		
John Paveley . . .	1450	Id.
Thomas Robyns . . .	1456	Id.
Thomas Juson . . .	1463	Id.
Robert Blackwall . . .	1471	Id.
Thomas Well . . .	1474	Id.
Richard Bishop . . .	1476	Id.
John Crawford . . .	1478	Id.
John Cleydon . . .	1504	Id.
Richard Strangeways . . .	1530	Id.
Peter Hewett . . .	1537	Id.
Robert Nudde . . .	1542	Id.
Anthony Froste . . .	1554	Id.
Philip Hayward . . .	1562	Id.
John Hayward . . .	1575	Id.
Thomas Roberts . . .	1612	Id.
Richard Atkinson . . .		
Henry Trigg . . .	1661	Id.
Thomas Eachard . . .	1663	Id.
Christopher Reeve . . .	1693	Id.
Joshua Burton . . .	1702	Id.
Martin Johnson . . .	1730	Id.
Metyer Reynolds . . .	1758	Id.
George Anguish . . .	1797	Id.
Edward Moore . . .	1833	Id.
Robert Collyer . . .	1840	Id.
Henry Jodrell . . .	1844	Id.

Estimatio illius xx marc.—Domesday.

There is a small school in this parish, endowed by the late Rev. Metyer Reynolds, and vested in trust with the Rector, and the Archdeacon of Suffolk, for the time being.

Kessingland.

BURCHARD held two carucates of land here, for a manor, in the time of Edward the Confessor; which Hugh, the son of Norman, farmed at the Survey, under Earl Hugh. It was one lenca in length, and one in breadth, and paid 32 pence, geld. The manor had increased in value from 30 shillings to two pounds. There were forty free-men in the parish, of whom eleven, under Gurth, and the rest, as tenants of Burchard, held three carucates of land. Eight ploughs had been kept in Saxon times, and at the Survey there were only five; but the value of their land had risen from four pounds to one hundred shillings. Ederic of Laxfield, a Dane of vast estates in East Anglia, had a manor in Kessingland, valued at five shillings, which, being granted to Hugo de Montford, that Norman baron raised to eight shillings. There were also four free-men here; one of whom was tenant to the same Ederic, and the other three were tenants of Burchard, who together held, in the Confessor's reign, 90 acres of land, with two bordars, two ploughs, and an acre of meadow, valued at 10 shillings. This property was also granted to Hugo de Montford, and in his hands yielded 22,000 herrings annually; so that the fisheries of Kessingland must have been very productive, or very skilfully managed, even so early as the eleventh century.

The manor of Rothenhall, called in Domesday Book Rodenhall, which now lies in Pakefield and Kessingland, is accounted for under the latter parish. It had been the lordship of Toreð, but at the Survey belonged to Ralph Bainard. It appears to have been a small estate. The lord kept but one plough, and the tenants only half an one. It had wood sufficient to feed only four swine. In this hamlet, Aslac, a free Saxon, held under Burchard 40 acres for a manor, with four bordars. One plough was kept on the demesne lands, and half an one by the tenants; so that it would appear, that one plough was employed jointly by the farmers of this and Ralph Bainard's estate. Here was wood for only three swine, with one acre and a half of meadow. Its Saxon value had been five shillings, which the Norman raised to nine shillings and 600 herrings. At the Survey, the whole of this estate was held in demesne by Hugo de Montford.

The four manors of Stapletons, Kingstons, Echinghams, and Rothenhall, into which this parish was subsequently divided, are now the property of the family of Morse, of Norwich, and appear to have descended through the following owners.

THE MANOR OF STAPLETONS.

In the thirty-fifth of Henry III., Roger de Montalt held this lordship, and procured

from that monarch a charter for a fair and market.¹ The former was held on the 20th of November, the anniversary of St. Edmund, to whom the church is dedicated; and the latter kept weekly, on Tuesdays. It was next the estate of the Stapletons, from whom it acquired its name. In the first of Edward IV., 1461, Sir Miles Stapleton conveyed the manor of Kessingland to his brother Brian. Sir Miles was Knight of the Shire in Parliament, twenty-eighth of Henry VI., and at his death, Sept. 30th, 1466, left by his second wife two daughters, his coheireses, Elizabeth and Joan.² Brian Stapleton, Gent., was lord in 1528.³ The manor thence passed through the families of Roberts and Smith; and in 1645, was held by Robert Proctor, Esq. In 1658, Daniel Proctor occurs as lord; and Samuel Proctor, in 1721.⁴ In 1786, it was the property of Jane Denton, the daughter of Bridget Hawes, who was lady of the manor in 1776. This Jane Denton married Randal Burroughes, Esq., and thus carried the lordship of Stapletons into that family, of which it was purchased by John Morse, Esq., with whose heirs it remains.

THE MANOR OF KINGSTONS

was early the estate of William de Euque: from him it passed to the Waburnes and Sampsons, and again to Alexander Kingston. Nicholas Hasburgh next occurs as lord: from him it went to William Hasker, and in 1645 was, like the manor of Stapletons, in the hands of Robert Proctor, Esq.⁵

THE MANOR OF ECHINGHAMS

belonged to the family of Atte Tye, in the reign of Edward III. In 1375, Dionysia, widow of Sir Peter Atte Tye, bequeathed to Edward Charles, her son, 100 shillings per annum out of her manor here. It was next the lordship of the Echingham of Barsham, in Wangford Hundred, and passed from Sir Edmund Echingham, Knt., to Henry Hubbard, Gent., of whom it was obtained in 1645, by Robert Proctor, Esq., the owner of the other manors, and passed with them.

THE MANOR OF ROTHENHALL,

now also the property of Mr. Morse, will be more fully treated under the history of Pakefield.

William, Lord Monchensy, gave all his lands at Kessingland, with four acres of common of pasture there, to Hickling Priory, in Norfolk.⁶

¹ Carta 35 Hen. III. memb. 2.

² Blomefield.

³ Jermyn MSS.

⁴ Id.

⁵ Id.

⁶ Blomefield.

John Bucknam, by his will, dated Sept. 3, 1598, gave to the poor of Kessingland twenty shillings, with lands and tenements, for ever: the rental of which is expended upon the repairs of the church, and for the benefit of the poor.

The market at Kessingland has been long discontinued, but a part of the village, near the turnpike-road, is still called the old market-place. A considerable portion of the population formerly resided near the beach; and a piece of ground, known as the "Sea Row," was swept away about eight years since by the action of the waves. Two wells were then standing, which rose like tunnels in the sand. The sea manor of Mr. Peto, as lord of the Hundred of Mutford, extends to the limits of Kessingland beach. In 1787, an Act was passed for enclosing the common belonging to this parish, when 500 acres of land were accordingly enclosed. Upon dividing this land, the proportion was five to one: that is, those proprietors of land in Kessingland, who had five acres, had one allowed them from the common. At the same time seventeen acres of common were reserved for the poor.⁷

In 1777, the number of houses in this parish was forty-five, and that of inhabitants 250: the latter had increased, according to the census of 1841, to 658. The parish contains 1651 acres, 3 roods, 15 perches of land, of which 52 acres, 2 roods, 28 perches, are glebe. The commutation in lieu of tithes amounts to £405. A piece of ground near the spot where the old vicarage stood was called the Nunnery. There were, in the memory of persons now living, fragments of walls and arches standing here. I do not apprehend that any religious foundation ever existed in this parish, except the church, and this "nunnery" was so called, I think, simply from having been the property, and possibly the grange of the Abbey of Nuns in the Minories, at London, who held the great tithes of the parish. There are about forty yards of an old flint wall, by the road side, leading from the church to the sea-shore, which, in all likelihood, enclosed the farm-yard of the grange. The house near the church, lately inhabited by the family of Crowfoot, was the manor-house,⁸ and not a chapel, although there was, in the apartment latterly used as a kitchen, an old window, in which was, not long since, a small crucifix in stained glass, with the figures of the Virgin Mary and St. John.

The Priory of Waborne had formerly interests in this parish, for in the twelfth of Henry III., 1228, a fine was levied between Rodland, Prior of Waborne, in Norfolk, petent, and William de Meynwaryn, tenent, of 30s. rent at Kessingland, which the prior claimed to be given him by the said William, and which he then granted to the prior to be held of Roger de Meynwaryn.⁹

The advowson of the church at Kessingland was appended to the manor of Stapletons for some centuries, and was presented to by the family of Montalt, as late as

⁷ Gillingwater.

⁸ Martin's Suffolk Papers.

⁹ Blomefield.

the year 1324. Sir Robert de Montalt died without issue in 1329, when the Lady Emma, his widow, two years afterwards, surrendered, by deed, her estates to Isabell, the Queen Dowager, for an annuity of £400. This Queen gave the advowson of Kessingland, in 1346, to the Abbey of Nuns in the Minorities, at London.¹⁰ She seems to have held an interest in the manor, for it was returned at her death, that "Isabella nuper regina Anglie tenuit ad terminationem vite sue manor de Kessingland, cum ptin: in com: Suff: de rege in cap: p: servic: j feodi milit."¹¹

In the same year, 1359, William de Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, released to the Abbess and Minorites, without Aldgate, in London, all his right in the aforesaid advowson.¹² The great tithes of Kessingland were accordingly appropriated, and remained with the Abbess and Convent till its dissolution by Henry VIII., and continued in the Crown till the sixth of James I., when they were granted, inter alia, by letters patent, under the Great Seal of England, bearing date the 8th of April, in that year, to Francis Philips and Richard Moore, and their heirs. Philips and Moore assigned the impropriation to Benedict Campe, who, on the 18th of April, 1635, transferred it to Marjant Vymor, who passed it to John Hammond, of Ellingham, Esq. Hammond mortgaged it on the 18th of March, 1639, to Robert Snell, sen., of Denton, in Norfolk, for £200, to whom it was forfeited. Robert Snell gave it by will to Jane, his daughter. On the 11th of October, 1662, Thomas Hammond, son and heir of John Hammond, upon payment of £30 more, released the right of redemption to Robert Snell, jun., the brother of Jane Snell, in trust for her. Robert Snell, son and heir of the said Robert Snell, jun., gave an absolute release of all right and interest therein to John Barrow, the son of Jane Snell.¹³ John Barrow, who was afterwards D.D., and Dean of Norwich, assigned the impropriation to William Whiston, Vicar of Kessingland, for £180. In the parish registers are the following records connected with this, and its subsequent transfers.

"Part of a letter from Mr. Whiston, dated Jan. 3, 1737.

"I suppose you know y^t y^e impropriation of Kessingland was by me bought of Dr. Barrow, y^e very worthy dean of Norwich, who not being even then fond of owning church lands, offered it me at what we then estimated no more than 8 years purchase: which was a temptation to me to try my friends, and lay out some money myself for its purchase. The then Lord Viscount Weymouth, and Dr. Prideaux, as I remember, gave me £10 a piece, and bishop Moore £5; who were my chief benefactors; altho Dean Barrow, by offering it so very cheap, in order to its restitution to the church, may be well esteemed the principal benefactor of all. Bp. Kennett mentions it, in somewhat that he wrote,¹⁴ as a thing I intended to settle on the church, when it was in my own power to settle it or not, upon which it has now been long

¹⁰ Rot. Pat. 20 Edw. III. p. 2, m. 29.

¹¹ Harl. MSS. 708.

¹² Claus. 33 Edw. III. m. 17.

¹³ Gillingwater.

¹⁴ Case of Impropriations, p. 330.

settled—and I am very glad it has been to the advantage of a person, so worthy as yourself. We used to reckon it in Mr. Barrow's hands hardly so much as £12 or £14 a year, but y^t when it came into y^e same hand with y^e rest of y^e tythes, it would be nearly of y^e value of £20 to him.”¹⁵

“ In futuram rei memoriam.

“The rectory of Kessingland being to be sold about the year 1698, the Rev. W. Whiston, Vicar of Lowestoft and Kessingland, purposed the buying of it, to annex to the vicarage; and by the charitable contributions of well-disposed people raised a considerable sum towards it. But being called away to be mathematical professor of the University of Cambridge, and thereby hindered from asking the further charities of good men, he laid down the rest of the money, out of his own pocket, and had the rectory conveyed to himself; in order to pay himself what moneys he was out of, more than he had collected; and that done, to annex it, as is aforesaid, to the vicarage. Mr. Whiston no sooner had the rectory in his possession, but he made divers proposals to his successor, Mr. James Smith, vicar of Lowestoft and Kessingland, to settle it immediately: but he being pretty much in years, did not care for being out of money, which it was so uncertain whether he should live to come into again: and so it continued in Mr. Whiston's hand till April 6th, A. D. 1709: and then upon the consideration of £50 to him paid, by the worshipful and Rev. Thomas Tanner, clerk, chancellor of the diocese of Norwich; the said William Whiston, by deed indented, granted unto the Right Reverend Father in God, Charles, Lord Bishop of Norwich, Thom: Tanner, chaneellor of Norwich, John Moore, of the close of Norwich, Esq., then principal register, and John Tanner, vicar of Lowestoft, all that Rectory, with all the tithes, &c. (being in their actual possession, by a bargain and sale for one whole year, commencing the day before), to have and to hold the said rectory, &c., with all its appurtenances, unto the said Lord Bishop of Norwich, Thomas Tanner, John Moore, and John Tanner, their heirs and assignees for ever. In trust, nevertheless, and to the intent, that they, their heirs and assigns, do and shall, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, permit and suffer the said J. Tanner, being present vicar of Kessingland, to receive and take all the fruits, tithes, profits, and emoluments of the said rectory, to his own use and benefit, during his continuance there to be vicar there, and afterwards do and shall permit the vicar of the church of Kessingland, for the time being, to receive and take all the fruits, tythes, &c., to their several and respective uses, for ever. Provided that the actings and receipts of the said J. Tanner, and his successors, vicars of the said church, shall be good and sufficient, as well for, as against himself and themselves, and the said Lord Bishop, Thomas Tanner, John Moore, and John Tanner, their heirs and assigns, shall be no ways chargeable for the same, nor for the fee-farm rent, to be paid out of the said rectory. The £50 laid down by Dr. Thomas Tanner were repaid by John Tanner, out of the profits of the rectory.

(Signed)

“ J. TANNER, Vicar.”¹⁶

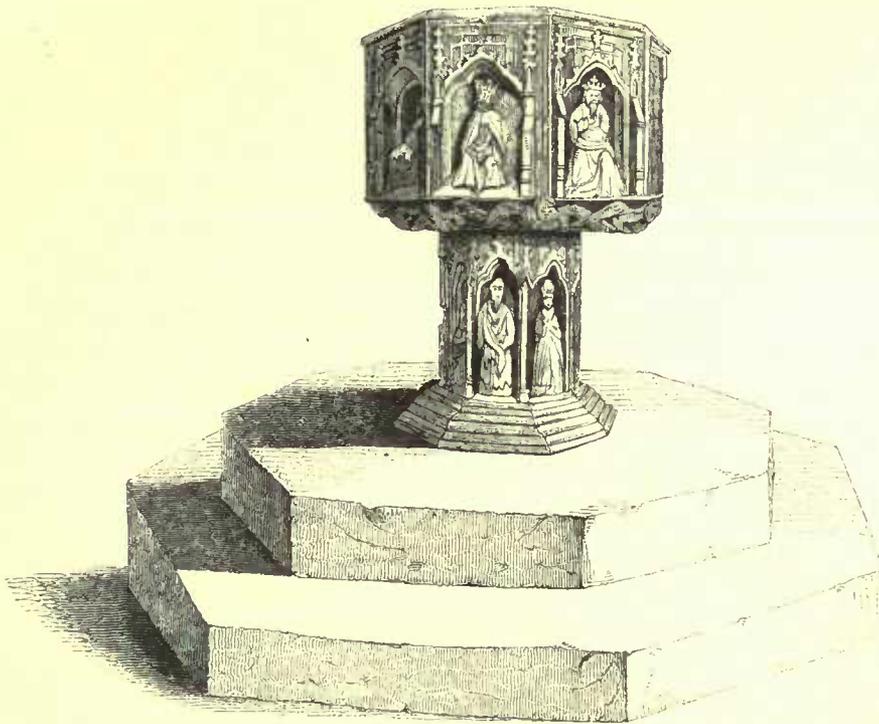
The benefice of Kessingland is, therefore, now a vicarage, endowed with all the tithes; the Bishop being the patron, and the Rev. Dennis George Norris, the present incumbent, by whose liberality the preferment has been further augmented in value, by the erection of a convenient and substantial parsonage-house, built at his own expense; and by the consolidation of its scattered glebes.

¹⁵ Parish Registers.

¹⁶ Id.

THE CHURCH,

which is dedicated to St. Edmund, was built by the Convent at the Minories, in London, and was an extensive and elegant structure. At the suppression of that house it failed to receive the funds heretofore appropriated to its support, and soon fell into decay. A noble square tower, full an hundred feet high, and a few fragments worked into the walls of the present church, are all that remain to attest its former grandeur, if we except some mouldering ruins on its southern side, and its elaborate font.



The eight sides of this font are richly ornamented and deeply recessed, and in each niche is placed the figure of a saint. In that which faces the body of the church sits a figure of St. Edmund, holding the peak of his beard with his right hand. The left hand, which formerly grasped an arrow, is now broken off, and the entire font bears evident marks of puritanic zeal. Over the centre of the western doorway in the tower, St. Edmund is represented in the same attitude; and each spandril of this portal exhibits a large figure of an angel waving a thurible. In the cavetto of the arch are St. Edmund's crowns, a mitre—a wounded heart, emblematic of the agony of the Virgin—an anchor, allusive of the christian's hope—with an abundance of foliage-work of elaborate and elegant design. The tower contains five bells.

In 1668, the roof of the church was in that ruinous state that the whole of it fell in, and divine service was discontinued for many years. In 1693, the inhabitants of Kessingland presented a petition to the Bishop of Norwich, in which they stated, that in 1668, by the neglect of the then churchwardens, the roof of the parish church decayed, and fell down, and that the wood thereof, and the seats, were stolen and carried away: that divers of the owners and inhabitants laboured to have it repaired, but were overborne by opposition; and that since that time the town was grown extremely poor, and unable to repair the said church: they, therefore, prayed the Bishop to direct such methods for rebuilding and repairing it as he should think expedient. In consequence of this petition the Bishop appointed Laurence Eachard, of Henstead, Thomas Armstrong, and Edward Carleton, Clerks, commissioners, to inquire into and view the state and condition of the said church, who reported that the expense of rebuilding and repairing would amount to £324. 5*s.*, and that the old lead of this church was then in the possession of the inhabitants, and worth £90, which they requested his lordship's leave to sell, to defray part of the charge. The Bishop, by a faculty, dated 21st of Dec., 1693, allowed them to dispose of the old lead, and John Campe, of Kessingland, and Thomas Godfrey, of Great Yarmouth, were authorized to sell it, and with the money to repair the church. They, in consequence, contracted with tradesmen for the work; and to obtain money sufficient to pay the expenses, they, with the other inhabitants of the parish, presented petitions to the justices of the peace, requesting their charitable contributions to enable them to go through the work they had undertaken. They also petitioned the University of Cambridge. In consequence of these petitions they obtained the following sums of money.

	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From the inhabitants of Kessingland, owners	43	6	6
From the tenants of Kessingland	12	4	6
Contributions from clergymen	19	12	6
„ from the gentry	76	3	9
The lead sold for	146	16	4
 The total sum received was	 342	 15	 7
Ditto disbursed	341	16	2
Balance	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	19	5

The before-mentioned commissioners, on the 11th of February, 1695, certified that the repairs were very fairly executed, and the church seated; and that the accounts, upon examination, were just and fair.¹⁷

¹⁷ MSS. of the late Mr. White, of Kessingland.

Notwithstanding the statement that the repairs were said to have been fairly executed, the roof expanded about the year 1840, and would have again fallen in, had not about £ 60 been expended upon it. There is a memorandum in the parish registers which reflects little credit on the zeal or liberality of Edward Carleton, who was inducted to the vicarage in 1693, the year in which the restoration of the church was commenced. "Edward Carleton, Vicar, did promise sev^u times to give five pound toward the rebuilding of Kessingland church, and gave not one penny." The church raised by Campe is, as may be supposed, a plain unpretending building.

The balance of 19*s.* and 5*d.* in the aforesaid account was expended in hanging the great bell.¹⁸ It would seem that the older church had not fallen down, without some attempt, on the part of the parishioners, to avert its ruin; for on the porch is a date of "1578, R. B.," which points to a repair at that time executed; and John Baker, of Kessingland, by his will, dated on the 14th of August, in the previous year, gives to every person attending his funeral 1*d.*; and leaves to the reparation of the parish church 3*s.* 4*d.* The Rev. John Tanner, while Vicar of Kessingland, sold in the year 1750, as much plate of his own property as came to £ 7. 7*s.*, to which he added £ 8 more, with which he bought—

	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
A silver flagon, which cost	9	0	8
A silver patin	2	5	8
A silver cup	3	0	8
An oaken box to receive them	1	0	0
	<hr/>		
	15	7	0

All which Mr. Tanner gave to the church at Kessingland, on the 23rd of December, 1750. The parishioners, thereupon, gave Mr. Tanner—

	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
The old silver cup, which was valued at	1	10	6
And the old patin, valued at	1	13	9
	<hr/>		
	3	4	3

With this money Mr. Tanner bought—

	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
A new bible for the church, which cost	3	2	6
Carriage	1	0	0
	<hr/>		
	3	3	6

The cup Mr. Tanner parted with to Gunton, and the patin to Kirkley.¹⁹

The old church, which was remarkably spacious, contained several chapels, in which

¹⁸ MSS. of the late Mr. White, of Kessingland.

¹⁹ Gillingwater.

were placed objects of idolatrous worship. In the chancel was the altar of the Virgin, whereon stood her image, with a light burning perpetually before it. The images of St. John the Baptist, and St. Peter, stood on the south side of the chancel, before which were burnt on the 2nd of November, or All Souls Day, candles used in the service called Soulemass. There were also in the chancel the chapels of St. John and St. Edmund; and the altar of the Holy Trinity in a part of the church called "Scrowdam." There also existed here the gilds of St. John and the Trinity.²⁰

Master John Sperling, by will, dated 1460, leaves his body to be buried beneath the chancel of St. Edmund's church at Kessingland.²¹

The registers of this parish are said, in the first page, to commence in 1603, but in the second page the entries bear the date of 1561. The melancholy fate of a shipwrecked crew is recorded at a later date. "Buried November 27th, 1774, Adam Laurie, James Nisbet, Andrew Miller, John Laurie, his wife and four children, whose vessel being wrecked, and they having escaped from the fury of the winds and waves, and being sheltered under the cliff, were by the earth's falling on them overwhelmed with a sudden and unexpected death, on the 24th November, 1774."

Monuments.—Susan, wife of John Crowfoot, died 4 Oct., 1781, aged 34. John Crowfoot, died 28 April, 1812, aged 59. Elizabeth, wife of John Crowfoot, died 10 March, 1832, aged 74. John Campe, who rebuilt the church in 1695, died 23rd Nov., 1699, aged 58, being the last male of his family. Campe bears a chev. between 3 griffins' heads erased, and impales a fess between 3 annulets. Thomas Cunningham, died 27 Nov., 1821, aged 63.

Mary Pellew, wife of Dennis George Norris, Vicar, died 17 Sept., 1844, aged 43; she is buried with four of her children. Edward White, Gent., died 24 Nov., 1831, æt. 76. Mary, his widow, died 16 Aug., 1842, æt. 92. William White, his brother, died Aug. 3, 1842. Sarah, his widow, died 6th Feb., 1843, æt. 88. Elizabeth White, died 24 Dec., 1774, æt. 71. Susanna, wife of D. White, died 18 Oct., 1776, aged 51. D. White, died 15 Aug., 1787, aged 63.

VICARS OF KESSINGLAND.

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
Adam of Doncaster . . .	1307	Sir Robert Montalt.
Radulphus le Megre . . .	1324	Id.
Galfridus Man . . .	1361	Nomination of the Bishop, and presentation of the Abbess and Convent of the Minorities, London.

²⁰ Tanner MSS. pen. Epis. Norwic.

²¹ Jermyn MSS.

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
Robert of Bernard Castle .	1361	Nomination of the Bishop, and presentation of the Abess and Convent of the Minorities, London.
Henry of Dunston . . .		
John Salyng, alias Algar .	1394	Id.
Robert Payn	1396	Id.
John Freton	1400	Id.
Richard Smith	1437	Id.
William Tybard		
Richard Mannyng	1440	Id.
John Spyrling		
Edmund Causton	1459	Id.
Symon Cross	1466	Id.
Edmund Wrenn	1478	Id.
Bartholomew Northern .	1482	Id.
William Mate	1484	Id.
Symon Petite	1513	
William White	1527	Id.
Thomas Corbet	1533	Id.
Francis Yoxley	1543	John Corbet, of Sprowston, assig. of Bishop.
Hugo Thomlinson	1554	Roger Rugge, p. h. v.
William Whight	1556	The Bishop.
John Walden	1557	Id.
Robert Atwood	1559	Id.
John Vale	1563	Presentation of the King, and nomination of the Bishop.
Thomas Winsley	1568	The King.
Richard Ling	1574	Presentation of the King, and nomination of the Bishop.
John Langley	1626	The Bishop, in full right.
Daniel Nichols	1630	Id.
Francis Hawes	1661	Id.
Thomas Eachard	1663	Id.
Edward Carleton	1693	Id.
William Whiston	1698	Id.
James Smith	1702	Id.
John Tanner	1708	Id.
John Arrow	1760	Id.
Robert Potter	1789	Id.
Richard Lockwood	1804	Id.
Dennis George Norris . .	1830	Id.

Estimatur ad xlv marc.

Kirkley.

KIRKLEY occupies the north-eastern angle of the Hundred of Mutford, being bounded on the east by the ocean, and on the north by Lake Lothing, an arm, or inlet of which runs to the southward, and is known as Kirkley Ham. It probably afforded a very secure anchorage to the small vessels of ancient days during the prevalence of eastern gales, at the period when the sea entered the lake by a broad unimpeded channel.

Kirkley was never a place of importance, notwithstanding the ancient assertions of the inhabitants of Lowestoft, and is very briefly noticed in Domesday Book: it is remarkable, therefore, that it should have given its name to a portion of the adjacent ocean, while so near the more populous and wealthy towns of Yarmouth and Lowestoft. In the time of Edward the Confessor, the principal estate here was the property of Gurth, the brother of Harold, which being forfeited at the Conquest, was retained in the hands of the King, under the stewardship of Roger Bigot. Hugo de Montford had also a farm in this village, valued by the Saxons at 2*s.*, which he raised to 3*s.*, and a payment of two hundred herrings. The smallness of this latter impost proves that the fisheries here were then of limited extent. The chief support of this village at the present day, as well as that of the contiguous parish of Pakefield, arises from this branch of trade, which is considered to have declined of late.

In the fifty-fifth of Henry III., Alan de Wymundhale obtained a license for a market and fair, with free-warren in his demesne lands here;¹ and in the fourteenth of Edward I., Edmund de Wymundhale claimed the same.² The manor was soon after transferred to the family of Fastolf, for in 1378, Hugh Fastolf, Esq., granted it, with other estates, to John Fastolf, his brother. In the seventeenth of Henry VII., it was the property of John Fastolf, Esq.,³ and went afterwards to Anthony Rouse, Esq., who conveyed it to Henry Hobart, of Loddon, Esq. He died in 1560, seized, inter alia, of the manor of Kirkley, with the advowson of the church,⁴ which latter appears to have been previously held by the Norfolk family. In the will of this gentleman, proved May 3rd, 1561, the lordship is called the manor of Kirkley Hall, though in the Mutford rentals, temp. Henry VIII., it is styled Fastolf's manor. James Hobart, Esq., was lord in 1642, and Robert Richmond in 1680. It passed from the Richmonds, by marriage, to the Garneys of Hedenham, in Norfolk, and on the extinction of that branch of the family, early in the present century, fell by heirship to the Irbys. There is now no manor-house.

¹ Rot. Pat.

² Plac. Cor. an. 1285.

³ Jermyn MSS.

⁴ Reg. Norwic. Bircham.

The number of inhabitants amounted, in 1841, to 433, though from an account of the parish, taken in 1676, in pursuance of the penal laws then in force against religious dissenters, it appears that they then amounted to only 103, from sixteen years of age and upwards, of which number eighteen were dissenters.

THE CHURCH,

which is dedicated to St. Peter, and valued in the King's books at £15. 10s., is, like that at Kessingland, a modern erection of nondescript architecture, built out of the ruins of a larger and more elegant structure, of which a square tower, about seventy feet high, alone remains. It is open to the elements, and contains only one bell, of most lugubrious tone. The old church consisted of a nave and north aisle: on the site of the former portion is erected the present building. The north wall of this is entirely of brick, but the south is composed of the flints and freestone collected from the ruins of the older fabric. The old church probably fell into decay about the year 1640, for there is the following entry in the Kirkley register books, copied from an ecclesiastical visitation record.

“September 14, 1663. Kirkley. The church there is, and hath been, for more than twenty years past, ruinous and in exceeding great decay in the roofs, walls, pillars, pavements, pulpits, seats, and the steeple. The charge to the making good all which will amount to 3 or 400 £, by common estimation; and the whole revenues of the town are not worth above £100 per year. The ornaments and books are wanting. The people resort to Pakefield Church.”

“Mr. Bacon, sen., Mr. Bacon, jun., and Mr. Richardson, who were rectors of Kirkley as well as Pakefield, from about the Restoration to A. D. 1748, read prayers and preached in Pakefield Church, both parts of the Lord's day, instead of officiating one part of the day at Pakefield, and the other at Kirkley, as they must have done if Kirkley Church had been fit for use: so that the parishioners had then little or no disadvantage by the decay of this church, but that of going a little further for divine offices; but when upon Mr. Richardson's decease, in 1748, Mr. North became rector of Pakefield, and as such only thought himself obliged to officiate but one part of the Lord's day; and Mr. Hall, the rector of Kirkley, thought himself excused from all publick duty, because the church could not be officiated in; the parishioners, both of Pakefield and Kirkley, soon found great inconveniences from the want of that divine service they used to have, and thereupon thought themselves obliged to endeavour to rebuild Kirkley Church. Mr. Fowler, merchant in Kirkley, encouraged them greatly, by offering them £20 towards it, tho' he was then in a bad state of health, and not likely to live long. Mr. Tanner, of Lowestoft, gave them further encouragement, by promising them not less than Mr. Fowler had offered, and all the assistance in his power. By his means, several contributions, and a faculty from the bishop for selling the bells towards it, were soon obtained; and Mr. Benjamin Ellis, then churchwarden, contributed handsomely; took great pains, and was at much trouble, both in soliciting contributions far and near; putting out the work and overlooking the workmen, who began about Lady Day, 1750: finished the walls, put on the new roof, and thatched it before winter. The next spring the seats and inside work was begun, and so far finished, at Michaelmas, 1751, that on October 6th, 1751, Mr. Tanner read prayers, and preached in the new church,

to a very numerous congregation, and there hath been prayers and sermons in it every fortnight in the afternoon (except on Sacrament days) ever since. But not unto us, O Lord, but unto thy name, be the praise, who worketh in us, both to will and to do, of thy good pleasure.”⁵

It appears that Mr. Hall, whose unconscientious refusal to perform divine service, brought about the rebuilding of Kirkley church, had been long solicited so to do, by Mr. Tanner, who was at that time Vicar of Lowestoft, and commissary and official in the archdeaconry of Suffolk. This worthy man “failed not to use all the mild and persuasive arguments in his power, to prevail on the incumbent of Kirkley to make an allowance (to the minister of Pakefield for officiating in his stead), but to no purpose; so that finding him inflexible in his resolution he left him with this threat, ‘Sir, if you will not officiate in Pakefield church, I will build you a church at Kirkley, and in that you *shall* officiate.’”⁶

I venture to print the following list of contributors to the rebuilding of Kirkley church, as it may prove interesting to many of their descendants who are yet resident in the neighbourhood.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTORS TOWARDS REBUILDING KIRKLEY CHURCH.

<i>In Kirkley and Pakefield.</i>				<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
		<i>£. s. d.</i>	Mr. Chamberlayne	2	2	0
Mr. Fowler	20	0 0	„ Wigg	2	0	0
Rev. Mr. North	2	2 0	„ Bell	1	1	0
Mr. Ellis, Churchwarden	6	0 0	Mrs. Wright	10	6	
„ Edward Mason	2	2 0	Mr. Machin	10	6	
„ Collier	2	0 0	„ Settaway	10	6	
„ Thomas Love	2	2 0	„ Ferrier	10	6	
„ Aldred	2	2 0	„ Thomas Coniers	10	6	
„ John Wright	2	0 0	„ William Barnard	10	6	
„ James Harman	2	0 0	„ Thos. Love, jun.	10	6	
„ David Mason	1	1 0	„ James Meen	10	6	
„ Thomas Munds	1	1 0	„ Will. Halsworth	10	6	
„ William Munds	1	1 0	„ James Forman	10	6	
„ Jermamy	1	1 0	„ Robt. Barber	10	6	
„ Grice	1	1 0	„ John Ayres	10	6	
„ Shelly	1	0 0	„ Chapman	10	6	
„ Joseph Stanford	1	0 0	Anonymous	10	6	
„ Charles Garwood	1	1 0	Mrs. Bell	5	0	
„ Smith	1	0 0	Mr. William Barber	5	0	
„ John Halsworth	1	1 0	„ John Nichols	2	6	

⁵ Parish Registers.

⁶ Gillingwater, p. 84, note.

	£.	s.	d.
Mr. Robert Nichols	2	6	
„ John Badley	2	6	
£64. 1. 6.			

In Lowestoft.

Rev. Mr. Tanner gave	42	0	0
and obtained	10	10	0
Dr. Tanner, of Hadleigh	21	0	0
Mr. Thomas Mighells	5	5	0
Mrs. Dorothy Mighells	2	2	0
„ Grace Symmonds	2	2	0
Mr. John Peach	2	2	0
John Jex, Esq.	1	1	0
Dr. Davy	1	1	0
Capt. Richman	1	1	0
Mr. Mat. Arnold	1	1	0
„ Samson Arnold	1	1	0
„ Hayward	10	6	
Widow Barry	10	6	
Capt. Barlow	10	6	
Mr. Bales	10	6	
„ Aldous Arnold	10	6	
„ Saml. Barker	10	6	
„ Buffham	10	6	
Capt. Landfield	10	6	
Rev. Mr. Davy	10	6	
A friend of his	10	6	
Mr. Brown, blacksmith	10	6	
Rev. Mr. Shewell	5	0	
„ Mr. Belward	5	0	
Mr. Reeve	5	0	
„ Copping	5	0	
„ Brice	5	0	
„ Hayward, jun.	5	0	
Widow Soans	5	0	
Mrs. Warwick, widow	5	0	
Mr. Robt. Barker	2	6	
„ Saml. Skoulding	2	6	
„ Henry Durrant	2	6	
„ James Curtis	2	6	
Mrs. Long, widow	2	6	
Mr. Saml. Farrer	2	6	
„ Thomas Smith	2	6	
„ Robt. Francis	2	0	

	£.	s.	d.
Mr. John Press	2	0	
„ Charles Bains	1	6	
„ Samuel Dew	1	6	
Seventeen persons, 1s. each	17	0	
one gave		6	

£100. 3. 6.

Gunton.

Hewling Luton, Esq.	10	6	
Mr. Walker	1	1	0

Oulton, &c.

Rev. Mr. Page, Rector	1	1	0
Mr. Will. Woodthorpe	10	6	
„ Thos. Woodthorpe	5	0	
„ John Yonell	5	0	
Widow Hunt	2	6	
Five persons, 1s. each, one <i>6d.</i>	5	6	
Sir Thomas Allin, Bt.	2	2	0
H. Missenden, Esq.	2	2	0
Rev. Mr. Allen	1	1	0

Yarmouth, &c.

Saml. Killet, Esq.	2	2	0
Mr. Thomas Martin	2	2	0
„ Thomas Fowler	2	2	0
„ Milles	1	1	0
„ John Morse	1	1	0
„ Dover Colby	1	1	0
„ John Morris	1	1	0
„ John Fowler	1	1	0
Rev. Mr. Turner	10	6	
Mr. David Mason	10	6	
Another David Mason	10	6	
Mr. Ward, Collector	10	6	
Capt. Palling	10	6	
Mr. William Manning	10	6	
„ Thomas Manning	10	6	
„ Ramey, Attorney	10	6	
„ Eldridge	10	6	
„ Pexal Foster	5	0	
„ John Norfor	5	0	
„ Lancaster	5	0	
„ John Mason	5	0	

ANTIQUITIES OF THE

	£.	s.	d.
Mr. John Crispe	5	0	
„ Robt. Battley	5	0	
„ John Reeve	2	6	
„ Timothy Lodge	2	6	
„ Jacob Masters	2	0	
„ John Marsh	2	0	
Three persons, 1s. each	3	0	

Gorleston.

Mr. Jeffery Killet	1	1	0
„ John Killet	10	6	
Rev. Mr. Killet, of Bradwell	10	6	
Mr. Harris, of Burgh Castle	5	0	

Carlton Colville.

Mr. Ham. Pearse	6	6	0
Mrs. Welham, widow	1	1	0
Rev. Mr. Wolmer	10	6	
Mr. Woodthorp	10	6	
„ Guild	5	0	
„ Brooks	5	0	
Widow Shien	5	0	
„ Cheny	5	0	
Mr. Middleton	3	0	
„ Hemmings	3	0	
Widow Critton	2	6	
Five persons, 1s. each	5	0	

Gisleham.

Mr. Woodthorp	10	6	
„ Button	10	6	
„ Downing	10	6	
„ Henry Cheny	2	6	
„ John Wily	2	0	

Kessingland.

Saml. Proctor, Esq.	1	1	0
Mr. Cunningham	10	6	
„ Fairweather	10	6	
„ E. Durrant	10	6	
„ Thos. Durrant	10	6	
„ Colman	10	6	

£. s. d.

Mr. Cooper	10	6	
„ Adams	10	6	
„ Brandson	10	6	
„ Brown	7	6	
„ Bokenham	5	0	
„ Harling	5	0	
„ Charles Welsh	2	6	
„ John Burket	2	6	

Benacre and Wrentham.

Thomas Gooch, Esq.	1	1	0
Mr. Aldus	5	0	
„ Nelson	5	0	
Philip Brewster, Esq.	1	1	0
Rev. Mr. Baylie	1	1	0
Mr. Bardwell	5	0	

Henstead and Sotterley.

Mrs. Howes, widow	1	1	0
Miss Bence	5	0	
Mr. Lawson	5	0	
Miles Barne, Esq.	5	5	0
Sir John Playters, Bt.	2	2	0
Rev. Robt. Lemon	10	6	
Rev. Mr. Carter, of Worlingham	10	0	
Mr. N. Baxter, of N. Cove	2	2	0
„ Gibson, of Willingham	5	0	
„ Dalbe, of Mutford	5	0	

Henham, Southwold, &c.

Sir John Rous, Bt.	2	2	0
Rev. Mr. Smears	10	6	
Mr. Robt. Thompson	10	6	
„ Will. Thompson	5	0	
„ John Thompson	2	6	
„ Nun	2	6	
„ Wales	2	6	
„ Smith	2	6	
„ Ewen, of Reydon	5	0	
„ Jermy, of Reydon	5	0	
„ Reeve, of Wangford	5	0	
„ Wilkenson, Att. of Halesworth	10	6	
„ C. Harling, of Frostenden	1	0	

	<i>£. s. d.</i>
<i>Beccles.</i>	
Rev. Justice Page	1 1 0
Mr. Farr	10 6
„ Schuldham	10 6
„ Leman	10 6
„ Price	5 0
„ Le Gryns	5 0
„ Crowfoot	5 0
„ Harbar	5 0
„ Isaac Blowers	5 0
„ Edward Blowers	5 0
„ James Elmy	5 0
„ Will. Elmy	5 0
„ Will. Bendy	5 0
„ Rede	5 0
„ Keable	5 0
„ Bilby, glazier	15 0
Mrs. Bohun	2 6
Mr. Edward Brook	2 6
„ Debnam	2 6
Seven persons, 1s. each	7 0
Rev. Mr. Morden, of Weston	1 1 0
„ Radcliff, of Ringfield	10 6
„ Athow, of Gillingham	10 6
Mr. Padnal, of Wheatacre	10 6
„ Alexander, of Toft Monks }	1 1 0
„ John Sayer, of Thurlton }	1 1 0
Rev. Mr. Tweedy, of Trimley	1 7 0
„ Stebbing, of Nacton	1 1 0
„ Baynes, of Stonham	10 6
„ Hewitt, of Bucklesham	10 6
„ Canning	1 1 0
„ Cornwallis	10 6
„ R. Hingston	10 6
„ Close	10 6
„ Bishop	10 6
Mr. Collet, Attorney, of Woodbridge	10 6
<i>Bungay.</i>	
William Windham, Esq.	1 1 0
Rev. Mr. Baker	10 6
Mrs. Baker	10 6
Rev. Mr. Wilson	10 6
Mr. Van Camp	10 6

	<i>£. s. d.</i>
Mr. Barnham	10 6
„ Hen. Williams	5 0
„ Nelson	5 0
„ Manning, sen. and jun.	10 0
„ Cooper	5 0
„ Meen	5 0
„ Prentice	5 0
„ Lamb	5 0
„ Lumley	2 6
Mrs. Webster and Son	5 0
„ Arrowsmith	2 6
„ Gamble	2 6
Mr. Schuldham	2 6
„ Will. Kingsbury	2 6
„ Botwright	2 6
„ Plowman	2 6
„ Winck	2 6
„ Robt. Williams	2 6
„ Ashby	2 6
„ Pell	2 0
„ Lagden	1 6
Eleven persons, 1s. each	11 0
Ilketshall St. Laurence	2 6

Norwich.

Mr. Chancellor Nash	2 2 0
„ Archdeacon Goodal	1 1 0
Counsellor Preston	1 1 0
„ Buckle	1 1 0
Mr. Bacon, Apothecary	1 1 0
Mrs. Britiffe	1 1 0
Mr. Lindsay, of Trowse	1 1 0
John Playters, Esq., of Yelverton	1 1 0
Rev. Mr. Frost, of Topcroft	10 6

Framlingham.

Rev. Mr. Brooks	5 0
Mr. Coggeshall	5 0
Small sums	5 0
Rev. Mr. Bence, of Kelsale	10 6
Mrs. Bence, of Saxmundham	10 6
Rev. of Darsham	10 6
„ Carter, of Sibton	10 6
„ Blois, of Yoxford	10 6

ANTIQUITIES OF THE

	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
Mr. Copland, of Yoxford	2 6	Rev. Mr. Foster, of Halesworth	2 6
Rev. Mr. Maborn, of Bramfield	9 0	Mr. Sparrow, Attorney, of Woodbridge	9 0
„ Ellershaw, of Ubbeston	5 0		
			£ 275 3 0
Received, by sale of the reed that was left			2 2 0
„ by sale of bells			103 13 6
		Total	380 18 6

DISBURSED ON ACCOUNT OF REBUILDING KIRKLEY CHURCH.

	£. s. d.
To Thomas Love, jun., for removing the dirt and rubbish between the old church walls	1 4 2
To Mr. Roxwell, for plans, advice, and assistance, in settling the dimensions and putting out the work	5 5 0
To John Halsworth, bricklayer, for work and stuff, as by agreement	130 9 0
„ more, for additional work	6 10 11
„ more, for altering the south windows	6 0 0
„ more, for altering the floor at the east end	10 0
For drawing articles, stamps, &c., relating to Mr. Halsworth's work	14 0
To James Chamberlayne, to roof as per agreement	70 0 0
„ more, for a treat at putting on the roof	3 0 0
„ more, for additional work	5 2 0
„ more, for a loft for the bell, bell-wheel, &c.	9 15 6
For a lattice for the steeple window	18 0
To expenses and assistance in buying the reed	4 0
To six hundred reed at £ 2. 8. per hundred	14 8 0
For carting it from Benacre to the churchyard	4 10 0
For drink for carters at 1s. per load	12 0
For recovering reed when dispersed by a flood	4 0
To thatchers, for laying on the reed, broaches, &c.	10 17 2
To straw for the roof	1 10 0
To the glaziers, as per bills and receipt	9 14 0
To John Wigg, blacksmith, as per bill	7 15 6
„ more, by a second bill, for a clapper for the bell, &c.	5 9 8
To Mr. Bell, joiner, for the desk, pulpit, seats, and communion table	65 7 4
To Mr. Smyth, joiner, for measuring joiner's work	5 0
To Fuller, mason, for repairing the steeple	5 7 6
More, to said Fuller, as by two bills	3 15 6
To Mr. Lindsey, for lime	12 0
To the Chancellor's Office, for a faculty to sell the bells	2 13 4
To charge for shipping the bells for London	1 7 6
To commission for selling them, and other charges at London	3 6 0
To Mr. Horth, for the greater weight of the bell he delivered, above the weight of the bell he had of us	3 2 6

	£.	s.	d.
To the churchwardens of Gillingham for the font	1	1	0
For fetching it, and help to load and unload it		7	0
For a lock for the church door		10	6
For a Bible, £2. 2. 0., and folio Common Prayer book, 16s.	2	18	0
For a quarto Common Prayer book for clerk, and Act against Swearing		5	6
For the surplice, £1. 12. 6., and hood, 14s.	2	6	6
For pulpit cushion, desk cloth, communion table-carpet, and making	1	11	6
For a silver paten, £1. 15. 0., and hard metal pewter flagon, 10s.	2	5	0
For a linen cloth, and napkin for the communion table		7	0
Towards making good the church way	1	1	0
Towards Mr. Ellis' expenses in getting contributions	2	2	0
		<hr/>	
		£ 395	4 7
Total receipts		380	18 6
		<hr/>	
Due to balance		14	6 1

Which balance was paid by Mr. Tanner, and by him made an addition to his former gift.

There is also due to Mr. Ellis, churchwarden, about forty shillings expended by him in soliciting contributions, more than he had yet received.

July 2, 1756. Mr. Walford, of Woodbridge, brought 20s. to Mr. Tanner, which he said had been some time ago collected towards the rebuilding Kirkley Church, but by some accident retained from being sent before. The donors were—

Mr. Carter, Rector of Tunstall	5s.
„ Briggs, Rector of Alderton	5
„ Clarke, Minister of Woodbridge	5
„ Thomas Folkard	5

Ten shillings of which were given to Mr. Ellis, towards what he had disbursed more than he had received, and the other ten shillings the said John Tanner kept towards what he had disbursed on account of this church, more than he had received.

On the 5th of December, 1749, when the workmen began to clear away the rubbish from the ruins of the old church, they discovered, at the distance of eighteen feet from the east wall, and six feet from the north, a stone with a brass label thus inscribed:

Orate p̄ aīā Thome Mille clīcī nūp̄ Rectoris de Kīrkeley, qui obiit 16 die
C
 Augusti A^o D. MVXXVj cū aīē pp̄ciēt̄ Dē. Amen;

and on another label, found in the north aisle, a like legend for John Boodhurd, who died in August, 1486.

The font of the old church was broken by the falling in of the pile, and the one now in use was brought, as we have seen, from a ruined church at Gillingham. It

is octangular and plain. The present fabric contains no monumental record. There was formerly a rectory in this parish, of which no vestige remains. It was near Kirkley bridge, for the second piece of land, mentioned in the perambulation book, is an acre of marsh belonging to the Rector, lying next Kirkley bridge, and the fifth piece is that whereon the *parsonage* stood.⁷

The number of acres in the parish amounts to 514, of which 19 acres, and 3 perches, are glebes. The living is augmented with 12 acres of land lying in Sprowston, in Norfolk, and the amount of its commutation is £137. 10s., exclusive of £ 5 charged for the tithes.

The earliest resister bears the date of 1701. It appears by old parish papers that the Rector is entitled to a payment in lieu of the tithe of fish caught by the boats of this parish, called Christ's half dole.

RECTORS OF KIRKLEY.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Oliver BENEYT, de GERNEMUTH	1308	Will. of Tyvetshall, Clemencia, his wife, and Alice of Herryngflet.
John of Loudham . . .	1344	Clemencia, relict of John of Loudham, Kut.
John Gerard, of Theberton . . .	1349	Abbot and Convent of Leiston.
Thomas de Marlesford . . .	1361	The same.
John Tradesham . . .	1382	Margaret Mareschall, Countess of Norfolk.
Richard Wetherlee . . .	1383	The same.
John Guerard . . .	1416	John, Earl Mareschall and Nottingham.
John Catheroo . . .		The same.
Robert Banyngham . . .	1421	John Lancaster, Richard Stevesaere, and Robert Southwell, Feoffees and General Attorneys, by letters patent, of John Moubray, E. Marshal.
Robert Hay, of Carlton . . .	1422	John, Earl Marshal, &c.
William Holden . . .	1436	Katherine, Duchess of Norfolk.
Simon Dolfyn . . .		John, Duke of Norfolk.
Thomas Maundevely . . .	1453	John, Viscount Beaumont.
John Loft . . .	1469	John Wodevyll.
Robert Anderle, alias Cann . . .	1484	John, Duke of Norfolk.
John Custance . . .	1489	The Bishop, by lapse.
Edward Lenney . . .	1490	The King.
Henry Gert . . .		
John Warmall . . .	1505	The Bishop, by lapse.
Thomas Mille . . .	1511	

⁷ Jermyn MSS.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Henry Geffraye	1526	Thomas, Duke of Norfolk.
Robert Taylor	1539	The same.
John Gayton	1555	The Bishop, by lapse.
Edward Multone		The same.
Robert Nudde		
John Towne	1570	William Roberts, Gent.
Thomas Yeowle	1589	James Hobart, Esq.
William Wyncopp	1597	The same.
William Girling	1613	Edward Hobart, Esq.
Edward Bonn	1634	The same.
William Hinton	1642	James Hobart, Esq.
William Bacon		
William Bacon	1680	Robert Richmond, Gent.
Philip Richardson	1697	The same.
Charles Hall	1748	His own petition.
William Temple	1770	Charles Garneys, Esq.
William Temple	1798	The same.
Robert Parr	1809	Robert Reeve, Gent.
Robert John Francis	1812	The same.

Estimatio ejusdem vij marc.

Mutford.

VILLAGES, like kingdoms, have their periods of prosperity and decay; and this now obscure parish was of sufficient importance in Saxon days to give its name to the Hundred. In the reign of Edward the Confessor, Gurth, the brother of Harold, was owner of Mutford, whose tenant, Ulf, held three carucates and a half of land for a manor. There were eighteen villeins, six bordars, and sixteen slaves on this lordship, but at the Norman Survey the latter were reduced to ten. Four ploughs were employed on the demesne lands by the Saxons, but the Normans had only three. The manor contained wood for sixty pigs, with six acres of meadow. The Saxon farmers had kept three draught horses, but the Normans possessed only two. At the Survey there were seven geese, thirty pigs, one hundred and sixty sheep, fifty goats, and two apiaries, always valued at sixty shillings. The village was two leucas in length, and nine furlongs in breadth, and paid four shillings land-tax. In the same parish twelve free-men held under Gurth, three carucates of land with two slaves and

seven bordars. They had among them nine ploughs, which at the Survey were reduced to seven: there were eight acres of meadow, and wood for sixteen pigs. Two churches were then standing in the parish, endowed with forty-seven acres of glebe: twelve of these were in Mutford, two in Rushmere, two in Gisleham, three in Pakefield, two in Kirkley, and the other twenty-six in Mutford. William the Conqueror retained the manor as part of the royal demesnes, and appointed Roger Bigot his steward.¹ This estate, therefore, appears to have participated in the general depreciation of landed property consequent on the Norman invasion, which reduced the value of estates in England, at least one-third, on an average, throughout the kingdom.² The manor of Mutford remained in the Crown till the reign of Henry II., who granted it to Balderic de Bosco, or Bois, with a moiety of the Hundred, the patronage of the church, the Hundred-court, wreck of sea, view of frank-pledge, with the erection of gallows, and tumbrell,—feudal privileges of high importance.³ The manor was held by the tenure of paying an annual rent of six marks and a half, under the name of “Alba firma,” or white mail.⁴

Upon the death of Balderic de Bosco, his daughter Hildeburga inherited this manor, who left two daughters, her coheiresses, of whom, one married Stephen de Long Champ, and the other espoused Henry de Vere. Each of these knights held a moiety of the lordship in right of his wife. In the reign of King John, Stephen de Long Champ joined the party of the discontented Barons, and was slain at the battle of Bouvines, fought on the 27th of July, 1214. In the Claus Rolls is a “precipe” of John, dated at Melkesham, in Wiltshire, on the 22nd of September, 1204, directing the Sheriff of Suffolk to put this Stephen de Long Champ in possession of the estate at Mutford, late de Bosco’s, except it should exceed in value £12, but reserving to himself the corn then growing on the said lands.⁵ In consequence, however, of his having fallen in arms against his monarch, Long Champ’s estates were forfeited, and on the 27th of January, 1221, were granted by Henry III. to one of his favourites. By a deed, dated at Westminster on that day, he commands the Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk to give

¹ Domesday Book. Terra Regis.

² Domesday: passim.

³ Frank-pledge. Every free-born man of 14 years of age, except religious persons, clerks, knights, and their eldest sons, was bound to find security for his fidelity to the King, on pain of imprisonment; whence it became customary for a certain number of neighbours to be bound for one another, to see each man of their pledge forthcoming at all times; or to answer the transgression of any one absenting himself: this was called, in the debased Latin of the day, *visus franci plegii*.

Tumbrell was an authority to retain in the manor an instrument or engine called a ducking-stool, invented for the punishment of scolds and brawling women: obviously now disused.

⁴ A payment in contradistinction to black mail; rendered partly in coin, and partly in goods.

⁵ Claus. A° 6 Johan.

seizen thereof to Walter de Ev̄mue, to sustain him in the royal service, and during the King's pleasure.⁶ Henry de Vere, who possessed the other moiety of this manor, left an only son, Henry de Vere, who died without issue, so that having no heirs, his share also fell to the Crown. The moieties of the manor being thus united were granted, as one lordship, in 1234, to Sir Thomas de Hemegrave, or Hengrave, who died in 1254, and was succeeded in his estates by Thomas, his grandson. He paid one hundred shillings as relief, for his grandfather's lands here. The following inquisition of the customs and descent of the manor and half Hundred of Mutford was taken in the reign of Edward I.

“Jurati dicunt quod in dimidio Hundredo de Mutford duo genera feodorum sunt: vid: unum de antiquo dominico domini regis, quod vocatur Mutford; alium feodum de feodo Cestrie. Item dicunt quod Dom: Henricus Rex, filius Imperatricis tenuit integrum manerium de Mutford, cum omnibus regiis libertatibus pertinen: manerio de Mutford: et dictus Henricus dedit tribus servientibus suis; videlicet quilibet ipsorum centum solidos annui redditus extra manerium de Mutford, et agnominabantur Luvel, Breton, et Francheville, et retinuit regias libertates; deinde Soka Luvel et Soka Breton sunt in Blihyng, et in Wayneford, et quidam pars de Soka Francheville est in dicto dimidio Hundredo de Mutford, et pars in Blything, et pars in Wayneford. Dom: Willielmus de Valance tenet Sokam Breton: Abbas de Sancto Edmundo tenet Sokam Luvel: Radulphus Muncy tenet Sokam Francheville, et totum residuum dicti manerij de Mutford predictus Henricus rex dedit Balderico de Bosco, cum advocationibus ecclesiarum cum Hundredo, wrecco maris, visu franci plegii, erectionem furcarum et tumbrellorum, et cum omnibus aliis libertatibus pertinentibus ad manerium de Mutford, salvis inde per annum domino Regi sex marcas et dimidiam, quod vocatur alba firma; et solvitur tam bene de tenementis feodi Cestrie quam de feodo de Mutford. Et post mortem dicti Balderici descendit dictum manerium de Mutford de herede in heredem usque ad duas filias et heredes, que diviserunt inter se dictum manerium; et quarum unam Stephanus de Longo Campo disposavit; et Henricus de Ver disposavit alteram.

“Item dicunt quod Stephanus de Longo Campo occisus fuit in prelio de Bonyns, contra Johannem regem Anglie, et eadem ratione forisfactus fuit tota purpartia uxoris, et seisata in manu domini Regis. Et Henricus Ver, filius Henrici Ver, senioris, qui exivit de altera filia, mortuus sine herede de se procrato, et eadem ratione dominus Henricus rex, pater domini Regis qui nunc est, seisivit dictum manerium de Mutford. Et post mortem Henrici de Ver, filii Henrici de Ver, senioris, dominus Thome de Hengrave, senior, perquisivit manerium de Mutford de domino Henrico rege, patre domini regis Edwardi qui nunc est, cum omnibus regiis libertatibus pertinentibus dicto manerio: post mortem dicti Thome de Hengrave, senioris, descendit dictum manerium Thome de Hengrave, ut nepoti suo et heredi. Post mortem dicti Thome descendit dictum manerium Edmundo de Hengrave, ut filio et heredi, qui nunc tenet de domino rege in capite manerium de Mutford, cum omnibus regiis libertatibus pertinentibus dicto manerio; centum quadraginta et tres acras terre arrabilis; quinquaginta quinq: acras bosci, duas acras prati, tres acras juncarie salvo herbagio communiariorum, qui nunc communiari debent, videlicet in marisco de Howbergh, et medietatem omnium transgressionum qui facti sunt in eodem marisco: unum molendinum ad ventum, liberam appendam liberum taurum, et weyf de bestiis extrahuris cum dimidio Hundredo per totum dimidium Hundredum, wrecco maris, visu franci plegii, erectionem furcarum et tumbrellorum, warenam liberam infra boscum suum clausum in Mutforde, tolnetum de Heyes, salvo medietate Rogeri de

⁶ Claus. 5 Hen. III.

Monte Alto de villa de Kessinglond, fagnadief, advocacionem ecclesie de Mutforde, ad quam ecclesiam pertinet viginti quatuor acre terre arrabilis cum uno messuagio de feodo de Mutford per feudum unius militis pro se et tenentibus suis subscriptis, qui de eo tenent tenementa sua de supradieto feodo et tenentes sui ad hoc servitium ei nichil auxiliabant. Pertinentia sunt dieto manerio tria genera tenentium: vid: liberi tenentes gersumanni, et sokemanni, et omnes sunt in certo. Item pertinentia sunt ad dictum manerium sokemanni operantes in autumpno, et in aliis temporibus anni, quidem illorum arrabunt, si conjugaverint et arrura sua illa allocationibus in eorum operatione per unam septimanam; sin autem non arrabunt et cariabunt domini fenum, si conjugaverint carectam, sin autem non cariabunt, et primo die cariacionis manducabunt ad mensam domini semel in die, et dies illa non est allocanda, ceteri vero dies allocandi sunt in eorum operatione; vid: quibus dies pro una septimana. Et quidem illorum debent herciari bis per annum per duos dies post prandium per unum equum, si habeant equum, sin autem non habebunt, dabunt unam gallinam ad natale domini, quinque ova ad Pascham, si gallenas habeant; sin autem non, dabunt et quinque garbas ordeï in augusto et unum vellus lane, si habeant quinque bidentium, vel si habeant centum bidentes; sin autem non, dabunt et unam garbam lini si habeant quinque garbas vel centum si habeant, sin autem non dabunt. Quidem illorum custodiant latrones, et ducunt apud Gippovicum, et illa custodia et dueia allocabantur in eorum operatione, et tam nox quam dies allocabatur: vid: nox et dies pro duabus diebus &c.

“Quidem illorem averabunt apud Gernemouth Donevicum et apud Beelis et allocacit in eorum operatione quando vero fecerint Avergium apud Donevicum vel apud Gernemouyt allocatio ei pro seipso et pro equo unum diem quando fecerint Averagium apud Beelys tunc allocatio tam pro se et equo unum diem (et si dominus pro eorum operatione argentum habere voluerit tunc pro die in Augusto debit obolum) et pro die a festo Sancti Michaelis usque festum Sancti Petri ad vineula unum quadrantem tantum—Quidem illorum erint prepositi per turnum suum antiquum tenementum—et hoc facient dum sint prepositi, erunt in grangiis domini et videant ut blada domini intrentur debito modo et erunt ad trituraionem bladi et ventilacionem et mensuracionem bladi, talliabunt contra servientem manerii, nullam vendieionem nec emptionem bladi facient. De carucis et curatis neque de aliis quibuslibet rebus se non intromittent. Et postquam blada domini in granario domini per custodem manerii vel per alium ad voluntatem domini custodientur et expenduntur. Et sic de pisis fab et avenis quod postquam positi sint in granario prepositi de illis nichil se intromittent. Et dum sint prepositi quieti sint de omnimodis operationibus, et quandiu dominus vel familia ibi per manducabunt ad mensam domini. Et prepositi eligentur per sokemannos circa festum Sancti Petri ad vineula per turnum at dictum est nullam aliam operationem sic faciet et percipient alios facere. Quidem vero sokemannorum erunt venditores bosci de bosco per turnum et electionem dictorum sokemannorum, et dum sint venditores manducabunt ad mensam domini exceptis diebus quibus debent operari et omnes summoniti erunt ad eorum operationem die precedenti et venient ad eorum operationem in omni tempore anni ad solis ortum et redibunt ad solis occasum. Gersumam vero modo facient isti qui plenas terras tenent si filii eorum sint maritandi veniunt ad eustodem manerii de Mutford vel ad alium in servitium domini ibidem inventum et licentiam petent. Et sine licentia dederit sine non maritabunt filias suas ubicunq: voluerint. Et si maritati sint ad homagium domini tunc dabunt gersumam secundem quantitatem eorum tenementi. Ita tum quod si tenent plenum socagium dabunt duos solidos, qui plus tenet plus dabit, et qui minus, minus dabit, si vero maritati sint ad alios qui non sunt de homagio domini tunc dabit qui plenum socagium tenet decem solidos pro gersuma, qui dimidium socagium tenet quinque solidos qui plus tenet plus dabit, qui minus tenet minus sokemāni dabit secundem quantitatem.”⁷

⁷ MSS. Jermyn and Davy, ex cart. orig.

Sir Edmund de Hengrave, eldest son of Thomas de Hengrave, who died in 1264, inherited the manor of Mutford. In 1321, he was Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, and Governor of Norwich Castle. He died in the eighth of Edward III., in his 80th year, seized of this lordship,⁸ and Sir Thomas, his eldest son and heir, aged 40 at his father's decease, succeeded. By Isabella, his first wife, he had Sir Edmund de Hengrave, his heir, and Beatrix, who married Sir Robert de Thorpe of Ashwelthorpe, in Norfolk, whose descendants eventually became possessed of Mutford. Sir Thomas died in 1349, and was succeeded by Sir Edmund de Hengrave, who was one of the Knights returned to Parliament for Norfolk and Suffolk, in the forty-sixth of Edward III. He married, first, Joan, cousin and heiress of James de Cockfield, and, secondly, Alice, daughter of John de Insula, on whom he settled the manor of Mutford. In her will, dated in 1401, she calls herself "Dame de Mutford," and bequeaths 40 shillings to the high altar of the church there: 6^s and 8^d to the lights of Our Lady; and 40 shillings to the reparation of the belfry. Her husband's will is dated in 1379, in which he gives certain moveables and effects, then in his house at Mutford, to Alice, his wife, who seems to have resided there after his decease, till her second marriage with Sir Richard Wychingham, of Witchingham, in Norfolk. This Sir Richard held the manor of Mutford during the life of the said Alice, but the reversion of the same after her death being settled on the right heirs of Sir Edmund de Hengrave, Sir Thomas, his surviving son and heir, inherited it. By his marriage he had issue Edmund de Hengrave, on whom his father entailed this lordship and a moiety of the Hundred, in 1414; but this son dying shortly afterwards, without issue, Sir Thomas vested his estates in trust, for sale; the produce to be applied to charitable purposes. He died in 1419, and bequeathed for the reparation of the chancel of Mutford church one hundred shillings, and towards the repairs of the body of the church twenty shillings, and to the parson six shillings and eight pence, and to twenty-four of his poor tenants there forty shillings. These bequests he makes for the good of his soul; for the soul of Joan, his mother, who lay buried there, and for the souls of all the faithful departed.

His widow, Joanna, married, shortly after his death, Richard Vewetrec, of Burnham Westgate, in Norfolk, and died in 1421. Before her decease she solemnly revoked her will, devising the manor of Mutford, &c., having executed it by constraint, and under the influence of her second husband. Upon the extinction of the family of Hengrave, in the person of Sir Thomas, their estates descended to the Thorpes of Ashwelthorpe, in Norfolk, in right of Beatrix de Hengrave, who married Sir Robert Thorpe, as before shown; but the manor of Mutford seems to have escheated to the Crown.

In the ninth of Richard II., Michael de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, had a grant of

⁸ Harl. MSS. 708.

various manors and estates in Suffolk; 25th January, nineteenth of Henry VII., Edmund de la Pole was attainted of treason, whereupon, amongst others, the manor of Mutford came to the hands of the Crown, and by grant of 15th June, first of Henry VIII., the said manor, with others, was granted to Edward Jernyngham, Esq., and Mary his wife, which grant they afterwards surrendered into Chancery, and thereupon, 28th January, second of Henry VIII., the same manors and estates were granted to the said Edward Jernyngham and wife, and the heirs of their bodies: these were afterwards sold by Henry Jernegan, and Henry Jernegan his son, to Thomas and Christopher Hirne, and by letters patent, 28th October, fifth of James I., the King, on the petition of the Earl of Montgomery, granted the reversion of the said manors, &c., to hold to Clement Hirne and his heirs by fealty only and an annual rent. A sale was afterwards made by Sir Thomas Hirne, Knt., to Sir John Heveningham, Knt., and Dame Bridget his wife; and this sale was confirmed by Act of Parliament, seventh of James I. William Heveningham, son of the said Sir John, being one of the judges of King Charles, committed high treason, and was attainted by Act of Parliament, whereby his manors, &c., became forfeited to the Crown, and by letters patent, 28th September, thirteenth of Charles II., the King granted the said manors, &c., to Bryan Viscount Cullen and others. These grantees were trustees for Lady Mary Heveningham; and in 1678, Sir Thomas Allin, Knt., purchased these estates, from whom they eventually came to the Anguishes, and passed to the present possessor, Samuel Morton Peto, Esq.

There appears to have been a family of some consideration in their day, which took their name from this village; for in 1329, Sir John de Mutford, one of the judges in the Common Pleas, in the reign of Edward II., of the knightly family of the Mutfords of Mutford, in Suffolk, was buried in the cathedral of Norwich.⁹

A winding stream of water, which rises in the parish of St. Laurence Ilketshall, enters this parish at a point called Ellough Bridge. It thence proceeds in a southeasterly direction, and falls into the ocean at Benacre sluice, forming the boundary line between the Hundreds of Mutford and Blything. It was probably a much more considerable stream in ancient days, as Holingshed notices it in his rivers of England. "Willingham water commeth by Hensted, Einsted, or Enistate, and falleth into the sea by south of Kesland." In the meadows around Mutford Hall, old trees are occasionally found in the soil, which rise, at uncertain intervals, to the surface; and which must have been deposited there by violent floods, centuries ago. These, by retarding the rapidity of succeeding inundations, have caused the stream to precipitate an earthy deposit, which by a sure but imperceptible action has raised the bed of the channel, and gradually covered it with a firm and fertile herbage.

⁹ Blomefield.



Alfred Suckling del.

F. Bedford, Litho. London.

THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL, MUTEDRO.

London, John Weale, 1846.

Printed by Stansfeld & Co.

Mutford Hall stands near the edge of the marshes on a rising ground, and is now converted into a farm-house. It seems to have been built late in Elizabeth's reign. Many of its old chimneys remain unaltered, but the front is completely modernized. It contains some good sized, but low apartments, and is now the property of Mr. Gilbert, of Thorpe, near Norwich, who bought it of the late Mr. Dowson, of Geldeston, in Norfolk.

There is also an ancient house in this parish, standing within a moated site, which now belongs to the Rev. Charles Clarke, of Hulver. It is as old as the hall, though it was never a house of equal pretensions, and appears to have formed only two sides of a quadrangle. It was bought by the father of the present possessor, of the daughters of Mr. Fox, of Worlingham, who held it in right of Elizabeth Smallpeece, his wife, whose family obtained it of George Watts, Gent., who was owner of it, and probably resided there in 1692. Mr. Watts bore for arms, erm. on a chief gules an annulet between two billets or. He married Elizabeth Lone, from whose family he seems to have obtained this estate, and died in 1710, aged 53 years, and lies buried in the chancel of Mutford church.

Robert Brewster, of Mutford, held lands in this parish and in Henstead, prior to the reign of Henry VI., which lands were afterwards in the possession of William Brewster, of Henstead, and Robert Brewster, of Rushmere. This was a branch of the very ancient family of the Brewsters of Wrentham, in Blything Hundred.

THE CHURCH,

which is dedicated to St. Andrew, was a rectory till the middle of the fourteenth century, when the advowson was purchased of Sir Edmund de Hengrave by the society of Gonville Hall, now Caius College, in Cambridge. Its revenues were appropriated to that establishment, by the sanction of William Bateman, Bishop of Norwich, on the 17th of June, 1354. The Hall, as patron, was bound to present two clerks to the Bishop, who was to choose one of them as Vicar. The vicarage was to be worth 10 marks per annum, and taxed at 5 marks. A pension of 20 shillings was reserved to the Bishop in lieu of first fruits.¹⁰ The license for the appropriation is registered in the Patent Rolls.¹¹

The first endowment of Gonville Hall was the three ecclesiastical benefices of Mutford, Wilton, and Fouldon; the patronage of which three churches, with their glebes, and the pensions, the Hall bought with their own money of Sir Edmund de Hengrave, Knt., and Hugh de Chintriaco, Prior of Lewes.¹² They were all three of the yearly value of £28. In 1393, Richard Powle, Vicar of Mutford, gave to Gonville

¹⁰ Lib. instit. Norwic.

¹¹ Rot. Pat. 28 Ed. III., p. 1, m. 14.

¹² Blomefield.

Hall twelve acres of land, in Foulton in Norfolk.¹³ His name, however, does not occur in the list of institutions to the benefice. In 1540, Thomas Atkyns, Vicar of this parish, and Margery Hare, of the same town, gave £48 apiece to Gonville Hall, to purchase lands of the yearly value of £4.¹⁴ Lands were accordingly bought in Coolinge, in this county, and Catlidge, in Cambridgeshire.

Mr. Atkyns' donation to the same establishment of lands in Worlingham has been mentioned at page 106. In the account of the yearly rents paid in money to the Master and Fellows of Caius College, is the following item. "The tythes of Mutford and Barnaby, in Suffolk, with the glebes. Money-rent £4. 11s. Corn-rent, wheat, six quarters: malt, half a quarter, purchased by the college."¹⁵

The fabric of the church was originally raised in Norman times; very possibly by Balderic de Bosco, or Hildeburga, his daughter; and a very ancient circular arch in the north wall of the nave, the face of which is ornamented with a chevron moulding, points out the burial-place of the founder. In its present condition it comprises a nave, chancel, and south aisle. At the west end of the former stands a lofty circular tower, to which is attached a large penitential porch or galilee. This appendage, now a roofless ruin, seems to have been built somewhat later than the tower, as the masonry of their respective walls is not united. It is, I believe, the only example of such an erection in the county of Suffolk, although in early ages there was always a galilee attached to every church in which public penitents were stationed, and the bodies of the dead occasionally deposited before interment. At the cathedrals of Durham and Ely are splendid examples of the galilee. The name is supposed to have been appended to these extreme porches, because, as Galilee was the part of Palestine most remote from Jerusalem, so this portion of the building was most distant from the sanctuary.

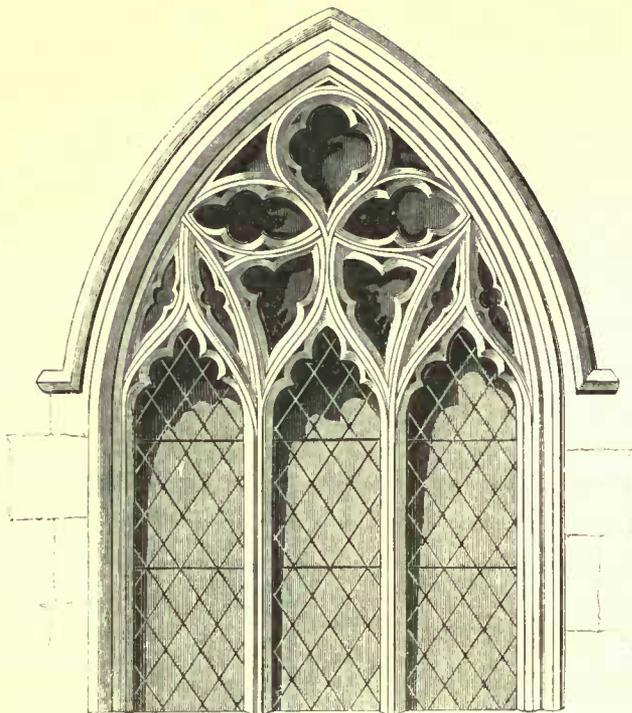
The remains of strong foundation-walls would lead us to infer that the old Norman chancel extended further eastward than the present elegant erection, the beautiful window of which is in the style of Edward the First's reign. The peaked gable in which this is inserted still bears aloft a cross of stone, and beneath the window sill is an arcade of panelled flint-work. This façade may be ascribed to the family of Hengrave, whose donations to the repairs of Mutford church and chancel have been already noticed. The aisle once extended further eastward by a single arch, and appears to have been used as a private chapel. Before the Reformation, the church contained the gild of St. John Baptist, and the lights of St. Mary, and the Holy Trinity, so that one, or perhaps all, of these saints had altars here. In 1401, Dame de Mutford, widow of Sir Edmund de Hengrave, gave by will 6s. 8d. to the lights of Our Lady, in Mutford church; 40s. to the high altar, and the same sum to the repairing of the

¹³ Blomefield.

¹⁴ Id.

¹⁵ MSS. Jermyn and Davy, from Ives' select papers.

belfry. The architectural features of this church are very plain in the interior, though the chancel arch is good. The columns of the nave are octangular, and remarkably slender: they sustain four pointed arches. The octagonal font, which is now despoiled of its ancient sculptures, was the gift of Dame Elizabeth, the wife of Sir Thomas de Hengrave, who lived in the reign of Richard II. and his successor. In the tower are three bells.



The East Window, Mutford Church.

There are the remains of a good screen, which was probably destroyed in the days of puritanic zeal, for the church of Mutford did not escape the visitation of Will. Dowsing.

“Mutford, April 8th. We brake down nine superstitious pictures, and gave order to take up nine superstitious inscriptions of Jesus; two crosses on the steeple, and the steps to be levelled.”

Monuments.—The Norman arch in the wall of the nave, which, probably, covers the remains of the founder, has been already mentioned. There is also an ancient floor-stone in the chancel, once decorated with a cross flory and circumscription in brass, which have been forcibly removed. It doubtless contained one of the “nine superstitious inscriptions” so offensive to Dowsing. Mr. Charles Hacon, died Sept. 6, 1699, aged 28 years. Hacon bears sab. 2 barrulets vary arg. and vert. in chief, a martlet between

two plates. The family of Hacon is of very great antiquity, claiming a Danish origin, and their possessions in this part of Suffolk were considerable at the time of the Domesday Survey, wherein the name is of frequent occurrence.

Mary, first the wife of Robert Bell, and after the wife of Tolmache Castell, died 2 May, 1653.

On a small brass plate in the nave is this legend: Robert Langley, died 23 June, 1608.

Maria, wife of James Palmer, of Gt. Yarmouth, merchant, died 21 Jan., 1824, aged 48.

William Temple, D.D., Rector of Kirkley, and formerly Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, died 24 Jan., 1809, aged 74.

Dr. Temple resided at a good mansion in this village, called Northwood Place.

George Watts, Gent., died in 1710, aged 53 years.

RECTORS OF MUTFORD.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas de Suddon . . .	1327	Sir Edmund de Hengrave.
Hen: fil: Edm: de Pakenham	1342	Sir Thomas de Hengrave.
John Herland, de Kimburle .	1349	Sir Edmund de Hengrave.

VICARS OF MUTFORD.

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
John Herland, de Kimburle .	1354	Master, &c. of Gonville Hall.
Thomas Burgeys . . .	1361	Id.
Walter Spyllewynd . . .	1377	Id.
Peter of Weston . . .	1388	Id.
Robert Kypping . . .	1395	Id.
Hugo Myngs . . .	1396	Id.
William Wardeboys . . .	1403	Id.
Richard Egate . . .	1407	Id.
John Derham . . .	1428	Id.
Richard Halyfax . . .	1429	Id.
Nicholas Henley . . .	1441	Id.
Thomas Atte Ash . . .	1444	Bishop, by lapse.
Thomas Rokesby . . .	1450	Master, &c. of Gonville Hall.
Thomas Wode . . .	1452	Id.
John Turnour . . .	1460	Id.
Jac. Cobald . . .	1465	Id.
John Steyn . . .		
William Huntone . . .	1480	Id.

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
Richard Toley . . .		
John Pory	1505	Master, &c. of Gonville Hall.
Thomas Atkin		
John Raymond	1512	Id.
Thomas Atkyns	1528	Id.
John Lamb	1543	Id.
Richard Fletcher		
John Beaumont	1583	Id.
John Beaumont	1583	The King, by lapse.
Thomas Skottow	1610	The Master, &c. of Caius College.
William Crow	1613	Id.
Thomas Cook	1633	Id.
Thomas Randall	1663	Id.
Henry Howard	1675	Id.
John Hill	1681	Id.
Joshua Burton	1701	Id.
Christopher Smear	1730	Id.
Thomas Nichols	1781	Id.
William Bond	1789	Id.
William Okes	1832	Id.

Estimatio ejusdem xxij marc.

The population of Mutford amounted to 415 souls in 1841.

Pakefield,

situated on a bold cliff, is constantly suffering from the encroachments of the German Ocean. In Domesday Book it is written Pagefella, and Gurth held an estate here with a mediety of the church and 16 acres and a half of glebe land, valued at five shillings. This was granted, at the Conquest, to Earl Hugh, but is not recorded as a manor. The lordship is called Rodenhall, and was the property of Tored. In the reign of Henry III., Edmund de Wymundhale had free-warren in his lands in Pakefield, but it does not appear that he held the manor; and Henry de Colville had wreck of sea here in the twenty-first year of the same King's reign. In the reign of Edward II., the manor of Rodenhall, or Rothenhall, was held by John de Rothenhall, and in 1419 it was returned that John de Rothenhall held this lordship, at the day of his death,

of the King, as of his honour of Chester, by the service of an eighth part of a knight's fee, and Thomas Rothenhall was his son and heir. This Thomas had a sister Elizabeth, and both being minors at the time of their father's death, the manor of Rothenhall escheated to the Crown in 1427, or the following year, apparently on their decease.

“Medietas M̄ni vocat Rothenhall cum p̄ten in com: Suff: tam p̄ mortem Johis Rothenhall, quam racōne minoris etat Thome, fil: et hered: p̄dci Johis Rothenhall, et Eliz: sororis et hered: ejusd: Thome, ad manus R. devenerunt. Quod quidem maner: integrum tenet r de R. ut de Hon: Cestr: p̄ servic: quarti partis unius feod: Mil: quodque Anna soror p̄dci Johis Rothenhall est heres p̄dce Elizabethæ, et etatis xxi annor.”¹

There appears considerable intricacy in the preceding record, but it is evident that all the parties mentioned therein were dead, or had disposed of their interests in Pakefield, within a few years after its date; for Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Philip Branch, Knt., and widow of John Clere, Esq., of Ormesby, in Norfolk, but who afterwards married the aforesaid Sir John Rothenhall, by her will dated on the 16th of October, 1438, and proved on the 9th of July, 1441, gave to Robert Clere, her son, all her goods at Castor, and her manor of Horninghall there; and Henstead, Rothenhall and Claydon manors in Suffolk; to him, his heirs and assigns for ever, after the payment of her debts, &c.² The lordship appears to have been shortly after in the possession of Thomas Bardolph, Esq., who, with Alice his wife, presented to the Rothenhall mediety of the church in 1445. Upon the death of this Thomas Bardolph, Alice, his widow, re-married to John Southwell, Esq. In the thirty-second or thirty-third of Henry VI., William Bonds, who was probably a trustee or executor, conveyed the manor of Rothenhall in Pakefield, to John Southwell, and this Alice, his wife.³ Southwell, however, had presented to the church in 1451, which was two years previous to this conveyance. In the twenty-ninth of the same King's reign, John Southwell represented the borough of Lewes in Parliament, and resided at Barham Hall, in Suffolk.

In the thirty-sixth of Henry VIII. the manor was parcel of the possessions of the college or hospital of Herringby, in Norfolk, and was granted, under the Privy Seal, on the 13th of April, in the same year, to William Woodhouse, of Waxham, Knt. It then paid 22*s.* 4½*d.* per annum to the college.⁴ In 1645, it was conveyed by William Tasker to Robert Proctor, Esq.,⁵ from whom its descent has been traced under Kessingland, in which parish part of the lordship lies.

¹ Esch. 6 Hen. VI.

² Blomefield. MSS. Jermyn and Davy, &c.

³ Blomefield.

⁴ Id.

⁵ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

THE MANOR OF PYES

was anciently the lordship of Sawale Trysth, and afterwards belonged to the family of Drayton. Thomas de Drayton left a daughter, who married John Pye, from whom the manor was called. It was next held by William Jenney, Esq., and in the seventeenth of Henry VII. was the estate of Edmund Jenney. In the twentieth of Henry VIII. it was held by Henry Hobart, Gent.; and in the thirty-third of the same reign by James Hobart. In 1560, it belonged to Henry Hobart, Esq., by whose family it seems to have been united with Gisleham.⁶ The abuttals of land mention the manors of Pakefield and Kirkley, but there does not appear to be any manor called Pakefield; and the manor of Kirkley was formerly called Fastolfs.⁷

The old manor-house at Pakefield, which belongs to the heirs of Mr. Morse, as lord of Rothenhall, stands between the turnpike-road and the sea. It is now occupied as a farm-house, but preserves much of its ancient character. There were formerly three projecting gables in its front, though only two now remain. Some windows which face the north retain their original glazing and ponderous lead-work.

The manor of Broomholm, now the property of Samuel Morton Peto, Esq., extends into this parish. There was formerly much common land in this vicinity, which is now enclosed. In Pakefield were 109 acres, and in the adjoining village of Gisleham the wastes included 233 acres, as appears by an old award in the parish chest, dated August 2nd, 1799. The tithes of Pakefield are fixed at £205 per annum, and the Rector has 15 acres and a half of glebe in Pakefield, and one acre in Mutford. The population in 1841 amounted to 495 souls.

Maria Selling, of Topcroft, in the county of Norfolk, by will, dated the 2nd of April, 1687, left the following bequest to the parish. "A rent charge of twenty shillings per annum on her lands, lying in Pakefield, to be paid quarterly into the hands of the overseers of the said parish, to be distributed at their discretion to the poor of the said parish; and in case of the non-payment of the said sum of twenty shillings, or any part thereof, in manner and form as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the overseers to enter into all and singular the lands and premises aforesaid, and intended to be chargeable with the said sum, and to take the issues and profits thereof until they be, and shall be satisfied and paid all said arrears of the said rent, together with their and every and their costs and charges thereon."

Notwithstanding the power of entry devised to the overseers of Pakefield by the above will, the annual charge has not been paid for the last six or seven years.

Mrs. Dodd, who died in 1814, devised, by her will, so much money as would

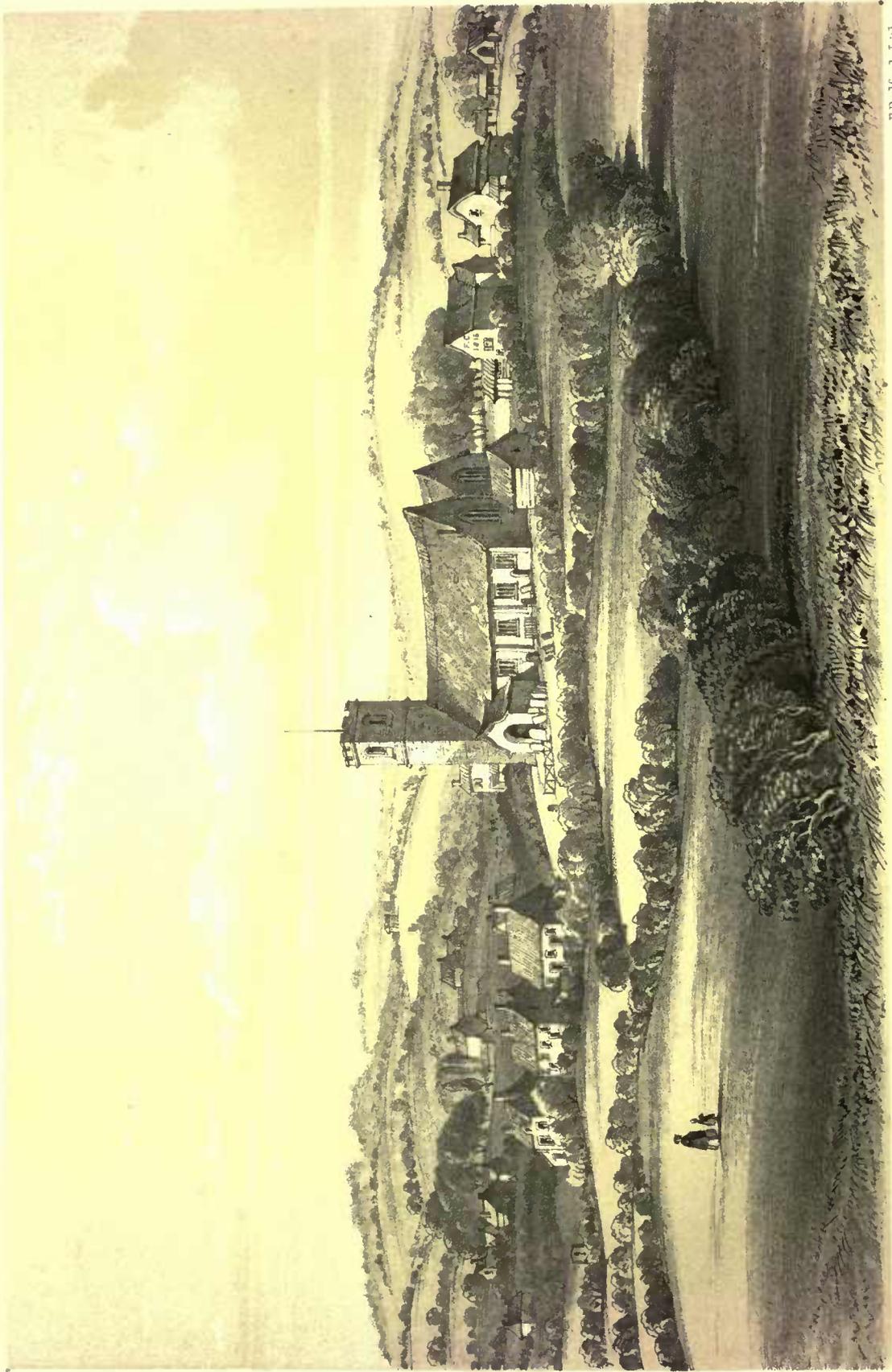
⁶ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

⁷ Id.

purchase £ 5 a year, interest, to be invested in the public funds, and that the same should be equally divided annually at Pakefield church to ten poor aged persons, of the parishes of Pakefield and Kirkley, not under sixty years of age, and who should be in the habit of frequenting their parish churches every Sunday, except prevented by sickness or bodily infirmity.

The rectory of Pakefield was in mediocrities from a period before the Norman Conquest,⁸ each mediocrity having its patron, who presented to his portion upon every vacancy in succession, and not in alternate patronage; so that there were two rectories, and two incumbents in one parish church. This continued to be the case till about the year 1645, after which date one rector was instituted to both mediocrities by the two patrons, and was considered as holding two benefices. But on the 30th of June, 1743, Thomas Gooch, then Bishop of Norwich, consolidated these mediocrities upon the petition of Sir John Playters, Bart., and Edward North, Clerk, the patrons of the advowsons of the two mediocrities, subscribed by the churchwardens, overseers, and principal inhabitants of the parish. The petitioners prayed his lordship, "that in order for the more comfortable and better support of a future rector, and the enabling the keeping of hospitality, one mediocrity of the said rectory of the parish church of Pakefield might be consolidated to the other mediocrity of the same church in future, for the taking place on, or upon the first vacancy happening of the same, or either of them, by any ways or means soever from thenceforward for ever." To this petition the Bishop replies that, "Whereas we are informed that till very lately the same clerk hath been presented to both mediocrities, ever since the year 1645, by reason whereof no good account can now be given, how either the glebes, tythes, and other ecclesiastical dues, or the duties of the cure, were divided between the two rectors, so that the present rectors are at a loss to know their distinct rights and duties, and the parishioners are at a loss to know what share of their dues they are to pay to the rectors of either mediocrity, and which rector they are to call upon to visit them when sick, to baptise their children, and bury their dead; and whereas we are further informed that the fruits, tythes, profits, and other the ecclesiastical emoluments belonging to both the said mediocrities of Pakefield are but of the yearly value of £ 50, which is too insufficient for the proper maintenance of two clerks, according to the decency of the clerical order, and the enabling and keeping hospitality, we therefore, &c., consolidate and incorporate for ever, the two separate mediocrities, &c., into one whole and entire rectory. Sir John Playters, and his heirs, to have the first alternate presentation after the decease of Philip Richardson, and Edward North, or the survivor of them; and afterwards the said Edward North, his heirs and assigns, to present. Provided always that all

⁸ Domesday Book.



Drawn by M^r Cunningham

F Bedford, Litho.

London, John Weale, 1846
Printed by Stanidge & Co

the buildings now belonging to the said two medieties be in all future times kept up, and sufficiently repaired."

By deed, dated the 5th of August, 1772, John North, of Benaere, in the county of Suffolk, B. A., then resident at Geneva, sold the next right of presentation, and the advowson of his mediety, to Robert Neslin, of Wheatacre All Saints, in Norfolk, for £180.

Mr. Neslin presented to the consolidated medieties in 1780; but in 1798, Robert Sparrow, and George William Paddon, Esquires, were patrons, and had the alternate patronage. The right of the latter gentleman, however, seems to have fallen, by purchase, or otherwise, to Robert Sparrow, Esq., as we find the aforesaid deed of sale to Neslin, and all other papers relating to the consolidation of the medieties, among the archives of the Earl of Gosford.

The parsonage-house, mentioned in the preceding deeds, stands on the north side of the church-yard, and is a very ancient but mean building of stone.

THE CHURCH,

which was evidently erected for the equal accommodation of two congregations, consists of two portions or aisles, of similar architecture and dimensions, divided by a range of seven pointed arches, resting on octangular pillars, finished with plain moulded capitals. Each portion had its separate altar, raised on a flight of steps, beneath which was a charnel-house, common to both medieties, and formerly entered from without, though now approached by stairs beneath a trap-door in the northern aisle. A screen of elaborate workmanship extended through both portions of the edifice, of which the lower compartments remain: these are painted alternately scarlet and green, and diapered with ornaments of foliage, the colours of which are still fresh and effective. Stairs in the north and south walls gave access to the respective rood-lofts. There is a square tower at the south-west end of the church, constructed with very massive walls, in which hang four bells.

Some niches in the walls of the interior were opened about twenty years since, and found to contain fresco paintings in the same vivid style as the screens. One, on the south side, exhibits the figures of the Virgin and Christ. Stone seats for the congregation are carried across the face of the western wall, as may be frequently seen in our older churches.

There is a fine octangular font of stone, sculptured with the emblems of the four Evangelists, and which, from its position, seems to have served at the sacrament of baptism for both medieties. It was covered, till very lately, by a wooden model of the upper portion of the tower and spire of Norwich Cathedral, which is now removed to

the vestry. This model is about seven feet high, and was made by an ingenious inhabitant of the parish about seventy years since. The condition of the church is neat and reputable, and owes much of this to the liberality of Dr. Leman, a late incumbent, who new-floored and repaired it at his own expense, and erected the present pulpit, which is said to have superseded one of very ancient and elaborate workmanship.⁹

In the east window of the north aisle are the arms of Sparrow, in modern stained glass, as represented on the accompanying engraving:—arg. 3 roses and a chief gules. There is a small piscina, and a seat for an ecclesiastic, without any canopy.

There seems to be some uncertainty as to the dedication of the church. In the list of institutions, preserved in the record-office of the Bishop of Norwich, the incumbents “in parte australi,” or the southern aisle, are inducted to Pakefield All Saints, while the north aisle is simply styled “Pakefield altera medietas.” It is probable, however, that this portion of the church was dedicated to St. Margaret, as Gillingwater mentions an old communion cup, now no longer to be heard of, which bore the inscription of

Pakefelde Sante Margaret.

He tells us it had also the date of 1367, which was more probably 1567. The communion cup and stand in present use were “the gift of Robert Leman, M. A., 1769.” The following character of this excellent man is inserted in the parish registers. “Sept. Stl, 1779. Died, at his seat at Wingfield Castle, the Rev. Dr. Leman, Rector of the medieties of Pakefield, Vicar of Mendham, and Curate of Carlton Colville, in Suffolk. He was an admired preacher, and a strenuous assertor of the rites and ceremonies of the church of which he was so bright an ornament, and indefatigable in every part of the pastoral office.”

“Rogerus Borell, Eccleie de Pakefeld, 6 die Oct: A° Dñi 1384, condidit test: suum apud Henyngham, et legat corpus suum scpeliend: in eccleia Sei Botolphi, in Henyngham: legat Thome Burch, nep̄ti suo diversa.”¹⁰

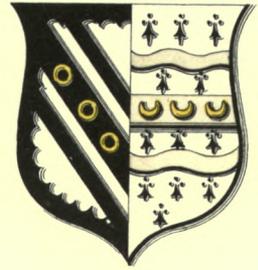
Pakefield registry begins in 1680.

Monuments.—Against the east wall of the south aisle is a very pleasing brass effigy of Richard Folcard, Rector of the mediety “in parte australi,” who died in 1451. His hands are conjoined in prayer, and from his mouth proceeds a label, on which is written in Latin, “I will celebrate the mercies of my God for ever.”

On a large stone, now placed upright against the north wall, are figures in brass, commemorating John Bowff or Bowfe, his wife and eleven children. The circumscription is in the English language, and appears very curious; but as the stone laid

⁹ Gillingwater.

¹⁰ Will Book, Norwich.



obitus
concordias dñi in eternū



Hic iacet magister Ricus ffolcarde quondā Rector wedietatis
istī ecclīe in parte australi qui obuit in die Sci Martini in Jemie
Anno dñi millmo CCC. li. Iuris anime p̄cietur de' amen ?

2 Ft. - 6 in.

originally on the floor, it became much worn by the feet of successive congregations, and is in part defective. John Bowff died,—if my reading of the figures can be relied on,—in 1417; he was probably the father of Robert Boof, who, with John Brown, and Thomas Bonde, presented to the mediety of Pakefield All Saints in 1421. As near as I can decipher the legend, it may be given as follows :

**Al schul we hen whedir ne when may no man ken
But God above
For other we car hen schul we far ful pore and bar
Thus seyð John Bowf.**

Philip Richardson, fifty-one years Rector of Pakefield and Kirkley, died Oct. 8th, 1748, aged 82. In preaching constant, in life exemplary.

Anne Cunningham, widow of John Cunningham, Esq., of Clapham, in Surrey, died August 11th, 1819, aged 65 years. The tablet to her memory was erected by her two sons, John William Cunningham, Vicar of Harrow, and Francis Cunningham, Rector of this parish, in gratitude for her unceasing solicitude for the welfare of their souls and bodies.

Elizabeth, wife of M. M. Wotton, died 26th December, 1776, aged 32 years. Also, M. M. Wotton, Gent., died 27th December, 1820, aged 74 years.

RECTORS OF PAKEFIELD ALL SAINTS.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Peter de Rothenall		
Sequest: med: com: Tho: de Drayton .	1308	Petronilla de Drayton.
Continuatio sequest: eidem usq: ad Tri:		
S: Petri ad vine:	1309	
Sequest: med: Jōi de Rothenhall	1311	
Joēs de Rothenhall	1311	Peter, fil: Lewalli de Rothenhall.
Robert Testard, de Gavesford	1313	Peter de Rothenhall.
Joēs le Man, de Mutford	1316	Id.
Joēs de Rothenhall	1349	Joēs, fil: Pet: de Rothenhall.
Will: de South Birlingham	1349	Id.
Robert Graunt	1392	Lewall: de Rothenhall, de Pakefield.
Thomas Hatfeld	1409	Geo: Leuthorp et Thos: Grymesby.
Robert Graunt	1411	Rieh: Witherley et Will: Pyke. John Toke et Will: Brown.
John Gerveys	1421	John Brown, Robert Boof, et Thos: Bonde.
Richard Foleard	1445	Thos. Bardolph, Esq., and Aliee his wife.
Thomas Rokesby	1451	John Southwell, Esq.
William Fryston		

ANTIQUITIES OF THE

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Thos. Warde	1458	William Jenney, Esq.
Edward Jenney	1488	Edmund Jenney, Esq.
William Hunter		
Edward Jenney	1493	Id.
Robert Hunter	1503	Id.
William Stephenson		
Arthur Frythe	1536	Henry Hubbard, Esq.
Henry Harryson	1541	Id.
John Gayton	1552	Id.
Robert Nudde	1558	Henry Hobart, Esq.
John Towne	1570	Thomas Playters, Esq.
John Deunce		Bishop, by lapse.
William Wyncoppe	1583	William Playters, Esq.
Thomas Yeowle	1589	James Hobart, Esq.
James Wadsworth	1598	Id.
Richard Sadlington	1603	William Hannam.
John Edwards	1616	William Bell.
Edward Barnes		
William Bacon	1645	Rich ^d . Newson, exec ^r . of Nath ^l . Roe, clk.
William Bacon	1680	Sarah Bacon.
Philip Richardson	1697	Daniel Procter, Esq.

In this mediety a light was burnt before the image of Our Lady.

PAKEFIELD, ALTERA MEDIETAS.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas de Drayton	1309	Christiana, relict of Henry Berry.
Thomas de Spyney	1335	Hugo de Berry.
Joës fil: Willi, fil: Stephani de Brom, juxta Bungay	1338	Id.
William Colevill	1345	Id.
Henry de Fordham	1351	Edmund Berry.
Joës Cressy, de Hupton	1365	Id.
William Fesaunt	1374	Alicia Berry.
Alanus Miller	1377	Ead.
Roger Borell, de Hedingham	1382	Ead. rel. Edm. Berry, of Tuddenham.
Galfridus Elvard	1384	Ead.
Robert Graunt		
Henry Graunt, of Shadingfield	1421	William, son of Sebball Rothenhall, of Pakefield.
Thomas Bretlond	1452	John Tymperley and Henry Bredfield.
William Fryston	1458	William Jenney.
John Crawford	1489	Thomas Aslack, Esq.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Simon Petytt	1505	Bishop, by lapse.
John Ibbe	1523	William Kelslake, Esq.
Augustine Thirkill	1549	Thomas Playters, Esq.
William Wyncoppe	1584	The Queen.
Richard Sadlington	1603	William Hannam.
William Girlinge	1616	Martin Girlinge, sen.
Edward Bonn	1634	Sir Thomas Playters.
William Bacon	1642	Sir William Playters.
William Bacon	1680	Lionel Playters.
Edward North	1742	The King, for this turn, by death, cession, or otherwise by lapse of time.
Robert Leman	1766	William Leman, Gent.
George Paddon	1780	Robert Neslin, Gent.
Richard Turner	1802	Robert Sparrow, Esq.
Francis Cunningham	1814	Id.

Population of Pakefield in 1841,—495.

Rushmere.

RUSHMERE is so called from its low swampy site, which in early times produced an abundance of reeds and rushes. Draining, and modern improvements in agriculture, have rendered it a fertile tract, and converted the mere, which probably embraced the southern half of the village, into sound meadow-land; so that the ox now fattens on the spot which formerly nourished only the slimy eel. In Domesday Book its name is written Riscemara, when it was the estate of Hugo de Montford, and was valued at 5 shillings and 300 herrings. The Earl held the whole in his own hands, with a fourth part of the church, to which belonged eight acres of glebe, valued at 16 pence. The King and the Earl divided the soc. It had been the property of Gurth. Four of the inhabitants testified at the Hundred Court that William de Doai was seized of it at the time of his banishment, and that afterwards Earl Hugh held it; though at the Survey, Hugo de Montford was lord: but they asserted that the latter did not possess this manor by livery, or legal transfer; and they further declared that the said Walter held it of De Montford. Another estate in this parish belonged, in the time of the Confessor, to Gurth, and was held by Aluric, his tenant, as a manor. It was

granted at the Conquest to Earl Hugh, who raised its value from 5 to 10 shillings.¹

In 1263, Thomas de Latemer had free-warren in his lands at Ilkctshall, Kessinglonde, and Rissemere; but he does not appear to have held the manor here, which seems to have followed in the same descent as Mutford, and to have had its manorial business transacted at the same courts; for in an old court-roll for the latter lordship it is thus recorded: "Mutford. The generall Courte there, holden the Thursday next after Michaelmas, A.D. 1692. At this court the lord granted, in charity to the poor inhabitants of the town of Rushmer, one piece of waste, whereon a house was then lately built, and inhabited by Margaret Hanner; to Thomas Barnet, the younger, Isaac Fenn, John Thurston, and Francis Mawfry, for the use of y^e said Margaret Hanner, as long as she should live, and after her decease for the relief of the poor of the parish, by the yearly rent of 4 pence, as by the courte books it doth more at large appear." The lordship is now the property of Mr. Peto, but may be considered as little more than a reputed manor.

The entire parish contains 759 acres, 3 roods, 1 perch of land, of which 10 acres, 2 roods, and 15 perches, are glebes. The commutation in lieu of tithes is fixed at £212 per annum, including the rent charge of the glebes. A new parsonage-house, of red brick, has been lately built by the Rev. Thomas William Irby, the present incumbent. In 1841, the population of Rushmere amounted to 134 souls.

In the twenty-ninth of Edward I., the priory of Petreston gave to that of West-acre, a messuage, and the moiety of a carucate of land at Rushmere, in Suffolk, in exchange for a messuage and a moiety of a carucate in Egmere, Norfolk.² St. Mary's College, in Baily-end, Thetford, had divers lands and revenues in Gisleham and Rushmere, and the adjoining towns, which after the Dissolution continued in the Crown till the twenty-ninth of Elizabeth, and were then granted by that Queen to Edward Wymark, Gent., and his heirs, to be held by the rent of 3s. and 4d. per annum.³

Rushmere Hall occupies a low situation in the meadows at the south of the village: it is a good substantial farm-house, about two hundred years old, but has been much modified in later days. It is now the property of the Rev. G. F. Barlow, of Burgh, near Woodbridge, and was purchased by him of John Lee Farr, Esq., about the year 1820. The Farris bought it of the Tyrrells of Gipping, in Essex. It possesses a fine old staircase, on the wall of which hangs an ancient picture of our Saviour, formerly in the possession of the Playters family, at Sotterley. It is in a hard dry style, of no value as a painting, but is noticed as a fragment of the wreck of an old and honourable house. This picture was injured in the year 1843 by a flash of lightning,

¹ Domesday Book.

² Blomefield.

³ Id.

which entered a chimney of the house, and, running along a bell-wire, passed behind the painting, the canvass of which it split, without doing further mischief.

THE CHURCH

at Rushmere is dedicated to St. Michael, and is a mean and dilapidated fabric, comprising a nave and chancel only, covered with thatch. Its interior, however, is neat, and decently kept. In it may be observed a niche, formerly used as a receptacle for the processional crosses of popish worship; an excellent octangular font, in good preservation; a small Easter sepulchre; part of an old screen, and some benches of rather unusual patterns, in a neglected and rotten condition. The tower, which is circular, and contains two bells, is remarkable for the internal construction of its masonry, which consists of a mixture of flint and bricks; the latter measure on an average about ten inches by one and three quarters. The windows, as is invariably the case where this mixed masonry is used in the circular towers of Norfolk and Suffolk, are all in the pointed style.

There are some old floor-stones in the church, the empty matrices of which bespeak former spoliation, but no modern memorials occur.

In 1508, John Hokyr, Rector, was buried in the chancel before the image of St. Michael.

RECTORS OF RUSHMERE.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Kentigein de Welyngton	1328	Lady Clemencia of Biskele.
Kentigein de Welyngton	1330	Alicia of Welyngton, p. h. v.
Roger de Cravene	1348	Dñs Ric: of Biskele.
Alexander Grym, de Beckles	1349	Laurence Monk.
Guido Crakedooh	1366	John Ulveston, Miles.
John Grey	1375	John, Rector of Bergh.
Thomas Chamberleyn	1402	Stephen Bastwick.
Thomas Porter of Bungay	1421	Margery, relict of John Argentein, Esq.
Thomas Gurnay	1435	Walter Aslack, Esq., and Margery his wife.
Hugo Cley	1446	Walter Aslack.
William Dubston	1450	William Alington, Esq.
Walter Speer	1466	Feoffees of John Alington.
John Morse	1467	John Sellyng, Esq.
Thomas Snayth	1471	John Alington, Esq.
Robert Provet	1479	Id.
John Hokyr	1497	Gilbert Talbot, mil: racione custodie Egidij filii, et her: Will: Alington, mil.
John Claydon		

ANTIQUITIES OF THE

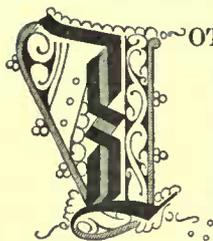
Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas Bedyngfeld	1516	Margery Hubbard, vidua.
John Galte	1532	Henry Hubbard.
John Went	1543	Id.
Richard Fletcher	1549	Id.
Robert Nohe	1554	Id.
Thomas Allyn	1563	James Hobart, Esq.
John Beaumont	1581	Bishop, by lapse.
William Hodgkin	1610	James Hobart, Esq.
Thomas Spurdance		
Jos. Fenne	1662	James Hobart, of Mendham, Esq.
Laurence Eachard	1663	Id.
John Carter	1714	Timothy Stampe.
Thomas Prettyman	1742	Richmond Garneys, Esq.
William Bell Barker	1756	Robt. Barker, Gent., p. h. v.
Samuel Summers Colman	1791	Charles Garneys, Esq.
Thomas William Irby	1842	Lord Boston, and Frederick William Irby, Esq.

Estimatur ad xii marc.

There were in this church, before the Reformation, the light of St. Mary, the altar of St. John, and the guild of St. John.

Hugo de Montford held a small estate in this, or one of the adjoining villages, called Wimundahal, valued in the time of the Confessor at 2 shillings, but at the Survey rated at 3 shillings and 500 herrings.

THE HUNDRED OF LOTHINGLAND.



LOTHINGLAND is called in Domesday Book the Half Hundred of Ludingaland, and was returned as the King's Estate. It appears to have formed a portion of the Hundred of Ludinga, which was afterwards termed the Half Hundred of Mutford.¹ Lothingland continued to be considered as a Half Hundred only till the year 1763, when it was incorporated with the Mutford division as the Hundred of Mutford and Lothingland. It lies in the Archdeaconry of Suffolk, and gives name to a Deanery which embraces all the incorporated parishes; and in judicial affairs is comprehended in the Beccles division. It forms the north-eastern point of the county of Suffolk, and extends about ten miles in length, though its greatest breadth does not exceed five. It varies much in soil, but must be considered, on the whole, as a fertile district.

It is bounded on the east by the German Ocean, against whose encroachments it opposes a bold range of cliffs, except for about three miles towards the north, where it is separated from the sea by a narrow peninsula of sand, called Yarmouth Dunes, and by the River Yare, which mingles with the waters of the ocean at Gorleston. On the north, this Hundred is encompassed by Breydon, a salt-water lake, now the shallow basin of the once impetuous Gar. The navigable River Waveney washes its western side with its winding tides, while Oulton Broad and Lake Lothing form its southern boundary; which, uniting with the ocean near Lowestoft, insulate the district.

This insular character of Lothingland, which it possessed from the remotest period of history, was destroyed in the early part of the last century by the action of the tides, and the fury of the eastern gales, which "play the tyrant" on the coasts of East Anglia. Their combined agency raised a barrier of sand and pebbles about a quarter of a mile wide, across the ancient mouth of Lake Lothing, by which all communication between the sea and the river was interrupted. Occasionally, at high tides, the sea broke over this barrier, as if desirous to regain its former dominion. The last irruption which happened at this place occurred on the 14th of December, 1717, when the sea forced its way over the beach with such irresistible violence as to carry away Mutford Bridge at the distance of two miles from the shore. To guard, however, against future damages, a breakwater was erected between Lowestoft and Kirkley, which effectually resisted all subsequent attacks of the ocean, and across which the mail-coach road from Yarmouth to London was formed. Lothingland thus continued a peninsula till the year 1831, when, in

¹ The parishes in the Half Hundred of Mutford were accounted for under this division of Ludinga, and not under the Half Hundred of Ludingaland, as stated in page 233.

pursuance of an Act of Parliament obtained to transport sea-borne vessels to Norwich by Lake Lothing, a navigable cut was made through the recently formed isthmus, and Lothingland became once more an island. Strong lock-gates were placed at the inner extremity of this cut, to prevent the too impetuous entry of the tides, if danger should be apprehended, and barriers of a like description erected at Mutford Bridge, where there is a dam of earth, which forms a causeway of communication between the opposite shores, and divides the Lake from Oulton Broad. The flow of the tide is permanently resisted here, which is not suffered to pass the lock, as the port of Yarmouth claims the flood and the ebb in Oulton Broad and the Waveney.

At an inquisition, held at Lowestoft, in 1845, before Joseph Hume, Esq., M.P., Chairman of the Royal Tidal Harbours Commissioners, it was shown by Mr. Hodges, Engineer of the Lowestoft Harbour, that the difference between the water on one side and on the other of Mutford Lock was sometimes seven feet, in consequence of the land floods. On the Lothing side, during high water, the tide is four feet higher than the water in Oulton. The tide which flows into Oulton Broad by the Waveney, from Yarmouth, is four hours and a half later than the tide in Lake Lothing.

The fee of the Hundred continued in the Crown as a Royal demesne, from the time of the Conquest to the reign of Henry III. By the latter monarch it was granted to John Baliol and the Countess Devorgill, his wife, and passed to John Baliol, King of Scotland; but upon this King's renouncing his homage to Edward I., this, and all his English estates, became forfeited to the Crown. By Edward I. the fee of the Hundred was granted, in 1306, to John de Dreux, Earl of Richmond, his sister's son. John de Dreux, nephew and heir of the former Earl, died in 1341, in possession of it; and in 1376 it appears to have been held by the Earl of Surrey. It next passed into the hands of Michael de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, whose descendant, Edmund de la Pole, lost it by attainder of High Treason, in the reign of Henry VIII., when it was regranted by that monarch to Edmund Jernegan, Esq., and Mary his wife, and subsequently passed, as the Hundred of Mutford, through the families of Allin and Anguish, to its present possessor, Samuel Morton Peto, Esq.

In 1561, the island of Lothingland returned the following list of freeholders: Laysoft, 16; Gunton, 2; Belton, 4; Bradwell, 1; Borowcastell, 4; Somerleyton, 7; Heringfleet, 4; Ffritton, 3; Gorleston, 6; Hopton, 1; Lound, 2; Blundeston, 10; Corton, 6; Ashby, 2.² Francis Jessup, of Beceles, was appointed Will. Dowsing's substitute for "Lethergland and Bungay."

The coast line of Lothingland has suffered very considerable changes within the last few centuries; for the village of Newton, recorded in Domesday, and lying contiguous to Corton, has been entirely swept away, with a portion of the latter parish; whilst the point, or Ness, at Lowestoft, has been gradually extending itself into the sea. It was lately shown, before Mr. Hume and the Tidal Harbours Commissioners, that this point had extended 132 yards eastward since the year 1825.

² Lansdowne MSS.

Lothingland now contains sixteen parishes, of which Lowestoft is the only market town, and four hamlets.

Ashby.	Gorleston.
Belton.	Gunton.
Blundeston.	Heringfleet.
Bradwell.	Hopton.
Burgh Castle.	Lound.
Corton.	Lowestoft.
Flixton.	Oulton.
Fritton.	Somerleyton.

HAMLETS.

Brotherton.	Normanston.
Browston.	Southtown.

Ashby,

or Haskeby, lies near the centre of the island of Lothingland, and contains 1045 acres. It is not recorded by name in Domesday, though its Danish appellation of By implies an early appropriation.

In the fifty-third of Henry III. it was the lordship of Sir John de Askby or Ashby, who granted to Alice Bond common in her lands there, and Jeffery, his son, gave and granted certain lands to hold of himself and his heirs, with right of commonage in all his commons in Ashby. In the twentieth of Edward I. a difference arose between Jeffery, the son, and Sir John de Askby, and Robert, &c., about a fold-course erected in Ashby, without leave, and a concord was made that for half a mark Jeffery should grant to Robert, and his heirs, free-foldage in all his lands in Ashby.

Another indenture of concord is recorded in old deeds relating to the manor, between John de Askby, and William de Askby, for a release, &c., and a grant of common, and acquittance of incroachment, &c., in the common of Ashby. In the reign of Edward II., the manor of Ashby was held by the family of Inglose, of Loddon Inglose, in Norfolk; John de Inglose presenting to the church in 1312. He was succeeded by Sir Robert de Inglose, who, in the eighth of Edward III., granted one piece of land in Askby, with free-foldage, &c. This knight was probably the Robert Englisse or Inglosse mentioned by Weever as buried in Lowestoft church in 1365, though this date of his death must be inaccurate, as Joan, his *widow*, enjoyed his interests here in 1361. Henry Inglose, who next held Ashby, served in the wars of France; and in the third of Henry V., 1414, preferred a libel, in the court of the Earl Marshal of England, against Sir John Tiptoft, who had retained him with sixteen lances, and several archers, and refused to pay him. And so he, the said Henry, declared that he was ready, by the help of God and St. George, to prove against the said Sir John, body to body, as the law and custom of arms required in that behalf. In 1421, being then a knight, he was taken prisoner at the battle of Baugè le Vieil, where the Duke of Clarence was slain; and in the fifth of Henry VI., being proxy for Sir John Fastolf, was installed a Knight of the Garter for him. He bore for arms, barry of six, argent and azure; on a canton of the first, five billets saltire-wise, sable. Sir Henry married Ann, the daughter and heiress of Robert Gyney, of Haverland, in Norfolk, and, in her right, inherited that manor. By his will, dated June 20th, 1451, he devised his manors of Dilham,

Loddon, &c., to Henry, his son and heir.¹ Robert Inglose, his second son, obtained the manor of Ashby, to the church of which he presented in 1458. He left a daughter Catharine, who married Richard Blundevile, or Blomevile, and who appear to have enjoyed the lordship of Ashby; for in the sixth of Henry VIII. there was a fine between Edward Jerningham, Esq., Thomas Wyndham, Knt., Thomas Brewys, Esq., and John Scott, complainants, and Ralph Blomvyle, and Constantia his wife, deforcients, of the manor of Ashby, with the appurtenances, and one messuage, 40 acres of land, 6 of meadow, 6 of pasture, 40 of briery, and 8 shillings rent in Ashby, and also the advowson of the church. Edward Jerningham, who purchased this manor, was succeeded by John Jerningham, who in the seventeenth of Queen Elizabeth's reign devised the fish-house in Ashby, and two ponds, lying on the east part of the house; and the whord, called the old whord, belonging to the manor of Ashby, and all those several waters lying in Ashby, and called Fritton Fen. In the nineteenth of the same reign, he demised to one Godfrey, all that his fowling, liberty and royalty of fowling upon the water of Ashby, and upon the common of the town of Ashby, rendering one hundred couple of teals, and two couple of mallards, yearly. In the following year he demised certain premises in Ashby, excepting hunting, hawking, fishing, fowling, and all other royalties. In the twenty-ninth of Elizabeth, John Wentworth, Gent., purchased the manors of Ashby, Corton, and Newton, with the appurtenances, and 4 messuages, 3 gardens, 50 acres of land, 20 of meadow, 40 of pasture, 10 of wood, 200 of furze and heath, 10 of marsh, 10 of alder, 40 shillings rent, and free-foldage in Ashby, Corton, Newton, Oulton, Lowestoft, and Hopton, and also the advowson of the church of Ashby. In 1619, John Wentworth died seized of this estate, and in 1664, Thomas Garneys, Esq., his grand-nephew, was lord. Sir Thomas Allin purchased it of him in 1672, from whose descendants it passed to the family of Anguish, and by inheritance to Lord Osborne, and from him, by sale, to Samuel Morton Peto, Esq., in 1844.

About the fifteenth of Charles I., a bill was filed in the Exchequer by William Heveningham, Esq., then lord of the two Half Hundreds of Mutford and Lothingland, and other manors, complainant, against Sir John Wentworth, Knt., and others, defendants. It appears from interrogatories administered to the witnesses, who were examined by the Commissioners on the part of the plaintiff, that it was alleged "that the commons and wastes of the towns and hamlets of Somerleyton, Ashby, Blundeston, Flixton, Corton, Newton, and Belton, were parcel of the Half Hundred of Lothingland, and that offences and wrongs on such commons and wastes had been always punished in the courts of the Half Hundred. That there had been always kept several courts

¹ Blomefield.

and leets for the Half Hundred, except Lound, and that the suitors were charged to inquire and present all wrongs within the commons and wastes in the Half Hundred, as well those in Somerleyton, Ashby, Fritton, Corton, Belton, Blundeston, Flixton, and Newton, as in the other towns; and that suitors out of all those towns were sworn upon juries. That the complainant was seized of the Half Hundreds of Mutford and Lothingland, and the manors of Gorleston, Lowestoft, alias Leystoft, and manors and seignories of East Leet, West Leet, North Leet, and South Leet, in the Half Hundred of Lothingland, and the manor of Lound, in the said Half Hundred; and also the manor of Mutford in the Half Hundred of Mutford: that the lords thereof had the suits and services belonging to them of the other manors of Somerleyton, Ashby, Blundeston, Flixton, Corton, Newton, and Belton. That complainant was owner of all the wastes, commons and waste-grounds, waters, becks, and fishings within the wastes and commons in the Half Hundred, and had presentments for wrongful commonages, &c., on the wastes, &c., of Somerleyton, Ashby, Fritton, Corton, Belton, Blundeston, Flixton, and Newton, which were punished in the courts of the Half Hundred. That the complainant, and the former owners of the Half Hundred, except Lound, had been reputed owners of the soil of the commons, &c., and had waifs and estrays in the Half Hundred, as well as in Somerleyton, Ashby, Fritton, Corton, Belton, Blundeston, Flixton, and Newton, as the other towns, and had a right to have a warren upon the said wastes, and liberty of fowling, hawking, and hunting, &c. That some of the jurors mentioned in the court-rolls of the complainant's Half Hundreds and manors had been owners of such manors as the defendants then sued in Somerleyton, Ashby, Fritton, Corton, Belton, Blundeston, Flixton, and Newton, and were chief tenants of the courts of the Half Hundred. That Ashby Common had been lately enclosed by Sir John Wentworth, or his father: that it had been formerly common, and part of the waste of the Half Hundred. That the great water, called Ashby Water, was also common, belonging to the Half Hundred; and that the fish-house was built there by — Jerningham, whilst owner of the Half Hundred, &c. And that Sir John was tenant to the complainant, and held his manors, lands, and tenements in the Half Hundred, and in the towns of Somerleyton, Ashby, Flixton, Corton, Belton, Blundeston, and Newton, of the complainant. That there had been a trial at the assizes for the county of Suffolk, between Robert Jettor, Gent., and Sir John Wentworth, concerning the common pasture of Flixton, whereof Sir John claimed the soil, and that Jettor had attempted to prove that complainant's father, Sir John Heveningham, in right of his Half Hundred, was lord thereof."

Depositions of witnesses were taken at the Falcon at Beccles, 24th of March, fifteenth of Charles I., before Henry North, Richard Catelyn, and Thomas Brooks, Gents.; and at the King's Arms, in St. Olave's, 31st of August, sixteenth of

Charles I., before Sir Philip Parker, Knt., Richard Catelyn, Esq., and Thomas Brooke, Gent.

On the part of the complainant, John Hagon deposed, that offences on the wastes and commons of Somerleyton, Ashby, Blundeston, Flixton, Corton, Newton, and Belton, in the Half Hundred of Lothingland, were punished at Gorleston court.

John Maplestone deposed, that the wastes of Somerleyton, Ashby, Blundeston, Flixton, Corton, and Belton, were parcel of the Half Hundred. That offences committed on the commons of Oulton, Blundeston, and Flixton, were presented in the courts of South Leet. And of North Leet, East Leet, and West Leet, for trespasses committed on the commons and wastes of Somerleyton, Ashby, Corton, Belton, and Leistoffe. That the four leets have been kept for the Half Hundred, except Lound, in Shrove week, and in the first week in Lent, yearly. That the Sheriff's term for the Half Hundred was held twice each year at Lowestoft. The court for the Half Hundred, once a year, called Chieffers Court; and one other yearly, called Court of Ancient Demesne, and that suitors from all the above towns attended and presented offences. That the Half Hundred, except Lound, was holden in fee-farm. That Sir John Wentworth, and the lords of the manor of Blundeston and Fritton, and the master and fellows of Magdalen College, Oxford, owners of Hobland Hall and Caldecot Hall, in Bradwell and Fritton, and all other owners of manors in the Half Hundred, paid suit-fines to the complainant, but knows not if for the manor or lands. That presentments were made in South Leet and Sheriff's terms for the Half Hundred for wrongful fishings in the common water called Leistoffe Water. That complainant's bailiffs had taken up estrays which were seized at Leistoffe. Knew the common of Ashby, but not what quantity was enclosed by John Wentworth, Esq.: that the fish-house was then standing: that Sir John Wentworth was tenant to complainant; and witness, as chieffer, did collect of debt-rent for his manor of Lawney in Flixton; and that at a trial between R. Jettor, plaintiff, and Sir John Wentworth, and others, defendants, about common in Flixton, next Blundeston Water, plaintiff attempted to prove Sir John Heveningham was lord of the Half Hundred and soil: does not know how their question was determined, but that verdict was for R. Jettor.

Thomas Lambe deposed, that Ashby Common had been enclosed thirty-eight years then since, by John Wentworth, Esq., and before that had been used as a common, and reputed as such, and to belong to the Half Hundred, or some manor of the complainant. It is to be collected from the interrogatories administered to the witnesses who were examined by the commissioners, on the part of the defendants, that Sir John Wentworth contended that the soils and wastes of the towns and manors of Somerleyton, Heringfleet, Ashby, Blundeston, Flixton, Corton, Newton, Hopton, Gapton, Belton, Caldecot Hall, and Fritton, in the Half Hundred, belonged to the

lords of the manors within those towns; and that the lords thereof had felled trees, and cut the sweepage on the commons. That the respective lords of the said manors had granted to the tenants, rights of commonage upon the wastes.

On the part of the defendants, Bartholomew Speer deposed, that John Wentworth, Esq., father of the defendant, about forty years before, being lord of the manor of Ashby, having purchased all the tenements in the said town, did enclose forty acres on Ashby warren, and ploughed, sowed, and reaped the same, and ever since quietly enjoyed. That Mr. Wentworth, Sir John Wentworth, and John Jerningham, Esq., the former lords of Ashby, fished and fowled in Ashby water.

Other witnesses deposed, that Sir John Wentworth had a warrener's lodge, a warren of conies, and a whord, or hold, for fish. That Sir John Wentworth was lord of the manors of Somerleyton, Flixton, Corton, and Newton, Gapton and Ashby, and of the soils and commons thereof: that offences committed thereon were presented and punished in the courts of such manors.

George Towne deposed, that forty years before, John Wentworth, Esq., lord of the manors of Somerleyton and Ashby, enclosed lands in Ashby, then used as a common, and that it had thence remained enclosed, and that the greatest part of the same had been twenty-four years then since, ploughed and sowed. That defendant always exercised the sole privilege of fishing and fowling on the water in Ashby, without interruption: that the waste had always been used as a warren, and that a warrener's lodge, and the whord, or hold for fish, and fish-house, belonged to defendant.

Edward Hacon deposed, that forty or fifty acres of the heath, called Ashby Common, were enclosed twenty years before by John Wentworth, Esq., the lord of Somerleyton and Ashby, he having purchased all the tenements in Ashby: that the same was ploughed and sown two or three years, but the fences were afterwards suffered to decay. That John Wentworth, Esq., Sir John Wentworth, and — Jerningham, Esq., of whom Mr. Wentworth purchased the estate, were always esteemed the owners of the warren, the waters, and the whord; and to have the right of fishing and fowling: that he never knew the complainant, or his predecessors, lords of the Half Hundred of Lothingland, and the four leets, or as lord of the manor of Lowestoft, Gorleston, and Lound, ever fished or fowled upon Ashby water.

In the old brief in this cause, on the part of the defendant, before extracted from, are contained references to the court-rolls of the manors of Somerleyton, Corton, Newton, Flixton, and Gapton, as far back as the time of Edward I., in which were presentments of offences committed on the commons of Somerleyton, Blundeston, Hopton, Corton, Newton, Brotherton, and Belton; and also references to sundry deeds and evidences, all tending to prove the right of Sir John Wentworth to the soil of

the commons within his several manors, and to the warren of Ashby; his right of fishing and fowling; and to the water and whord.

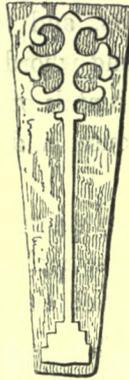
Among other extracts are some old rentals of the manor of Ashby, in which are set down the rents received for the fish-house, and for the farm of the warren, tempore Elizabeth.

The brief further states, that the place where the great water in Ashby now is, was anciently the lord's turbary, in which several of the tenants in Ashby had several turbary, and some common of turbary; and the lord of Ashby the greatest part of the turbary; and that by continually digging, there became great and deep pits, which in process of time were filled with water; and that those tenants who had turbary there before, continued to have piscary when it decayed into water: and so it was conveyed from tenant to tenant, till at length the lords of Ashby, whose estate Sir John Wentworth hath, purchased all the tenements of the manor into their own hands, and so Sir John is now owner of the water as parcel of the demesnes of the manor, and not as lord of the soil of the wastes: and the place where the warren is, was several barony of the tenants; and the soil, in like manner, was purchased in by the lords, as aforesaid; and so also the warren is in the several demesnes of the lord, and distinct from that which is, or ever was, common or waste in the town of Ashby.²

THE CHURCH

at Ashby, which is a rectory dedicated to St. Mary, exhibits greater marks of antiquity than of elegance. It comprises a nave and chancel, lighted chiefly by lancet windows, and a circular tower, surmounted by an octangular capping, which is two-thirds of the entire height of the steeple, and of very inferior antiquity. Bricks are profusely used in the masonry of this tower, and the facings of the narrow pointed loop-holes, which pierce its sides, are wrought entirely with this material. In the interior is a low, square, mutilated font of Norman character, apparently of Purbeck marble, sustained on a single shaft. The east window, of Edward the First's era, is blocked with masonry, and the entire fabric bears marks of apathy and neglect,—the consequence, possibly, of its small population, which, in 1841, numbered only 53 souls. Many very ancient grave-stones lie on the floor, some of which are decorated with crosses of various devices, raised, as usual, on three greses. The annexed wood-cut represents one of rather elegant pattern. The stone is somewhat more than six feet long, flat in the centre, and probably the workmanship of the twelfth century.

² Extracts from old briefs and papers connected with the manor.



A piscina in the early English fashion occupies the usual position ; and opposite, from the north wall, projects a shelf of stone, somewhat in the shape of a bracket, which must have formed the side table, or credence, of popish worship.

Monuments.—Sarah Sherwood, y^e wife of John Sherwood, who lived together 36 years, 8 months, 2 weeks. She departed this life 19th May, 1730, between one and two of clock in y^e morning, on y^e 66 year of her age.

This living was augmented by Queen Anne's bounty in 1780, with £ 200.

The registers commence in 1553 ; and the glebes contain 12 acres and 12 perches of land.

RECTORS OF ASHBY.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Galfridus de Inglose . . .	1312	John de Inglose.
Robert de Aldeby . . .	1327	Robert de Inglose.
John de Baldeswell . . .		
Robert de Mundeford . . .	1333	Id.
Petrus Aleyn . . .	1354	John de Inglose.
Simon de Bauburgh . . .	1361	Joan, relict of Robert de Inglose.
Stephen Halke, de Weston . . .	1390	Hugo Falstoffe.
John Holm . . .	1394	The Bishop, by lapse.
Richard Brentingby . . .	1394	Thomas Edemer, Esq.
William Keyn . . .	1399	Henry de Inglose.
Richard Eleync . . .	1416	Id.
William Coe . . .		
Walter Burford . . .	1429	Henry Inglose, Knt.
Galfridus Halle . . .	1437	Id.
John Wellarsey . . .	1458	Robert Inglose, Esq.
John Coket . . .	1465	Id.
John Raveningham . . .	1467	Id.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
William Beyham . . .	1487	Eleanor, relict of Wm. Jenney.
William Copuldyke . . .		
Radulphus Blomfield . . .	1506	Henry Blomfield, Esq.
William Cokke . . .	1510	The Bishop, by lapse.
John Fale . . .	1523	Mary Jernegan, widow.
Hugo Haughworth . . .	1524	Margery Jernegan, widow.
Arthur Trythe . . .	1534	John Jerningham.
Thomas Pydeoke . . .	1536	Id.
Thomas Wytton . . .	1547	Id.
Aug. Thirkild . . .		
Ed. Bownes . . .	1558	John Jerningham.
William Melling . . .	1576	John Jernegan, of Somerleyton.
John Brinsley . . .	1632	John Wentworth, Knt.
Ed. Barbar . . .	1644	Id.
Ed. Nichill . . .	1661	Lady Anna Wentworth.
Robert Baldwin . . .		
Abraham Shewell . . .	1726	Sir Thomas Allin.
John Belward . . .	1757	Id.
Samuel Burrough . . .	1792	The King, on lunacy of Sir Thos. Allin.
George Anguish . . .	1803	The King, p. h. v.
Edward Missenden Love . . .	1810	The King, by reason of lunacy.
Edward Thurlow . . .	1817	George Anguish, clk.

Estimatur ad ix marc. Portio prioris Norwici in eadem xxvj^s viij^d.

Belton

is also written Bolton in the records of the Bishop of Norwich, though I do not find it so spelt in any other ancient deeds. There is no distinct manor of Belton: in the court books the lordship is styled the manor of Gapton Hall with Belton, though of late it has generally been called Gapton Hall only, and seems to have extended over two other villages, not merely as a manor, but almost as another parish.¹ In a settlement of the year 1668, made by Thomas Garneys, Esq., of sundry estates, late of Sir John Wentworth, the manor is named Gapton in Bradwell, Belton, &c.² Beletun and Gabbetun are returned in Domesday amongst the King's possessions in Lothing-

¹ Jermyn MSS.

² Id.

land, which Roger Bigot took charge of. Gabbetun appears to have been the most important of the two places, and comprised two small manors, held by Ulf and Achestan, who possessed large flocks of sheep. Sprottulf had also an estate here. Beletun is called a beruite only: it was depreciated in value, though still rated at 10 shillings, and it fed a flock of 160 sheep.³ Balderic de Bosco held this domain in the reign of Henry II., whose heirs exchanged it with Robert de Gladeson for lands in Normandy.

“Antiq: Rex Henr: dedit Balderic de Boseo manium de Mutford cum Gapeton et Beleton in aūntacone baron̄ sue de Baldemund propter £xl. terre quas sibi p̄misit p: servicio suo scilicet, Mutford p: £xxx. et Gapeton et Belton p. £x. Heredes vero p̄d̄ei Baldrici dederunt Gapeton et Beleton in excambiam p: una villa in Normann: que vocat: Gyl, quas villas Robertus de Gladefen et Rad: Gernum tenent, set nescit' p: qd: servicium.”⁴

Certain lands, and apparently the manor of Gapton in Belton, &c., were granted by Osbert de Gladeson to the priory of Leigh, in Essex, during the reign of Henry III., which priory was founded in the year 1230 by the above-mentioned Ralph Gernun. It was returned as the lordship of the priory in the ninth of Edward I.,⁵ and continued parcel of its possessions till the reign of Henry VIII., when it was granted to R. Cavendish, Esq., and was conveyed, in the reign of Elizabeth, with other estates, to John Wentworth, Esq. On the 14th of April, in the thirty-third of Elizabeth, by indenture tripartite between Thomas Cavendish, of Trimley St. Martin's, in the county of Suffolk, Esq., of the one part, and Humphrey Seckford, of Ipswich, in the said county, Esq., and John Wentworth, of Somerleyton, in the said county of Suffolk, Gent., of the other part, Thomas Cavendish, for £2000, conveyed to Humphrey Seckford, and John Wentworth, the lordships and manors of Wenham combusta, alias Burnt Wenham; West Burfield, alias West Bergholt; Derneford, alias Dirneforde Hall, in Sweffling; Gapton, alias Gapton Hall, in Bradwell, in the said county of Suffolk; which sometime did belong and appertain to the late priory of St. John the Evangelist of Leighes, in the county of Essex, suppressed and dissolved; and all and singular messuages, lands, tenements, mills and knights'-fees, advowsons, gifts, and patronage of churches, rectories, vicarages, chantries, and chapels, tithes, oblations, pensions, portions, court-leets, view of frank-pledge, franchises, &c., thereunto belonging; and all letters-patent, deeds, evidences, court-rolls, &c., to hold to Humphrey Seckford and John Wentworth, their heirs and assigns for ever.

Sir John Wentworth, son and heir of the above-said John Wentworth, Esq., died in

³ Domesday Book. Terra Regis.

⁴ Testa de Nevill.

⁵ Mag. Brit.

possession of the manor of Gapton Hall with Belton, in 1652, and his widow, Lady Ann Wentworth, held it at her death in 1664. It was then inherited by Thomas Garneys, Esq., and was purchased in 1672 by Sir Thomas Allin. From him it descended to the family of Anguish, and fell, by heirship, to Lord Osborne, who sold it with his other estates in the Hundred to Samuel Morton Peto, Esq.

THE HAMLET OF BROWSTON

belongs to the parish of Belton, and was called Brocestuna in Domesday Book. It was held as a manor by Ulketel, a free-man: he had 40 acres of land here, with half a plough, wood for 10 pigs, 1 draught horse, 2 geese, and 7 pigs, 30 sheep, and 3 goats, valued at 5 shillings. Under him a free-man held 30 acres of land, valued at 2 shillings. In the same hamlet, Broder, a free-man, who probably gave his name to the hamlet of Brotherton in the neighbouring parish of Hopton, held 60 acres for a manor, with two bordars, one plough in demesne, and half an one among the tenants; 1 draught horse, 2 geese, 7 pigs, and 40 sheep: the whole valued at 5 shillings. In the same place, Godwin continued under the Normans to hold 30 acres of land, and half a plough, valued at 3 shillings; and two free-men here possessed 80 acres of land, and one bordar, with one plough and a half, always valued at 6 shillings. From the quantity of land which is thus recorded as lying in this now small hamlet, it is not improbable that the domain in Hopton, known as Brotherton, was then included in the survey of Browston. The ownership of Broder leads to this conclusion. The entire property was in the hands of the Crown, under the stewardship of Roger Bigot.

Browston Hall, which is sometimes called Browston White House, was the seat of the family of Le Grys, some of whom are buried in the parish church of Belton. The front rooms were built by Mr. Le Grys, but the wrought ceilings of the hall and principal apartments were executed under the direction of the grandfather of the Rev. Edward Missenden Love, who then resided here. It is a good old-fashioned mansion, standing low and sheltered, but commanding no view of the adjacent water called Browston Broad, nor of the expansive bosom of Fritton Lake. It is now the property of Mrs. Sophia Harper. This lady is also the owner of an ancient house, not two hundred yards from the hall, which retains considerable marks of age. On its front is a stone thus inscribed: W. R. S. 1689. It was, therefore, probably built by one of the family of Symonds, who were possessors of Browston Hall before it passed to that of Le Grys.

The gross amount of acres in the parish of Belton is 2055, 3 roods, 19 perches; of which 76 acres, 3 roods, 16 perches, consist of roads, drains, and water. The glebe

lands amount to 19 acres, 2 roods, 19 perches, including the church-yard and home-stall. The commutation in lieu of tithes was £440, and the population in 1841 consisted of 465 souls.

THE CHURCH.

There does not appear to have been a church at Belton when Domesday was compiled: that record is silent, at least, concerning it. The 'Testa de Nevill,' however, which contains inquests taken as early as the reign of Henry III., informs us that the church at Belton then belonged to the canons of St. Bartholomew at Smithfield.

"*Ecclesiā de pua Gernem et de Gorleston et de Lowystoft et de Beleton sunt de dono Dñi Reg: et Magr: Alan de Stokes tenet illas p: canonicos de Seō Bartholomew de Smethefeld, quibus Dñs Rex H: avus illas dedit, ut dict.*"⁶

The church must therefore have been built as early as the reign of Henry I., who died in A.D. 1135; because the preceding record tells us he gave it to the monastery at Smithfield. The master Alan de Stokes,—a pluralist of no ordinary stamp, holding four preferments,—seems to have leased the temporalities of Belton for the annual payment of a pound of incense.

"*Rad: de Beleton tenet eccliam de Beleton reddendo inde p: ann: Magrō de Stok unam libram inceusi.*"⁷

If the assertion of the Testa de Nevill, that the canons of St. Bartholomew were patrons of this benefice, be correct, they could not very long have retained it, for we find the patronage in the hands of the bishop of the diocese as early as the reign of Edward III.

The present edifice bears no marks of very early architecture, and may be referred to the middle of the fourteenth century. It comprises a nave and chancel only; a circular tower at the west end having been long ruined. It is a fine, well-proportioned building, constructed of cut flints, and in good condition. The interior is lofty and light, and produces a pleasing effect, which even the flat ceiling of the chancel, and the want of an east window, cannot altogether destroy. A neat screen across the fine chancel arch, and an octangular font of hard stone, sculptured with pointed arches, and raised on a shaft of two divisions, complete the ancient decorations of this sacred edifice, if we except a small piscina having a cusped arch, open to sedilia, unfinished with canopies. The little painting inserted in the north wall of the chancel within the

⁶ Testa de Nevill, 285.

⁷ Id. 300.

communion-rails, is, as we are informed by a note on the fly-leaf of the last register book, a painting on glass, and was placed there by the Rev. John Schomberg, the last rector. The inscription in front of the organ, which states that it was erected by the same incumbent, and presented after his death to the parish by his surviving brothers, is decidedly an error, as it was bought, and placed in the church, by subscription, to which Mrs. Fowler, and the late Mr. Anguish, were liberal contributors. It was removed to its position at the west end of the nave by the present incumbent, who built the gallery in which it stands. The church possesses but one bell, which hangs over the porch.

The oldest register book commences January 9th, 1560. The series is complete and unbroken from the above date, and in excellent preservation. From the entries we learn that the plague raged here in the spring of 1665. This disease must have spread itself from Yarmouth, where, in the previous year, two thousand five hundred persons fell victims to its fury, amongst whom, it is recorded, were both the ministers of Yarmouth church.

Monuments.—There are several inscriptions to the family of Ives, who bore for arms, arg. a chev. between 3 blackamoors' heads erased sab. John Ives, of Gt. Yarmouth, merchant, died Oct. 1, 1758, æt. 74. John Ives, Esq., died March 19th, 1793, aged 74. Mary, his second wife, died March 19, 1790, aged 72.

There is also a memorial to John Ives, Esq., Fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies, and Suffolk Herald Extraordinary. He was son of John Ives, Esq., who died in 1793, and was extensively known as the author of a work on the Roman Antiquities in the adjoining village of Burgh, entitled 'Remarks upon the Garianonum of the Romans: the site and remains fixed and described.' He also published three numbers of 'Select Papers relating to English Antiquities.'

Mr. Ives possessed a quick and lively fancy, but seems to have been deficient in sound antiquarian learning. He died in 1776, at the early age of 25 years. I give his monument at full length, as a fellow labourer in antiquarian pursuits.

M S
 Viri lectissimi
 Johannis Ives, Armigeri,
 Regiæ et Antiquariæ London: SS.
 Nec non provinciæ Suffoleiæ
 Fecialis,
 Inter primos eruditi, bonarum artium
 Fautoris.
 Qui in priseorum temporum monumentis
 Illustrandis, multum, nec infeliciter,
 Insudaverat.

Nono mensis Jan: A. D. MDCCLXXVI.

Ætat: xxv.

Maximo cum desiderio omnium,

Mœrentium præcipue parentum,

Johannis et Mariæ Ives,

Immaturè, eheu!

Abreptus.

Rev. Robert Cayley, late Rector, died Oct. 29, 1784, æt. 69. Mary, his wife, died Jan. 26, 1785, æt. 55. Ann, their daughter, died Oct. 20th, 1787, æt. 14. William, their son, died June 16, 1762, æt. 10 months. Frank Plumtree Howes, died March 23, 1840, æt. 4 months. David Urquhart, late of Hobland Hall, obt. 27 June, 1774, æt. 57.

Arms: Urquhart; quarterly 1st and 4th: or, 3 boars' heads crased, within a bordure gules: 2nd and 3rd, party per fess indented, ermine and azure.

Mrs. Margaret Le Grys, of Browston Hall, in this parish, died 19 June, 1788, æt. 59. Arms: Le Grys; quarterly or and az. on a bend arg. 3 boars pass. sable. The arms of Le Grys are so borne on the above monument, but the usual coat of this ancient family is quarterly azure and gules, with the same bend, surtout.

Ann Taylor, sister of Wm. Taylor, of Gt. Yarmouth, Esq., obt. 25 Dec., 1790, æt. 44.

William Mallett, brewer, of Gt. Yarmouth, died Aug. 10, 1777, æt. 63 years. William Langham Mallett, his son, died May 26, 1779, æt. 28 years. Joshua Mallett, his son, died Sept. 25, 1781, æt. 28. Marian Mallett, wife of Joshua Mallett, died Aug. 29, 1783, æt. 24 years. Mary, wife of William Mallett, sen., died Feb. 28, 1785, aged 72 years. Mary and Harriet, daughters of Joshua and Marian Mallett, died—the former Feb. 22, 1797, aged 18; the latter, May 18, 1804, aged 22 years. Francis Morse, Esq., and Margaret, his wife, are buried under a large stone, on which are their arms. Morse; party per pale, a chev. between 3 mullets pierced.

Margaret Carter, died 21 March, 1759, æt. 67. Mary Mallett Cowlam, daughter of Simon and Mary Smith, died Aug. 20, 1807, æt. 27 years. Gabriel Carter, of Gt. Yarmouth, died 15 Oct. 1810. Nathaniel Symonds, Esq., of Gt. Yarmouth, died May 3, 1754, æt. 66. Elizabeth, his wife, died Jan. 23, 1764, æt. 76. Arms: Symonds; sab. a dolphin embowed arg. gorging a small fish of the second.

Mary, wife of John Peele, and daughter of James Symonds, of Belton, died Feb. 15th, 1757, æt. 74. John Peele, Esq., late collector of His Majesty's customs in Yarmouth, died in 1747, æt. 67.

RECTORS OF BELTON.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Richard de Pulham	1344	The Bishop.
Stephen Nally, of Cressingham . .	1349	Id.
William Malebys	1376	Id.
Henry Sturdy	1393	Id.
Nicholaſ Derman	1422	Id.
Nicholas Stanton	1456	Id.
Thomas, Epūs Dromorensis . .	1461	Id.
John Manyngham	1478	Id.
Peter Willington	1518	Id.
John Watlinge		Id.
George Beaumont	1560	Id.
Jerningham Jenney	1610	Id.
William Wardell	1624	Id.
Samuel Fleete	1660	Id.
Thomas Clarges	1694	The King.
John Ellis	1714	
John Pitcairne	1728	The Bishop.
Robert Cayley	1753	Id.
Thomas Hay	1784	Id.
Thomas Hay, second time . . .	1790	Id.
John Bathurst Schomberg . . .	1830	Id.
Thomas George Francis Howes . .	1837	Id.

Estimatio illius xxvi marc.

Charities.—The church lands comprise about seven acres, of which the parish clerk has one acre and a half, rent free. The proceeds of the remainder are applied to the ordinary expenses of the church. On the enclosure, in 1810, of certain waste lands, nine acres were awarded to the poor; the rent of which is laid out in the purchase of coals, which are distributed in winter.

Blundeston.

THERE are two manors here—those of Blundeston Hall, and Gonville's. The former was held by a family which took their name from the place, and retained it, with the patronage of the church, till the end of the reign of Edward III. In the ninth of

Edward I., Robert de Blundeston was lord;¹ and in the twenty-third of Edward III., in the year 1348, there was a conveyance from Osbertus, Rector of the church of Blundeston, and Oliverus de Wysete, to William, the son of Robert de Blundeston, and the heirs of his body, of the manor of Blundeston, with all the lands and appurtenances in Blundeston, Oulton, and Flixton; together with the advowson of the church of the village of Blundeston, with the appurtenances; all which were formerly of Robert de Blundeston; to hold to the said William and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten. From this family the manor and advowson passed to that of Yarmouth; Henry Yarmouth, of Blundeston, presenting to the church in 1438. Humphrey Yarmouth, his descendant, on the 1st of December, 1570, conveyed to William Sydnor the manor of Blundeston, cum pertinentibus, and all other his manors, tenements, liberties, swanmarks, and hereditaments in Blundeston, Corton, Lound, Somerleyton, Flixton, Lowestoft, and Gunton, or elsewhere, and all other his manors and hereditaments, in the said towns, in fee. The manor, &c., and the messuages, were found to be holden of Sir John Heveningham, of his manor of South Leet, in soeage.² The said William Sydnor, by deed indented 6th of October, twenty-sixth of Elizabeth, 1584, in consideration of a jointure to Elizabeth, late wife of Henry Sydnor, his son, and heir apparent, did enfeof John Read, and others, and their heirs, of a house called Gillam's, and 90 acres of land in Blundeston and Flixton; a meadow of 12 acres in Flixton; a marsh called Wrentham's, and 41 acres of land in Blundeston; two other messuages and 9 acres of land in Blundeston; a house called Chamber's, and 104 acres of land in Henstead. And of the manor called Blundeston; and the manor of Fritton with the appurtenances, to their uses; viz., as to the manor of Blundeston with the appurtenances, to the use of the said William for life; and after to the use of the said Henry, and his heirs male by the said Elizabeth, his wife; and after to the right heirs of the said William. The marriage between the aforesaid Henry Sydnor and Elizabeth was solemnized on the 1st of February, twenty-seventh of Elizabeth. He died during his father's lifetime, in December, 1611. William Sydnor, the father, died on the 26th of August, 1612. By his will, dated the 26th of March, in the same year, being "then of Christ's Church, but late of Blundeston," he gave to the poor of Blundeston, Henstead, Fritton, Belton, Conisford at the Gate (Norwich), Berstete St. John's, 20 shillings to each parish, and to Trowse on this side the Bridge 10 shillings. He desired "his body to be buried in the chauncell of the parishe church of Blundeston." He gave unto Dorothy Sydnor, his daughter, £200 of lawful English money, some furniture, and £10 in gold, to be paid within fourteen days; a cup of silver with three feet, and a cover. To Alice Goldsmith, his daughter, all her mother's apparell, and

¹ Mag. Brit.

² Court Rolls.

£10 in gold, &c. Among other bequests, he leaves to William Sydnor, his grandchild, some furniture, and a great carved chest which lately came from Blundeston, and his next best salt-cellar. After leaving annuities to his servants, he directed "that his house in Christ's Church in all things be mayntayned and kept as usually he did for the entertainment of his children; and such of his children and servants as would stay and live orderly, and do their service honestly, during the time of their stay; for which they were to have their wages. The charges of such housekeeping to be defrayed by his executors; and he desired that Dorothy Sydnor, his daughter, during the said month should have the government of the said house."³

By an inquisition, held the 30th of August, in the twelfth of James I., when the death of William Sydnor was returned, it was found that William, the son of Henry, his eldest son, then deceased, was his next heir, and of the age of 24 years and more. And that the said William, eldest, was seized in fee of the manor of Blunston, alias Blundeston, with the appurtenances in Blundeston, Corton, Gunton, Lowestoft, Oulton, Ashby, Flixton, Bradwell, Burgh, Fritton, Belton, Herringfleet, Lound, Somerleyton, Hopton, and Gorleston.

On the 13th of February, eleventh of James I., William Sydnor, the grandson, in consideration of a marriage with Anne Harborne, did covenant with William Harborne, her father, to convey to him, Sir Anthony Drury, and others, and their heirs, the manor of Fritton, with the appurtenances, in Suffolk, and all lands, tenements, &c., of the said William, in Fritton, or in the towns adjoining, to the use of himself and his heirs until the marriage, and after the marriage to the use of himself and the said Anne, for jointure, and the heirs male of his body, with several remainders over to Robert, Thomas, and Henry, his brothers, Edmund, William, Francis, and Paul Sydnor, his uncles, and the heirs male of every of their several bodies. And after to the use of the right heirs of the said William Sydnor, the grandfather. And the manor of Blundeston, with the rights, members, and appurtenances, in Suffolk, and all lands, tenements, and other hereditaments, &c., of the said William Sydnor, the grandson, in Blundeston, or in the towns adjoining, or any of them, to and for the like uses, and estates, and remainders as before; omitting only the said Anne, and her estates, for life. In the following year a fine was levied in pursuance, by the said William Sydnor, his uncle, and the heirs of Sir Anthony, of the manors of Fritton and Blundeston, with the appurtenances. By the Office of the ninth of Charles I., after the death of William Sydnor, the grandson, it was found that he died, seized, on the 13th of June, eighth of Charles I., 1632, without issue male. By the same Office, Elizabeth, Anne, Sarah, Mary, Hester, Susanna, Abigail, and Lydia, were found to be the

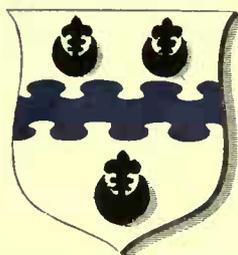
³ Jermyn MSS.

daughters and co-heiresses of the said William Sydnor, and that Elizabeth, the eldest, was, at her father's death, under eleven years of age, and all the rest under fourteen years of age.⁴ On the 3rd of July, in the tenth of Charles I., the King, by indre under the seal of the Court of Wards, granted to Anthony Bury, for a fine of 200 marks, the custody, wardship, and marriages of the said co-heiresses, to his own use. On the 2nd of July, tenth of Charles, the King, by another indre, under the seal of the said Court, granted and leased to him, in consideration of £10, the manor of Henstead Pierpoint's, and two acres in Blundeston, during the minority of the said co-heiresses, at the yearly rent of £2. 6s. 8d. On the 20th of November, in the same year, this Anthony Bury, by indre, assigned all his interests to Dr. Talbot, who married the said Anne, mother of the said co-heiresses, to his own use, for £330 paid, besides £100 for Bury, to the receiver of the Court of Wards, for leave of the King's fine. In Michaelmas Term, 1640, there was a decree in the Court of Wards, against Sir John Wentworth, who, in his answer to the information of the attorney of the wards on behalf of the said co-heiresses, denied they had the manor of Blundeston, but confessed they had the manor of Gonville's, in Blundeston, and that their father purchased that of one Jettor. But the Court decreed that the said co-heiresses had the manor of Blundeston, and also the manor of Gonville's. And such possession as the father of the said wards had in Blundeston great water, and fishing, is by the decree settled with the wards during their minority, and until livery sued. And Sir John desired not to fish in right of a tenement in Blundeston, which was his father's. As to the wards' suit as touching an hoorde, some lands in Fritton, and other matters, they are left to trial at law.

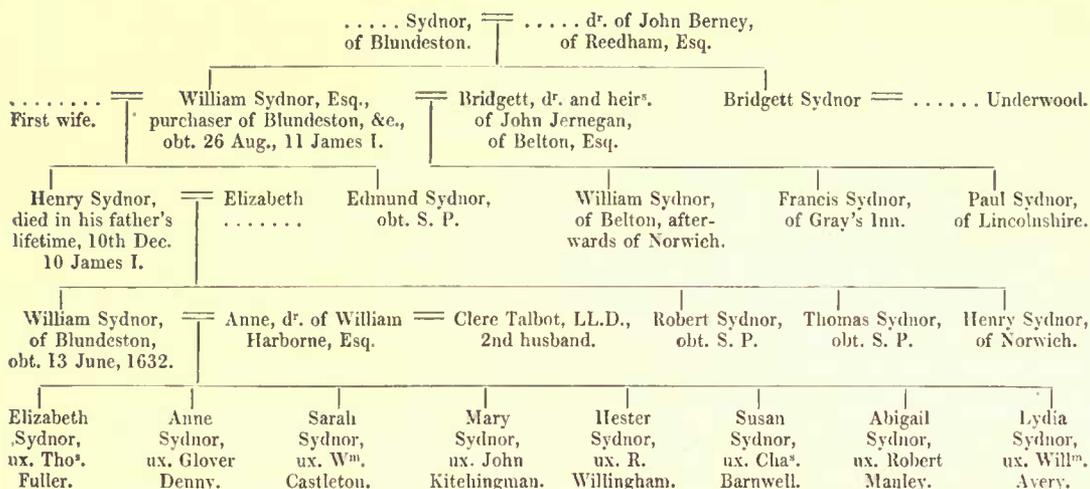
Elizabeth, Anne, Sarah, Mary, Hester, Susanna, Abigail, and Lydia Sydnor, the eight daughters and co-heiresses of William Sydnor, of Blundeston, by fine levied, and recovery suffered, and by deed dated the 19th of December, 1651, conveyed the said manors in Blundeston and Fritton to hold to William Heveningham, Esq., his heirs and assigns, for ever.

The family of Sydnor, from whom Blundeston thus passed, appears to have originated from — Sydnor, who married a daughter of Sir John Berney, of Reedham, in Norfolk. The following pedigree is derived from an abstract of the title of the estates, sold by the eight daughters and co-heiresses of William Sydnor, made in 1651; except the marriages of the eight daughters, which are added from the abstract continued to 1663, at which time Sarah was married to William Castleton. The other daughters had been all married before that date.

⁴ Sic script.



Sydnor.



William Sydnor, the purchaser of Blundeston, as appears from bequests in his will, left three daughters, namely, Dorothy Sydnor, Alice Sydnor, who married Henry Goldsmith, and left issue Charles Goldsmith; and Elizabeth Sydnor, who married W. Doans, and left a son, William. Henry Sydnor, who died in his father's lifetime, left also three daughters, Elizabeth, Catharine, and Alice.

William Heveningham, Esq., who purchased the manors of Blundeston and Fritton of the Sydners, was in the year 1661 convicted and attainted of high treason, as has been already shown under Nutford, &c. By letters patent, dated 28th September, thirteenth Charles II., the King did give unto Brian, Viscount Cullen, Sir Thomas Fanshaw, Sir Ralph Banks, Knights, Edward Pitt, and Charles Cornwallis, Esqrs., among other manors and lands, the said manors of Blundeston and Fritton; to hold to them, the said Brian, Viscount Cullen, &c., and their heirs, for ever. The said Brian, Viscount Cullen, &c., by their deed-poll, dated 3rd October, thirteenth Charles II., made between them, the said Brian, Viscount Cullen, &c., George, Earl of Bristol, Henry, Earl of Dover, and Margaret Heveningham, wife of the said William Heveningham, which was also signed by His Majesty's sign manual, did declare the use of the aforesaid

letters patent to be to the intent that the said Brian, Viscount Cullen, &c., should, either by perception of the profits or sale of the aforesaid manors of Blundeston and Fritton, amongst others, raise £11,000 for the said Earl of Bristol, and several other trusts therein comprised: the remainder to be for the use of the said Mary, wife of the said William. The said William Heveningham, and Mary his wife, in Michaelmas Term, thirteenth Charles II., levied a fine, and suffered a recovery of the said manors of Blundeston and Fritton, inter alia. And by indenture, dated 24th of October, thirteenth of Charles II., the said William and Mary declared that the said fine and recovery should be to the use of the said Brian, Viscount Cullen, Sir Thomas Fanshaw, Sir Ralph Banks, Edward Pitt, and Charles Cornwallis, and their heirs, for ever.

In the 10th and 11th of December, 1662, fourteenth of Charles II., appear a lease and release from the Earl of Bristol, Brian, Viscount Cullen, Sir Thomas Fanshaw, Sir Ralph Banks, Edward Pitt, and Charles Cornwallis, unto Sir John Tasburgh, of the manor of Blundeston, and the capital house called Blundeston Hall, and the manor of Fritton, alias Freton Paston's, and all that manor called Blundeston, alias Gunville's, alias Seroope Hall, alias Gunville's Blundeston, with all the rights, members, and appurtenances to the said manors belonging; and the advowson of the churches, rectories, and vicarages of Blundeston and Fritton aforesaid; and courts-leet and view of frank-pledge, &c., to hold to him and his heirs, for ever. Consideration, £4000 in hand, and £4000 to be paid as therein named. On the 27th of December, 1662, the said William Heveningham and Mary his wife did grant, release, and confirm all and every the said manors of Blundeston, Fritton, and Blundeston Gunville's, to the said John Tasburgh, and his heirs, for ever.

These estates next passed to the Allins; for, on the 20th July, 1668, are letters of attorney from Thomas Allin, of Lowestoft, Knt., to Richard London, &c., to receive livery of seizin of John Tasburgh, of Bodney, in Norfolk, Esq., of all his manors, messuages, lands and fruits, and hereditaments situated in Blundeston, Fritton, Corton, or any other town adjoining. Sir Thomas Allin held his first court baron for these manors on the 3rd of November, 1668.⁵

On the 9th of July, 1712, the trustees of Richard Allin, under a deed authorizing them to sell lands to satisfy his debts, sold a messuage and about 76 acres of land at Blundeston and Fritton, of the yearly rent of £39. 10s., to Gregory Clarke, for £663; and on the 30th of August following, two other pieces of land, containing 13 acres, of the yearly rent of £5. 10s., to the same Gregory Clarke, for £100. These estates were afterwards purchased by Sir Ashurst Allin, Bart., who resided there;

⁵ Court Books.

and were by him devised to his daughter, Frances Allin, for life. On the 29th of September, 1714, Blundeston Hall-farm, lands and decoy, of the yearly rent of £ 217. 2s. 6d., were sold to William Luson, merchant, the consideration money being £ 3691. 2s. 6d., who devised them to Robert Luson, his son, who, by his will of the 1st of May, 1767, bequeathed them to his eldest daughter, Maria, in fee, who married George Nicholls, Esq., by whom this estate was sold to Robert Woods, who, by his will, dated July 4th, 1780, devised the same to his wife to sell, and in 1791, she conveyed it to Thomas Woods in fee. Other estates in Blundeston were by Robert Luson devised to his second daughter, Hephzibah, who married Nathaniel Rix, Esq. An estate at Blundeston, and Corton, and Lound, he devised to Elizabeth, his daughter, who afterwards married Cammant Money, by whom the second property was sold to J. B. Roe, and the first to J. Manship.⁶ The Decoy farm, at Blundeston, was, by the executors of Robert Luson, under the powers in the will contained, sold to William Berners, Esq., of Woolverstone Hall, whose son, Charles, resold it to Thomas Morse, Esq.⁷ The manor of Fritton, and an estate of the annual value of £ 173, were sold to Samuel Fuller, Esq., for £ 2660.⁸

The manors of Blundeston Hall and Gunville's united, as will be presently shown, remained with the Allins, and passed with their other estates to the family of Anguish. From the Anguishes they descended to Lord Sydney Osborne, who sold them, in 1844, to Samuel Morton Peto, Esq.

THE MANOR OF GONVILLE'S, IN BLUNDESTON,

was the lordship of John, the son of Nicholas de Gunville or Gonville, in the fourteenth of Edward III., in the month of March in which year is a "note of time" of this manor between the aforesaid John, who is styled the son of Nicholas Gonvyll, chyvaler, and Johan, his wife, complainants, and William de Gonvyll, parson of the church of Thelmethan, John Gonvyll, parson of the church of Lylyng, Osbert, parson of the church of Blundeston, and Thomas de Kalkhyll, deforcients, of 24 messuages, 332 acres of land, 16 acres of meadow, &c., in Gorleston, Louystoft, Barneby, Little Yarmouth, and Hopton, to John, son of Nicholas and Johan, and the heirs of their bodies; and remainder, after the decease of John and Johan, to the right heirs of John, the son of Nicholas.⁹ The manor remained with this ancient line till it passed, in the early part of the fifteenth century, to Sir Robert Herling, Knt., who married Joan or Jane, the heiress of the Gonvilles, as the subjoined pedigree will show.

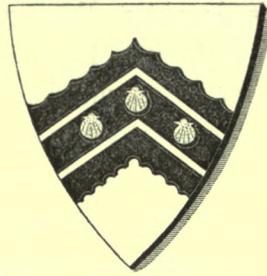
⁶ Jermyn MSS.

⁷ Id.

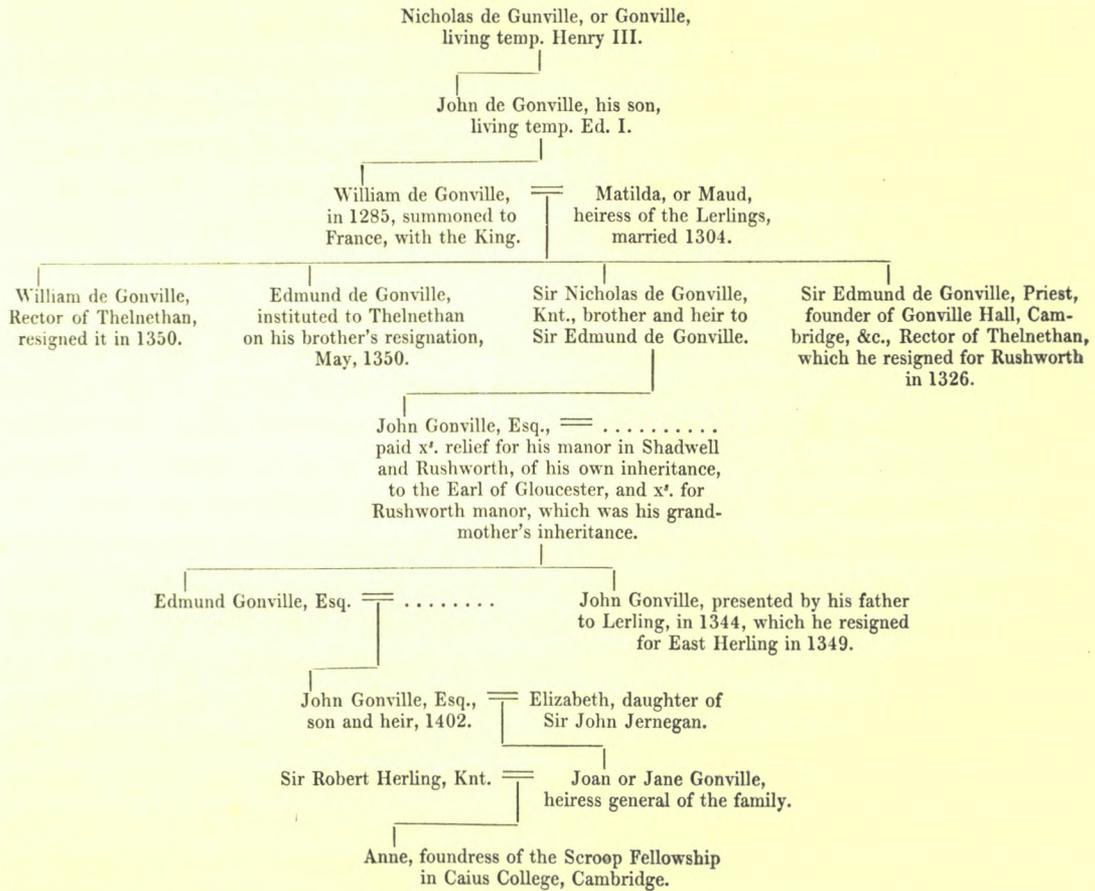
⁸ Id.

⁹ Id.

ANTIQUITIES OF THE



Gonville.



Sir Robert Herling, and Joan his wife, held the manor of Gonville's in 1420, as we learn from an inquisitio ad quod damnum, taken in that year. "Robtus Harlyng, miles, et Johanna, uxor ejus, tempore ultimi pascigii dñi Henr. Regis nunc ad partes Norman: seiziti fuerunt de mño vocat Gunvilles manor: cum p̄tin: in villis de Blundeston, Olton, et Flyxton, in d̄mico suo ut de feodo."¹⁰ Sir Robert Herling left a

¹⁰ Inq. 9 Hen. V. n. 10.

daughter and heiress, Anne, who was thrice married; first, to Sir William Chamberlain, Knight of the Garter; secondly, to Sir Robert Wingfield, Knt., who in 1474 settled, amongst divers manors and estates in Norfolk and Cambridgeshire, the manors of Gnateshall, Corton, Newton, Lound, and Blundeston, with Lound advowson, in Suffolk, on themselves and their trustees. He died seized of these in 1480. In 1492, Anne, his widow, married, thirdly, John, Lord Scroop, of Bolton, who died in 1494.¹¹ On her death, without issue, the manor of Gonville's went to Margaret, her father's sister, the wife of Sir Robert Tuddenham, Knt.¹² On the 4th of April, sixth of James I., Robert Jettor conveyed to William Sydnor the site, manor, or member of a manor, called Blundeston, Gunvilles Blundeston, or Gunvilles cum pertin: and a close called Gunvilles, reputed the site of the said manor, containing six acres; another close called the Home-close, in Blundeston, and four several fish-ponds, with several waters and fishings in Blundeston and Flixton, and with covenant to levy a fine thereof to the use of the said William Sydnor, and his heirs. William Sydnor's eight daughters and co-heiresses conveyed it to William Heveningham. Both manors in this parish being thus united, were granted, with the advowson, to Lady Heveningham's trustees in 1661, as already shown.

Early in the seventeenth century, Sir Butts Bacon, created a Baronet on the 29th of July, 1627, possessed an estate and resided at Blundeston. He married Dorothy, daughter of Sir Henry Warner, of Parham, in Suffolk, Knt., and widow of William, second son of Sir Henry Jermyn, Knt., by whom he had three sons, Charles and Clement, who died without issue, and Sir Henry Bacon, his successor. He had also two daughters, Anne, the wife of Henry Kitchingman, of Blundeston Hall, and Dorothy, who married William Peck, of Cove. Sir Butts died in 1661, and his widow in 1679. They lie buried in Blundeston church. Soon after the year 1700, the estate of the Bacons was sold to the Allins of Somerleyton; and in 1770 became the property of Frances, the daughter of the Rev. Ashurst Allin, of whose executors it was purchased by Nicholas Henry Bacon, Esq., the second surviving son of the late Sir Edmund Bacon, Bart., of Raveningham, in Norfolk, who sold it in 1832 to Charles Steward, Esq., an officer in the Honourable East India Company's service, who is the present possessor. He married his first-cousin, Harriet, the only daughter, by his first wife, of Ambrose Harbord Steward, Esq., of Stoke Park, near Ipswich, High Sheriff for Suffolk in 1822, by whom he has an only son, Charles John.

The mansion erected on this estate has been termed at different periods Sydnors, and Blundeston Villa, but is now designated Blundeston House. The spot is more celebrated for the loveliness of its scenery than the grandeur of the residence, which

¹¹ Blomefield.

¹² Id.

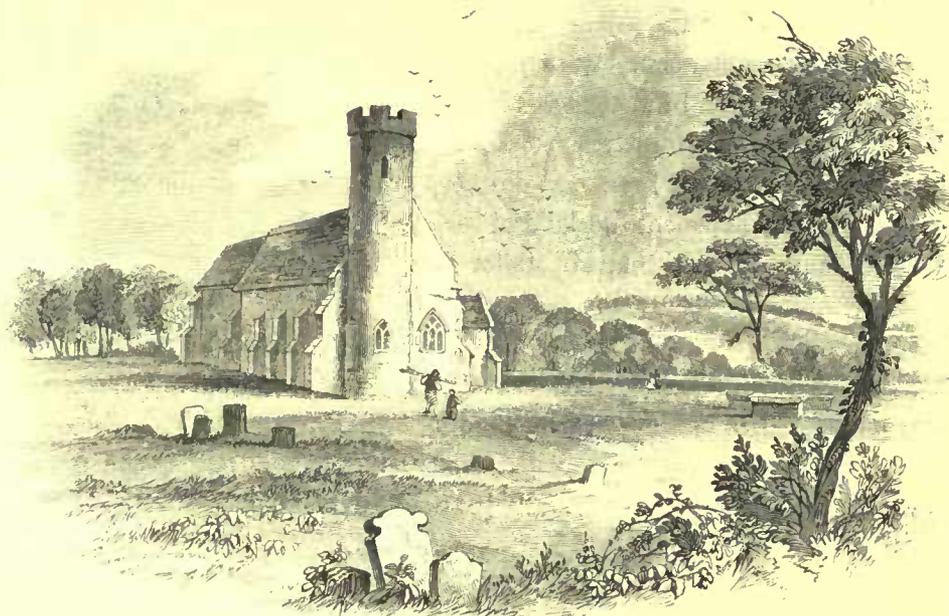
is simply a good substantial house, erected in a style of unpretending architecture. But its verdant lawns and ample sparkling lake bear testimony of a long subjection to the hand of taste, which evidently still controls. The domain was many years the residence of the late Rev. Norton Nicholls. Mr. Mathias, an author well known by his 'Observations on the Character and Writings of Gray,' in a letter to a friend, occasioned by the death of this "rare and gifted man," terms his villa here "an oasis." Speaking of what Mr. Nicholls had perfected at Blundeston, he says, "if barbarous taste should not improve it, or some more barbarous land-surveyor level with the soil its beauties and its glories, (it) will remain as one of the most finished scenes of cultivated sylvan delight which this island can offer to our view." An aged pollard oak, and a summer-house placed at the termination of the lake, are said to have been favourite haunts of Gray, who was an occasional guest of Mr. Nicholls at Blundeston. In 1799, this gentleman entertained here the gallant Admiral Duncan, soon after his return to Yarmouth, crowned with the laurels won at Camperdown. Mr. Nicholls died on the 22nd of November, 1809, aged 68, and was buried at Richmond church, in Surrey. The vicinity of Blundeston House, while tenanted by Dr. Saunders, was some years since the scene of an unfortunate accident, which deprived that gentleman of life. Being in the act of reloading his double-barrelled gun, a favourite dog fawning upon him, sprung the trigger of the second barrel, and discharged the contents into his master's body. Dr. Saunders's melancholy fate is recorded in the 'Suffolk Chronicle' of October the 15th, 1814.

The lake, or Blundeston Great Water, as it is called in ancient writings, was the subject of a dispute in the reign of James I., very similar to that recorded at Ashby, as we learn from the following "exemplification of interrogatories to be administered on the part and behalf of John Ufflet, Gent., Henry Winston, Henry Doughtie, and Anne his wife, Thomas Stares, and Anthony Thornwood, complainants, against William Sydnor, Esq., and Henry Sydnor, Gent., deforcients; and of depositions taken at Lowestoft, on the 15th of March, in the seventh of James I., before Anthony Shardelow, William Southwell, William Cuddon, and Benedict Campe, Gents., by virtue of His Majesty's commission out of the Court of Chancery, to them directed. Richard Burman deposed, inter alia, that he knew the great water in Blundeston, called the common feune, or common water, and the piece of ground called Hemp-water green, containing about three acres; that the said water contained about sixteen or seventeen acres. That the messuage wherein Henry Sydnor then dwelt was sometimes of Maister Yarmouth. That the water and green had always been reputed as common. That the inhabitants fished in the water; wetted their hemp therein, and dried it on the green, and fed their cattle thereon. William Pynne deposed, inter alia, that he did not know that the said William Sydnor or Humphrey

Yarmouth had any manor in the said towne; nor that there were more manors therein than the manor of Mr. Jettor, called Gunvilles. Robert Jettor deposed that the water is called the common water of Blundeston in a court-roll of the manor of Blundeston Gonville, dated the thirty-first of Henry VIII., and that he did not know that Mr. Yarmouth, or the defendants, had any manor in Blundeston, or that there was any other manor therein than his, called Blundeston Gonvilles. John Wood deposed, inter alia, that the said William Sydnor had obtained the leases from divers owners of sundry messuages or dwelling-houses in Blundeston, of their interests of their fishing in the said great water about twenty years sithence, and that he had before that sued some of the inhabitants of the said towne for having fished therein. That he and another, then churchwardens of Blundeston, did sell the alders growing in or near the said water, and did convert the money to the reparations of the town-house, and that other inhabitants did take poles, splints, and other wood growing there, &c. That he had heard that Mr. Yarmouth did keep courts in Blundeston, and had tenants therein, and that this deponent did hold of Mr. Sydnor, who had Mr. Yarmouth's estate, three acres of land, &c., and that Mr. Jettor had a manor in Blundeston, &c. Interrogatories to be administered to the witnesses to be produced on the part and behalf of William Sydnor, Esq., and Henry Sydnor, Gent., complainants, against Henry Winston, &c., deforcients. Inter alia. Do you know that Humphrey Yarmouth, Esq., deceased, was seized of the manor of Blundeston in Blundeston, and of land covered with water, containing forty acres, and which, on his death, descended to Henry Yarmouth, his son, also dead; who sold the same to William Sydnor; and that they severally held courts-baron, &c. And whether Humphrey Yarmouth, and Henry Yarmouth, his son, and William Sydnor afterwards, did not present to the living on the death or resignation of the incumbents. If the house wherein Henry Sydnor then dwelt was not called Blundeston Hall in court-rolls and writings. Whether, in the twenty-eighth of Elizabeth, in a controversy between the said William Sydnor, lord of Blundeston, and owner of the water, with the inhabitants as to the same being common or not, the dispute was not referred to Sir Edward Coke, then Attorney-General, and afterwards Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and to Richard Godfrey, Esq. Whether in the thirty-first of Elizabeth there was not a similar dispute, and that it was amicably settled by the said Henry Winston and certain others of the inhabitants agreeing to release their rights of fishing in the water, and that they should have in lieu thereof, a certain driftway thereto from the highway, near the mansion of the said William Sydnor, and a certain piece of land at the end of the said water, containing three acres, for their use, and the feed thereof; and to wet hemp in the water, and dry the same on the said three acres of land, and might dig the soil and carry it away therefrom, and also from Mill Hill, in Belton Heath, and the timber, &c., growing

on the said way for repairing the town-house ; and whether the said agreement was not carried into execution ; and if complainants did not for twelve years quietly enjoy the water, &c., after the execution of the releases. And whether, before the agreement, the inhabitants had a right to take the land, gravel, &c. ; and if complainant did not clear the water, and make a bank, &c., for the fowl to breed, &c.”

THE CHURCH AT BLUNDESTON,



which is a rectory dedicated to St. Mary, and now consolidated with the adjoining benefice of Flixton, is valued in the King's books at £13. 6s. 8d. It is a singular edifice, comprising a nave and chancel, with a remarkably high-pitched roof, covered with thatch. The tower, which is circular and small in diameter, rises but little above the ridge of the nave, and looks more like a chimney than a steeple. It exhibits decided marks of Norman erection, and was probably attached to an earlier edifice than the present church, which, apparently incorporating the north wall of the ancient nave, seems raised on a wider ground-plan, thereby bringing the apex of the western gable to the southward of the tower, and producing a very inharmonious effect. The masonry of both nave and chancel is composed of large squared flints, but the walls of the latter bulge outwards in a threatening angle, and foretell a speedy dissolution. The interior is lofty and effective, and very neatly kept ; and a carved oaken screen beneath the chancel arch is well deserving of observation. The lower compartments of



Miss Dowson, del.

Ed. Bedford, Litho.

SCREEN AT BLUNDESTON.

this screen were in olden days richly painted and gilt, as the accidental discovery of one portion, by the removal of some boards, fortunately evinces. This splendid example of ancient art forms an illustration to the present work, and has been engraved from the faithful pencil of the late Miss Dowson, of Yarmouth. St. Peter pointing to the keys of Heaven and Hell, and an angel with uplifted hands assuring us of our salvation through the passion of Christ, occupy the two compartments of a pointed arch, richly backed by a crimson ground, diapered with gold. There is a stiffness in the attitude of each figure, and a harshness of outline visible here, as in the works of more celebrated artists, even at a later period; but these paintings are, nevertheless, extremely interesting, as illustrating the success of art in England in the fifteenth century. There is a small piscina in the chancel, and some oaken benches in the body of the church of excellent workmanship, and an ancient benetura near the south door. In the tower hang two bells, one of which was brought from the ruined church of the adjoining village of Flixton. The body of the church, which presents a far less fearful aspect than the chancel, has lately undergone considerable renovation, and is indebted to the zeal of Mr. Steward for the preservation of many of its ancient features.

Reginald Wynstone, by his last will, dated the 14th of April, 1438, leaves his body to be buried within the church of Blundeston, and constitutes William Wynstone and John Wynstone, his sons, his executors. In the Lansdowne MSS.¹³ is a note, taken apparently about the year 1573, of several armorial cognizances which then ornamented the windows of this building. "In the chancel windows. Arg. a lion sable. Fitz-Osbert and Jerningham. Quarterly, arg. and b. quarterly indented, a bend gules. Arg. a cross engrailed gules. Bloundeville, or and b. quarterly, indented, a bend gules, sided with Gurney. Gules, 3 gemelles or, a canton ermine, billeted sable. Sable a cross sarsele or, betwixt four scallops arg. Sable, a chevron arg. between 3 cinquefoils or."—"In the church, gul. a lion argent. Arg. 3 buckles lozengy gules, Jernegan. Gu. and b. pale, on a fess wavy arg., 3 crescents sab. betwixt three crosses pale or. Blundeville and Inglos. Erm. on a chevron sab., 3 crescents or, syded with Nownton. Sir Ed. Jenney, erm. a bend gul. cotised or, quartering sab. a chev. twyxt 3 buckles argent. Or and g. barre unde. Castell, gu., 3 castells arg. Sab. a chev. gules, droppe or, twixt 3 cinquefoils pserd ermine. Or and b. checke. Paston, Bolaine, Nawton, and Barney, Nawton and Howard. Or 3 chev. gu., on each 3 ermines arg. sided with Nawton. Sampson syded with Felbrig. Felbrig, on his shoulder a mullet arg. Bedingfeld quartering Tuddenham, and one of Knevett single."

Monuments.—There is an old floor-stone with a cross, but no other ancient memorials, in this church. Among the more modern are the following:

¹³ No. 258, p. 215.

Robertus Snelling, Rector, obt. Sep. 12, 1690, æt. 65. Hic jacet Butts Bacon, Baronettus, Nicholai Bacon, Angliæ Baronetti primi filius septimus, qui obiit Maij 29, 1661. Dorothea Bacon, his widow, obt. Sep. 4, 1679. *Arms.* Bacon.

Elizabeth, daughter of John Burkin, of Burlingham, died Jan. 26, 1735. She was first married to the Rev. Mr. Gregory Clarke, and after his decease to the Rev. Mr. Thomas Carter.

Samuel Luson, died July 7, 1766, aged 33. Luson bears, quarterly, 1st and 4th, az. and gul., 3 sinister hands arg., 2nd and 3rd, erm., 3 roses. . . Sarah Keziah Thurtell, died May 29th, 1833, aged 18 years. William Wales, died June 8, 1710, aged 63. Gregory Clarke, Christi minister, died 3 Ides of Jan. 1726, aged 45. William Sydnor, Esq., died 1613. Robert Brown, died Sep. 6, 1813, aged 52 years. Mary, his daughter, Aug. 18, 1812, aged 22 years. Sarah, wife of John Clark, widow of the above Robert Brown, died Nov. 16, 1818, aged 59. Elizabeth, second wife of James Thurtell, of Flixton, died June 15, 1823, aged 75 years. Elizabeth, wife of John Clark, died Jan. 28, 1801, aged 28 years. John Clark, died Oct. 7, 1826, aged 57 years. Stephen Saunders, M. D., born 17th Oct. 1777, died 1st Oct. 1814. Timothy Steward, of Great Yarmouth, died 25th of June, 1836. Mary, his wife, daughter of John Fowler, and Ann, his wife, died 22 Jan. 1837. *Arms.* Steward, quarterly, 1st and 4th. Or, a fess chequee arg. and az.; 2nd and 3rd, arg., a lion ramp. gules, debruised with a bendlet raguly or, impales Fowler, az. on a fess between 3 lions pass. guard, or, as many crosses patonce sable.

The registers of Blundeston commence in 1558. They contain several notices of monies collected by Brief in aid of sufferers by fire in distant parts of England. Among others, "To a loss by fire at y^e head of y^e Cannon-gate at Edinburgh, in North Britain, Jan. 13, 1708, 1s. 6d." The advowson of Blundeston with Flixton was sold in 1844, by Lord Sydney Osborne, to Thomas Morse, Esq., of Blundeston.

RECTORS OF BLUNDESTON.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Adam Bacun	1312	Custos Sequestr.
Osbert de Kateringham	1318	Robert de Blundeston.
Thomas de Blundeston	1349	Richard de Blundeston.
Thomas de Fereby	1361	Robert, his son and heir.
Galfridus de Horningtoft	1362	Osbert de Blundeston.
Nicholas Stoke	1385	Thos. Freton de Luthingland.
John Bromley	1398	Oliv. Robert de Ingham.
William Evenwode	1400	Thomas de Erpingham.
John Cok	1428	Robert Palgrave.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas Saxham . . .	1438	Henry Yarmouth de Blundeston.
John Cok . . .	1438	Id.
Hugo Acton . . .	1454	Margaret Palgrave de Gunton.
Roger Berton . . .	1454	Henry Yarmouth.
Richard Appulby . . .	1460	Id.
John Cokket . . .	1465	Robert Unglouse.
William Suthworth . . .		
Edward Suthworth . . .	1483	Eleanor, widow of Will. Jenney.
Milo Kerriche . . .	1487	Ead.
Thomas Alyn . . .	1511	Robert Blomevyle, Esq.
Cuthbert Sherbrooke . . .	1527	Edward Blomevyle, Esq.
John Dawes . . .	1530	Humphrey Jernemuth.
William Page . . .	1540	Thomasine Lake de Colchester.
Robert Gray . . .		
Edward Ward . . .	1553	Humphrey Yarmouth.
Richard Fletcher . . .		
Anthony Whight . . .	1560	John Stanton, exec ^r . of Hum. Yarmouth, of Blundeston.
Robert Belye . . .	1587	William Sydnor, Esq.
John Underwood . . .	1600	Id.
James Robinson . . .	1624	Id.
Clement Kitchingman . . .	1643	Thomas Fuller, Gent., jure Eliz: ux: fil: et hæ: Gul. Sydnor.
John Lee . . .	1663	Richard Marriott, Gent.
Robert Snelling . . .	1668	The King, by lapse.
Francis Langley . . .	1690	Sir Thomas Allin, Bart.
Christopher Eachard . . .	1692	Id.
Gregory Clarke . . .	1706	Robert Baldwin, Gent.
Robert Baldwin . . .	1726	Sir Thomas Allin.
John Bacon . . .	1729	Id.
Ashurst Allin . . .	1732	Id.
John Love . . .	1770	Mary Love, widow.
Edward Missenden Love . . .	1817	George Anguish, clk.

Estimatio illius xx marc.

Bradwell.

BRADWELL is not mentioned in Domesday Book, as it was included in the returns made for Gabbetun; and there is no manor of Bradwell to the present day. In the Act of Parliament for enclosing the parishes of Bradwell, Belton, and Fritton, the only

lordships mentioned as claiming an interest in the soil are Mr. Anguish's manor of Gapton Hall with Belton; the manor of Caldecott Hall, belonging to Magdalen College, Oxford; and Mr. Turner's manor of Fritton. As parcel, therefore, of the lordship of Gapton, this parish was royal demesne in the time of William the Conqueror, and placed under the stewardship of Roger Bigot. The advowson of the church was long in medieties, and in the reign of Edward I. was presented to by a family which assumed its surname from the village. In 1361, it was returned that "Johes, fil: Johis Norwici, tenuit, die quo obiit, in dnico suo, ut de feodo, Maner de Wathe, ac mediet: advoc: ecclie de Bradwell de r: in cap: p: servic: reddend: ad castr. R. Norwici iij^s. pro firma de alba firma."¹

In the following year, John Gernegan, cousin and heir of John Noyoun, deceased, was stated to hold in capite the same manor and a mediety of the advowson of Bradwell, by the same rent, and service to the castle at Norwich.² John Jernegan, of Worlingham Parva, by his last will, proved in December, 1474, bequeaths it, inter alia, to his son. "Morovyr I wille that John, my sone, after my deeces, have all my maners of Somerleyton, Horham, &c., with the vowson of the churches of Somerleyton, Horham, Stonham Jernegan, and Bradwell, with the foundacon of the hows of St. Olavys, to him and his issue male: remainder to the elder sone of the said John: remainder to Osburne, my sone, and his issue." In the twenty-fourth of Elizabeth, there was a fine between Edmund Bedingfeld, Esq., plaintiff, and John Jernegan, Esq., and Katharine his wife, deforcients, inter alia, of the advowson of the churches of Somerleyton and Bradwell.³

In the seventeenth of James I., John Wentworth, Esq., died seized, inter alia, of the manors of Somerleyton and Gapton Hall, in Bradwell.⁴

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the site, or manor-house, was devised to John Greenwood, but the manor of Gapton was retained.

On the 28th of July, 1670, William Vesey, of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, devised the fee-simple of his farm and lands, called Bradwell Hall, to Mary his wife, her heirs and assigns, to the intent and purpose that she should be able to sell such part of the said premises as she should think fit, and should be sufficient for payment of his debts, and the purchase of an annuity of £ 60 to his mother.

In 1684, the manor or seigniorie of Broadwell, or Bradwell Hall, &c., was conveyed by Thomas Buck, Mary his wife, and others, to Johnson Burdett, eldest son of Theophilus Burdett, of Hallaton, in the county of Leicester, clerk, and of Rachael his wife, the niece and nearest relative of the said Mary Buck. They charged the estate with an annuity of 40 shillings per annum, for ever, to the following uses and purposes,

¹ Harl. MSS. 708.

² Harl. MSS.

³ Jermyn MSS.

⁴ Inq. p. mortem.

viz.: 20 shillings, part thereof, to the rector of Whitechapel, for the time being, upon every Lady-day, for ever, for a sermon to be preached by him, the said rector, upon that day, to excite the people to charity: and the other 20 shillings, part thereof, yearly, on Michaelmas-day, for ever, to the schoolmaster of the school of Whitechapel, founded and built by Ralph Davenant, and the said Mary Buck, their friends and relations, for his encouragement in the better discharge of his office. About 1717, it passed by sale to John Collins, who held it in trust for the use of John Ellison, Gent. It was then described as "all that the manor or seigniory, reputed manor or seigniory, and site of the manor of Broadwell, alias Bradwell, commonly called by the name of Broadwell Hall, with the right, &c., with all the messuages, lands, tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures, waters, heaths, doles, sheep-walks, liberty of fold-course, rents, services, profits, perquisites of courts, advowsons, profits, commodities, and all the profits, &c., situated, lying, and being in Bradwell aforesaid, and in Belton, and Burgh Castle, or Hopton, or in any of those towns, or in any other towns or places thereto near or adjoining." This estate afterwards passed to the family of Turner. Although in the sale in 1717, Bradwell Hall is termed "the manor or seigniory," it is not, as already stated, a manor itself, but only the site of one.

THE MANOR OF CANTON HALL,

in Bradwell, was formerly parcel of the possessions of the Prior and Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, and was granted at the dissolution of religious houses, with the manor of Gapton Hall, to the family of Cavendish, and descended, as has been shown, in Belton, with the latter lordship.

THE MANOR OF HOBLAND HALL.

There are no courts now belonging to this decayed manor, nor other manorial rights, if any ever existed. Its name has been written, at various periods, Hopland, and Hunelounde;⁵ though in the year 1286 it was called, as in the present day, Hobland; for in the pleadings at Westminster, in the reign of Edward I., the name of Thomas de Hobland occurs as an owner or occupier here. "Compl: est p. jur: qđ tenta in Bradwell, Belton et Hopton non sunt ptibilia intr: fr̄s: Ideo Tho: de Hobland sine die p: 3 ptibus: 1 mess: 80 acr: ter: 30 acr: past: et 5 acr: turb: cum molend: ad vent: et 40^s. an: red: ibm̄ et 3 frat: sui nua." ⁶

Hobland has been the property of the President and Fellows of Magdalen College, Oxford, for some centuries, and has been long leased out by them to divers lessees.

⁵ North Leet Rental, 1604.

⁶ Plita ap. Westm. de Banco, 15 Ed. I.

In 1684, Richard Vesey, Esq., paid for Hobland Hall £1. 5s. 5d.⁷ In 1724, it was held by Augustus Schutz, Esq. In 1749, by Gerrard Trotter, Esq. In 1768, David Urquhart, Esq., was lessee; and in 1793, Thomas Fowler, Esq., had it. In the lease granted in 1801, by the President and Scholars of the college, to Thomas Fowler, Esq., the parcels demised are described as "all that site of the manor of Hobland Hall, in the county of Suffolk, with all lands, clausures, &c., thereto belonging, in Gorleston, Bradwell, South Town, Hopton and Belton, and formerly in the tenure of John Pitcairne, Clerk, and Gerrard Trotter, &c."

The advowson of Bradwell was sold, in 1844, by Lord Sidney Osborne, to John Walker, of New Malton, in Yorkshire, merchant.

Tanner mentions two deeds connected with Bradwell, "pro prior de Lees, de terris in Bradwell et Belton ex dono Osberti patris Radulphi, et de aliis terris ex dono Radulphi, filii Osberti:"⁸ and "pro mess: et terris in Bradwell pro eod."⁹

A school-house has been erected in this parish within the last few years, at an expense of about £100, towards which sum the Rev. G. Anguish, Edward Leathes, Esq., and the Rev. William Trivett, were the principal contributors. The latter gentleman, who is the present incumbent, also erected the parsonage-house, which is a pleasant residence, conveniently situated near the church. It contains a good library, a very choice collection of paintings by the old masters, and a valuable selection of engravings.

There are 2300 acres, 3 roods, and 34 perches of land in this parish; of which 6 acres, and 38 perches, are glebe. The tithes have been commuted for £632. 10s. inclusive of the tithes of the glebe. According to the Valor Ecclesiasticus, the clear yearly value of Bradwell, in the twenty-sixth of Henry VIII., was £28. The population, in 1841, amounted to 770 souls.

THE CHURCH,

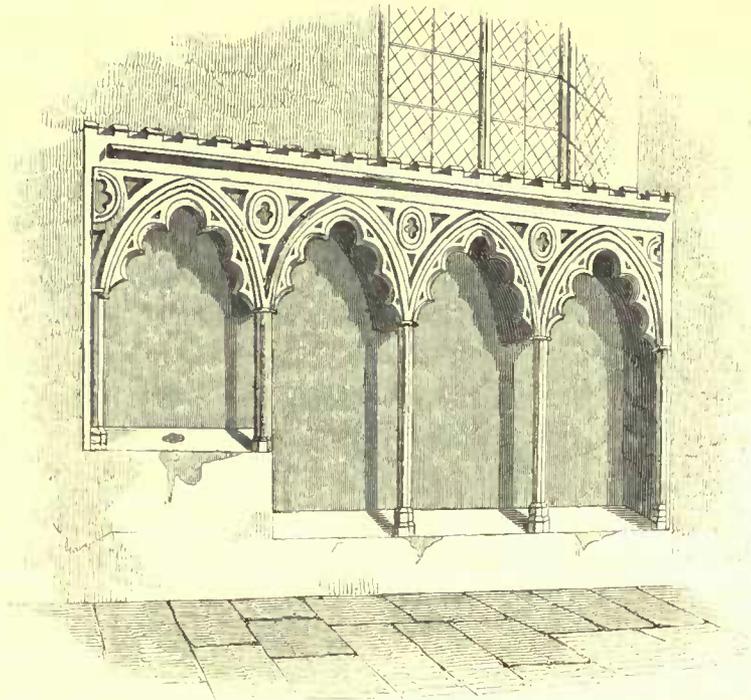
which is a rectory dedicated to St. Nicholas, comprises a circular tower of flints (in which hang three bells), a nave with two aisles, and a chancel. The interior is lofty, and very finely proportioned; and the restoration of the chancel windows in a correct style, and of a durable material, reflects much credit on the zeal and liberality of the present incumbent, at whose expense it has been effected. The nave is separated from its aisles by pointed arcades resting on clustered columns. This part of the edifice is covered with a roof which overspreads the nave and aisles in one slope; though a series of clerestory windows, each of which is a cinquefoil aperture, proves another form to have been originally adopted, before parsimony and unskillfulness intermeddled

⁷ North Leet Rental.

⁸ 31 Hen. III. n. 5.

⁹ 14 Ed. I. n. 69.

with ecclesiastical architecture. The steps to the rood-loft remain perfect in an opening of the wall near the fine chancel arch, which is of elegant proportions. At the west end of the nave stands an octangular font, and in the south wall of the chancel are a highly finished piscina and sedilia.



The parish registers commence in 1565.

Nicholas Lacy, parson of the church of Bradwell, by his last will and testament, dated on the Wednesday next after the festival of Vedast and Amand, the bishops, in the year 1383, leaves his body to be buried in the chancel of the church of Bradwell aforesaid. He also bequeaths to Beatrice Fastolf ten marks, and appoints Alexander Fastolf, of Bradwell, and Thomas Wryght, his executors. His will was proved in February, 1383.¹⁰

Monuments.—Against the north wall of the chancel is an inarched monument, erected to the memory of William Vesey, Esq. It is strictly in the barbarous taste which prevailed at the commencement of the seventeenth century, and represents the person commemorated, with his two wives, and their family, in devotional attitudes, before a faldstool. The figures are small, and coloured, and apparently composed of plaster. In a lower compartment are seen four kneeling effigies, and a fifth, representing a child lying on his side. Village tradition relates that this group

¹⁰ Regist. Harsyke. apud Norwic.

pourtrays the discovery by his four sisters of an infant brother, who had strayed from his home, and was lost in Bradwell wood: but as the child is grasping a human skull, the device is, perhaps, emblematical solely of an early death from natural causes. The monument was erected in an age which delighted in emblems and forced conceits. The inscription is much defaced by time, but may be read as follows:

“Monumentum Gulielmi Vesey de hac villâ armigeri, et duarum uxorum, et septem liberorum sub hoc muro sepulti: anno domini 1644, ætatis suæ 63.”

Above the niche in which the figures are placed is an escutcheon charged with the Vesey arms: ermine, on a cross sable, 5 martlets or. The family of Vesey was formerly of standing and consideration in this vicinity.

In 1674, William Vesey, Clerk, gave £200 to the poor of the parish of Great Yarmouth, and directed the same to be paid out of his estate at Bradwell, within one year after his wife's decease.¹¹

John Dawson Downes, Esq., died 20th May, 1829, aged 71. Mary, his wife, 14th May, 1829, aged 70 years. Thomas Salmon, late of Hobland Hall, died 25th of Feb. 1829, aged 52 years. Ann, his wife, died 31st Oct. 1830, aged 56. Captain Richard Killett, of Gorleston, died Aug. 6th, 1761, aged 56 years. Elizabeth, his daughter, died 21st June, 1762, aged 22 years. His son, Captain Richard Killett, died at the Havannah, August 23rd, 1762, aged 32 years. Mary, his wife, died 11th Aug. 1777, aged 71. Alexander Love Gordon, Esq., R. N., died 28th May, 1828. James Aldrich, Rector, buried Nov. 1657. The Rev. Samuel Killett, LL. B., Rector, died Oct. 6th, 1767, aged 59. Susanna, his wife, died Dec. 13th, 1766, aged 54. Elizabeth, their daughter, died Aug. 27th, 1741, aged 5 years. Charlotte, their daughter, died Feb. 10th, 1745, an infant.

RECTORS OF BRADWELL.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas de Bradwell	1304	Richard de Bradwell.
Richard de Hedersete	1315	Lady Katharine Fitz-Osborn, in right of her manor of Somerleyton.
Nicholas Lacy	1348	John de Ufford, Mil: recûper p. Bre: R: versus Petr: fil: Ric: de Bradwell.
Simon Attehull de West Bergholt	1384	Joanna Loudham, late wife of John Jernegan.
John Wayte	1386	Nicholas de Wichingham.
Adam Cohelot de Saham	1400	John Gernegan.

¹¹ Yarmouth Benefactions.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Eden Alderford	1401	Nicholas Wichingham.
Galfridus Symonds	1404	Id.
Thomas Boof	1410	Gilbert Debenham, Esq.
Thomas Frenge	1429	Nicholas Wichingham.
Symon Brygate	1442	John Jerningham, Esq.
Hugo Leveriche	1449	Edm. Wychingham, Esq.
Henry Fenne	1458	John Jernegan, sen., Esq.
Radulphus Danyell	1468	Edm. Wychingham, Esq.
William Jaeson	1509	
Leon Askew		
Robert Ullathornes	1553	John Jernegan, Knt.
Thomas Dysse	1554	Id.
Robert Morley	1557	Id.
James Aspinall		
Joshua Hutton	1597	John Wentworth, Esq.
Henry Reeve	1612	Id.
James Aldridge	1638	Id.
— Sudbury		
Robert Woolley	1679	Jeremiah Woolley, p. h. v.
Samuel Stevenson	1683	John Spencer.
Robert Camell	1717	Peter Scott, merchant, p. h. v.
Samuel Killett	1733	Samuel Killett, sen., p. h. v.
Norton Nicholls	1767	William Turner, Esq.
William Trivett	1810	The King, by reason of lunacy.

Estimatio ejusdem xlii marc.

Robert Camell, LL.D., rector of this parish, and of Lound, was of Scottish descent. His great grandfather, Robert Camell, being about 14 years of age, came out of Scotland in the time of the war between that nation and England, and settled at Gislingham, in Suffolk, in 1583. He died April 12th, 1587, leaving Robert, his eldest son, who died anno 1667. William Camell, of Diss, was his third son, who left Robert, his eldest son, who left three sons. The eldest was of Sidney College, in Cambridge, LL.D., Rector of Bradwell and Lound. He died on Wednesday, November 21st, 1732, at Norwich, where he had been elected Lecturer of St. Peter's Mancroft, December 22nd, 1731; and was buried there. He published several ingenious tracts, without his name, and three sermons preached at Yarmouth, with it affixed thereto.¹² Blomefield, the historian of Norfolk, acknowledged himself greatly assisted by Dr. Camell, in his topographical essay. His arms were, gyronny of eight, or and sable, a crescent argent.

¹² Blomefield.

Burgh,

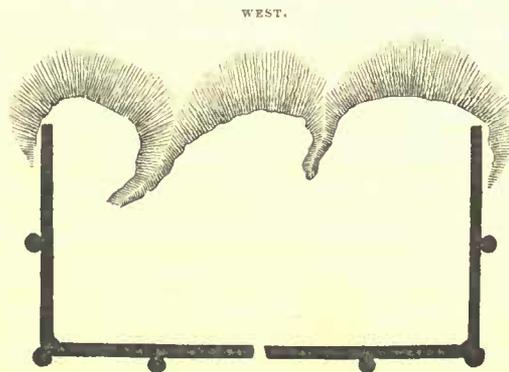
commonly called Burgh Castle, and widely known as the reputed site of Garianonum, occupies the bold promontory which terminates the north-western extremity of the island of Lothingland. It is a locality of more than common interest, arising from associations which connect us with the earliest periods of authenticated history. Here, at the very base of the promontory, in the days of our aboriginal ancestors, the turbulent Gar rolled its eddying tides, covering the present wide tract of marshes, and wrestling with the strength of the ocean. Struck with the extended view commanded by such a position, the conquering Roman here fixed his fortress, whose

“Towers yet
Unmodernized by tasteless art, remain
Still unsubdued by time.”

Stern monuments they are of ancient art and massive masonry. Old—full a thousand years ago; yet still defying time: but bearing no positive testimony of their origin, and no certain evidence of identity;—a striking instance of the vanity of conquest, and the nothingness of man’s proudest works.

By whomsoever erected, or by whatever appellation this encampment was originally known, and which it will be our province presently to consider, it was placed with that consummate judgment which marks the military skill of our Roman subjugators, occupying a strong point at the very confluence of two important rivers, and commanding their united channels. Its form is a parallelogram, 640 feet long, by about 325 feet wide; the shorter faces fronting the north and south. Its walls are still about fourteen feet high, and nine in thickness. On the east side, which is the most perfect, are four circular and solid towers, fourteen feet and a half in diameter; two of which are placed at the angles where the walls are rounded; and two at equal distances in the length of the curtain. The north and south walls were also defended, each by a similar tower; that attached to the latter being now prostrate, but still entire. The whole mass is built in the most careful and durable manner, the foundations having been laid on planks of oak which rested transversely on a solid bed of concrete. These were covered with coarse mortar, composed of lime and unsifted sand, mixed with gravel, on which was roughly spread the first course of stones. The walls are formed of rubble, faced with alternate courses of flints and bricks. The latter measure eighteen inches in length, by one and a half in thickness, and are about

a foot in breadth; being of a fine red tint and firm texture. There seems to have been no wall on the western side, which overlooked the river, whose high and precipitous bank rendered such a defence unnecessary. The area of the encampment measures about four acres and three-quarters within the walls. On the top of each tower is a hole about two feet wide and as many deep, supposed to have been formed for the reception of watch-turrets, probably of timber. From the circumstance that the towers are unattached to the walls, except in their upper courses, it has been thought that they are of subsequent construction; but the similarity of the respective masonry, and the defenceless state of the walls without these bastions, argue against such a conjecture. Probably the architect, who guarded against any subsidence in his foundations by the precaution related, feared that the weight of such ponderous masses, if attached, might draw the walls of the curtain from the perpendicular; an effect which, after all, has partially occurred by the settling of the north tower, which has thereby breached the wall to the extent of several feet. An opening or gateway has been left in the centre of the east wall, which Mr. King considers to have been the *Porta Decumana*, but which Mr. Ives calls the *Porta Prætoria*. The former writer calculates that the enclosed area was capable of containing one whole cohort and a half, with their allies. More extensive remains of Anglo-Roman masonry undoubtedly exist in Britain, but I question if any can be found so perfect as these at Burgh, or more deserving of examination.



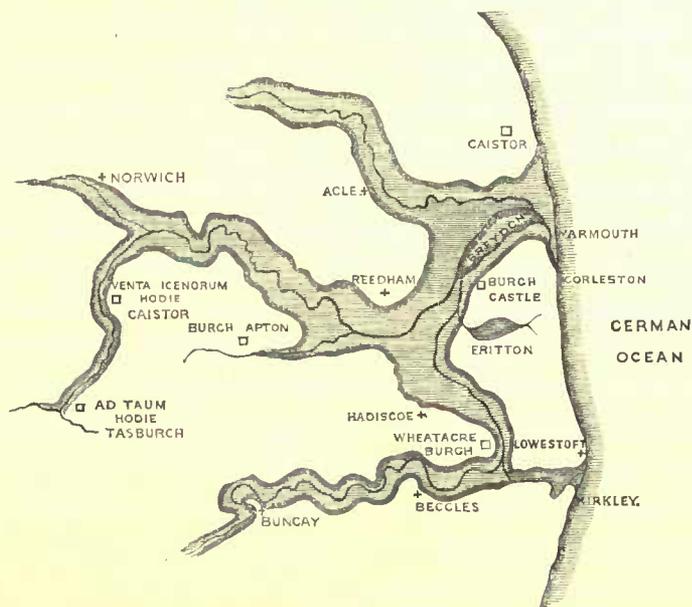
Plan of the Roman Encampment at Burgh.

Such are the construction and site of the Roman station at Burgh. The next inquiries are, what was its ancient appellation? when was it built? and for what purposes was such a durable fortress erected? Spelman and Camden, the venerated fathers of English topography, have taken opposite views of these points. The former denies it the honour of having been the *Garianonum*, or station of the *Stablesian Horse*,—considering, and with reason, that the narrow limit of an island, whose greatest extent does not exceed ten miles, is too confined an area for the operations

of an active body of cavalry. He, therefore, fixes Garianonum on the opposite shore of the estuary, at Caistor, in Norfolk; overlooking the fact that this very spot anciently laboured under the same disadvantage, which he had objected to Burgh, namely, of being situated on an island; the sea then spreading over the low tract of marshes by Horsea Gap, and reducing the Hundreds of Flegg to a more limited island than Lothingland. Camden avows himself, as "thoroughly convinced that the Garianonum was at Burgh Castle, in Suffolk, and that Yarmouth rose out of its ruins." Ives, with a warmth of fancy which has produced on this subject an amusing book, rather than a sound dissertation, considers the matter as "above conjecture," and not only fixes Garianonum at Burgh, but leaps at once to the conclusion, that because Ostorius Scapula defeated the Iceni, about the middle of the first century, "to him we owe the founding of Garianonum." The most rational method of ascertaining the precise *age* of this fortress will be to bring its masonry to a comparison with that of Roman workmanship of well defined periods, and subject it to the same test as is applied to deduce architectural facts of a later era; for the masonry of the Romans, both in Italy and the provinces, exhibits very distinctive features. At the time of Ostorius Scapula, who died about A.D. 55, a fashion in building, very different from that employed at Burgh, and greatly surpassing it in execution, universally prevailed under the Romans. The walls of their public buildings were formed of squared stones, very accurately jointed together, and admitting a very thin layer of mortar. In the remote province of Britain, the same careful and accurate system was observed nearly two centuries later, as is proved by the wall erected by the Emperor Severus not long before his death, which took place in the year 211. Portions of this extraordinary barrier remain, notwithstanding the ravages continually made upon it for above sixteen centuries. "The wall was twelve feet high, guarded by flanking towers, and exploratory turrets, and eight feet broad. The facing, on both sides, was of *squared freestone*; the interior of rubble, run in with quicklime between the two faces, and uniting the whole in a solid mass."

Masonry similar to that at Burgh, and which is usually found in Britain, where the work is bonded with occasional courses of bricks or flat stones, with wide joints and coarse mortar, is demonstrative of a late period of the empire; and it is doubtful if any building can be shown, even in Imperial Rome, so constructed, much prior to the reign of Constantine. If these premises be correct, as I believe them to be, Burgh Castle could not have been founded before the year 300 or 350. Let us again consider the claims of this encampment to the title of Garianonum, the station of the Stablesian Horse. The inconvenience of its position for the operations of cavalry has been already noticed: cooped up in a narrow island, and cut off from the main land by rivers, impassable but by means of boats,—a business always of difficulty, and

not infrequently of peril,—such a body of troops must have been altogether ineffective. But independent of these disadvantages, I see nothing to favour the position that this was the Garianonum. Mr. Ives observes, “it appears from the Notitia Imperii, that the Præpositus equitum Stablesianorum was stationed at *the mouth* of the Yare.” But the Notitia makes no such assertion: let it speak for itself. “Sectio LII. Sub dispositione viri spectabilis comitis littoris Saxonici per Britanniam: Præpositus equitum Stablesian: Garrionnonensis, Garrionono.” Under the government of His Excellency, the Count of the Saxon shore, was the Commander of the Stablesian Horse, styled Garrionensis, at Garriononum. No mention is here made of a station at the *mouth* of the Gariensis. It might have been any where on the banks of that river; and Mr. J. W. Roberts, in an interesting little work on the eastern valleys of Norfolk, considers Wheatacre Burgh, in Norfolk, as better entitled to this claim. A glance at the subjoined plan, which is traced from a modern map, in preference to a copy from the old Hutch map at Yarmouth, will show the true positions of the various Roman stations in this part of Icenia, and prove at once the advantages of Wheatacre as a cavalry station.



But a strong objection presents itself to Mr. Roberts's hypothesis. Can Wheatacre Burgh be considered as seated on the shores of the Gar, for is there any proof that the channel, which then, and now again, empties itself at Lowestoft, ever bore that name? If Manley's 'Interpreter' can be relied on, it was called the Avona.

There is a village, of considerable importance in the Roman era, which prefers better claims, I think, to be considered the Garianonum than any yet noticed: I allude

to Bergh Apton. Seated in the heart of a fertile district, and placed almost equidistant from several of the larger encampments, and the points most likely to demand protection, it was still not further removed from the ancient banks of the Gar than three or four short miles. Spelman, though he overlooked the probability of discovering Garianonum here, was far from unconscious of its former importance, and even ventures to hint the probability of its having been the more celebrated Venta Icenorum. His words are these: "Decurrit hinc fluviolus ad Romanam alteram munitionem, sed an Ventam illam Icenorum, quâ nihil olim apud nos illustrius, ego subitò non definiam." The fluviolus, or little stream, now called the Welbeck,—possibly the Saxon Vallum beck,—which Spelman mentions as flowing beneath the Roman station at Bergh Apton, unites its waters with the Gar, near the modern Hardley Cross. It must have been navigable at the period of Roman domination, for small vessels at least, when the expanse of marshes which now borders the river was covered with the tides.¹ Mr. Ives adduces a circumstance connected with Burgh Castle, which he considers to carry his opinion as to the site of Garianonum "above conjecture;" namely, the frequent discovery of fragments of "anchors, rings, and other pieces of iron, which, however uncouth in their appearance, could have been of no service but for maritime uses." I confess myself unconvinced by such a deduction, having yet to learn the application of marine stores to the equipments of cavalry; unless, indeed, the Stablesian Horse had been what are now facetiously termed Horse Marines. The presence of these relics of naval armaments would rather indicate Burgh to have been a considerable port, for which it possessed more than common advantages, as the state of the country was then constituted. A Roman fleet could ride secure from the storms of the ocean, anchored in the deepest part of the channel, under the very walls of the fortress, with the choice of proceeding to sea by either of two navigable entrances.

But while endeavouring to show that Burgh Castle could not have been Garianonum, I confess to have failed in proving what it actually was. The quæstio vexata remains yet undetermined, and very possibly the name of this interesting spot is now irretrievable.

Coins of various periods, but principally belonging to the Lower Empire, and

¹ The exclusion of the sea from these valleys must be ascribed to the natural disposition of all rivers flowing through level countries to deposit a vast quantity of sediment over their channels, and to the barrier, since opposed to the tides, by the sand-bank at Yarmouth; and not to any fanciful theory of the depression of the ocean. If a depression in the level of the German Ocean has taken place since the Romans were masters of Britain, where, at that period, was Holland? But Belgium presented the very same appearance two thousand years since as it offers to the eye of the traveller now; or where was the force of the poet's observation:

"Tellurem fecêre Dei, sua littora Belgæ."

of copper, have been, and are still, frequently found within the area of the walls, and in several of the adjoining fields. A Gallienus, and a fine Constantine, almost as perfect as new, are in the possession of the Rev. Charles Green, the present Rector of Burgh. Mr. Ives informs us that in the year 1756, a space of five yards square was opened in the field adjoining to the eastern wall, and that about two feet below the surface, a great many fragments of urns were discovered, which appeared to have been broken by the plough and carts passing over them. The discovery of similar vessels is still not infrequent. On the 29th of December, 1843, two very perfect urns were found by two men employed in sifting gravel in a field on the east side of the church, called Brick-kiln Piece, in the occupation of Mr. J. D. Martin, lying about two feet deep. They contained fragments of bones, with several very large iron nails, greatly corroded. The urns were formed of a blue clay, which Ives tells us the Romans brought from the neighbouring village of Bradwell: an assumption without warrant, as earth of that nature is found in abundance, close upon the ancient walls. The same writer relates that about the year 1770, urns and ashes were also discovered in great abundance within the area of the encampment, amongst which was found a stratum of wheat, pure and unmixed with earth; the whole of which appeared quite black, a great part of it resembling a coarse powder. This was, probably, the result of a method of separating the grain from the ear by the process of burning. He also says that a cochleare, or Roman spoon, of silver, with rings, keys, and fibulæ, have at various periods been ploughed up. Gillingwater mentions a Roman spur which belonged to the Stablesian Horse, as found some years ago within the station, which was, when he wrote, in the possession of Mr. Jex, of Lowestoft. But the most curious discoveries made in this parish, are those of small circular pieces of stone, about an inch in diameter, flat on one side, and slightly convex on the reverse; of a dingy black colour, interspersed with dull red spots: they are evidently artificial, and found only in one particular field. Their use, and the period of their manufacture, are alike unknown.

The traces of an ancient causeway, commencing near the church at Burgh, and running in a south-eastern direction, are discoverable for several miles. Tradition ascribes it to the Jews, and it is called the Jews' Way in several old surveys and court books of the manors of Burgh and Gapton. It can have had no connection with that outcast people, and is doubtless of Roman construction. May not its name be a corruption of Jovis Via, or Jove's Way? It is very remarkable that the Jews are associated with the remains of numerous Roman works in various parts of the kingdom. Thus a portion of the Roman wall at Leicester is called the Jewry, and at Silchester and Ribchester, where the foundations and fragments of temples have been dug up, the former occupancy in each case is ascribed to the Jews.

Early in Saxon times, the village of Burgh, then called Cnobersburg, became the

seat of a monastery concerning which very little is known. Indeed, the exact site is uncertain; some writers stating that the monks dwelt in wattled houses within the walls of the Roman encampment: and truly, considering the lawless state of society which then prevailed, no safer retreat could have been found. The monastery was founded, however, by Sigebert, the fifth king of the East Angles, by the advice and assistance of Furseus, an Irish monk and saint, about the year 640.²

Tanner says, several historians, ancient and modern, have confounded this monastery, where Furseus lived, with another monastery founded by the same king, Sigebert, wherein he turned monk, and whence he was fetched out to that fatal battle, wherein he lost his life. It is uncertain how long the religious occupied the establishment here after the death of their principal patron, King Sigebert; but Furseus, soon after that event, quitted his retirement at Burgh, and went to France.³ Bishop Usher says Furseus committed the monastery which he built in castro to the care of his brother, Fuillanus or Fallanus. Felix, the bishop of Dunwich, favoured the establishment of this house, and it was afterwards enriched by the bounty of King Anna, and his nobles, before the year 654.⁴ It is probable that the society was dissolved at a very early period, for the manor of Burgh was held in soccage by Bishop Stigand, in the reign of Edward the Confessor,⁵ and was granted with the site of the monastery and its appurtenances, by Henry III., to the Priory of Broomholm.

THE MANOR.

In the time of Edward the Confessor, Bishop Stigand held Burgh in soccage, with four carucates of land, for a manor. There were ten villains, five bordars, and two slaves. Three carucates were held in demesne, and the tenants had four. There were ten acres of meadow, three salt-pits, three draught horses, seventeen swine, and one hundred and sixty sheep. The church was endowed with ten acres of land, and one of meadow. The value of the whole was one hundred shillings. William the Conqueror granted this manor to Ralph Balistarius, one of his captains of the cross-bowmen, who raised its value to one hundred and six shillings.⁶ Whether the descendants of this Ralph assumed the name of Burgh from their property in this village, or alienated it to another family, is not very clear, but the manor was shortly after held by Roger de Burgo, or Burgh, and Ralph his son, by serjeantry, and the service of finding a cross-bowman, with three horses, for forty days, at his own cost, for the King's use; which service was valued at one hundred shillings.⁷ Ralph de Burgh

² Taylor's Index Monast.

³ Taylor.

⁴ Id.

⁵ Domesday Book.

⁶ Domesday: Terr. Radulfi Balistarii.

⁷ Testa de Nevill.

granted the manor to Gilbert de Wesenham, who also held it by the service of finding a cross-bowman.⁸

Henry III. gave the manor to Vincent, the Prior of Broomholm, which Ralph, son of Roger de Burgh, held of him in Burgh in Lothingland, by serjeantry, which serjeantry Ralph granted to Gilbert de Wesenham, and he afterwards re-granted to the King; and the King confirmed the manor free to the convent, reserving the advowson to the Crown; and the dower of Alice, widow of Roger de Burgh, for her life; and in consideration of this grant, the convent released to the King a rent charge of 5 marks per annum, from the Exchequer, which the King had granted.⁹

In the reign of Edward I., the Prior of Broomholm was returned as holding the manor of Burgh of the King, in capite, by the same service of finding a cross-bowman to follow his army into Wales, at the prior's expense, for forty days, which service was then valued at £30.¹⁰ The prior also claimed view of frank-pledge, the assize of bread and ale, and free-warren and wreck of sea, in this manor.¹¹ The prior and convent obtained an augmentation to their revenues in the same reign, derived from this village and its neighbourhood, as the following charter will show.

“Rex &c. saltm̄ quia accepim^s p. inquisicioēs qd non est ad dampnum vel p̄judiciū nr̄m aut alior si concedam^s priori et conventui de Bromholm, qd ipsi octo acras et unam rodam trē, et unam denaratam reddit^s cum p̄tin in Wytton juxta Bromholm, et Ridelington in com: Norff, quas de Jolie la Veille qui, &c. et quatuor acras trē in Baketon in eodem com: quas de Anselino de Brigge, et unam acram et unam rodam trē cum p̄tin in p̄deā villā de Wytton quas de Radō de Smaleprud, et quatuordecim acras trē et octo denaratas redditus cum p̄tin in Burgh, in Ludinglond, in com: Suff, quas de Radō de Oliver, et unum mesuag: et duas acras trē cum p̄tin in eadem villa, que de Robto de Loges, et unam acram trē cum p̄tin in Carleton Colevill, in eodem com, quam de Ricō le Clerk, et medietatem unius acre trē cum p̄tin in eadem villa quam de Willo le Wodeward, post publicacōem statuti de trīs et ten: ad manum mortuam non ponendis, &c., p̄donavim, &c., et concessim p̄fatis priori et conventui qd ipsi teneant sibi et successoribz suis salvo jure ejuslibet salvis nob: et heredibz nr̄is sv̄iciis de p̄deis octo aeris et una roda trē et una denarata redditus cum p̄tin in sup̄dea villa de Wytton debitis et consuetis.”¹²

In the register book of St. Bennet's Abbey, at the Holme, occurs an agreement made between William, Abbot of St. Bennet's, and Clement, Prior of Broomholm, whereby the latter grants the abbot liberty to draw water at his wells, called Elbewells in Burgh, in Lothingland, to water his sheep in the two marshes near the river of Norwich, called Southcotes, paying for the same two cheeses yearly. The abbot and convent of St. Bennet soon after released all their rights in Burgh to the prior and monks of Broomholm, who continued in possession of the manor till their dissolution by Henry VIII., when the lordship was valued, as parcel of their possessions,

⁸ Testa de Nevill.

⁹ Blomefield ex Chartal. Broomholm.

¹⁰ Inquisit. 14 Ed. I.

¹¹ Plita de quo warr. ap. Gyppeswic.

¹² Rot. Scacc. Ed. I. Ro. 13.

at £19. 10s.¹³ It continued in the Crown till the year 1560, when it was sold to William Roberts, on the 10th of May, for the sum of £468. It was then called manerium de Borowe Castell. Nathaniel Bacon, Esq., was lord in 1604,¹⁴ and Sir Owen Smyth, Knt., in 1630. On the 1st of July, 1652, the Right Honourable Charles Fleetwood, and Bridget his wife, covenanted with Peter Ball, Esq., and Nathaniel Shirrop, Gent., to levy a fine unto them of the manor of Burgh Castle, in Suffolk, with the appurtenances, and all other manors, late of Simon Smyth, Esq., and of Sir Owen Smyth, Knt., in Burgh, alias Borough Castle, Gorleston, Braydon, and Bradwell, in the county of Suffolk, or elsewhere. On the 25th of August, 1697, Smith Fleetwood, Esq., by his will, inter alia, gave and devised the manor of Burgh Castle, with lands, &c., unto trustees, to be sold for the payment of his debts and legacies, in case his personal estate would not suffice; and the remainder, or surplus thereof, to be disposed of among his children, &c. He died soon after, leaving two sons and five daughters, viz.: Charles Fleetwood and Smith Fleetwood; Frances, Caroline, Jane, Elizabeth, and Anne, who afterwards married . . . Cogne, Esq. The trustees afterwards sold the manor of Burgh, and on the 18th of April, 1704, John Smith, Gent., held his first court as lord. He was succeeded by Joshua Smith, Esq., his son, who drowned himself in the North River at Yarmouth, leaving a widow, Judith Smith, who held her first court, as lady of the manor, on the 9th of May, 1745, and granted a field of two acres, called Maggot's Yard, to the inhabitants to build a house upon, for the use of the poor, at an annual rent of one shilling.¹⁵ She left, by her unfortunate husband, two daughters, Elizabeth and Judith; the latter died single. The former lady married a Mr. Barret, by whom she had a daughter, Mrs. Lydia Barret, who inherited the manor of Burgh Castle. Mrs. Barret died in 1845, bequeathing this lordship to Richard Ferrier, Esq., and three others, in trust, to be sold by them to satisfy certain purposes mentioned in her will.

The parish of Burgh contains 1496 acres, 3 roods, 12 perches of land, of which 47 acres, 3 roods, and 11 perches, are glebe. The tithes have been commuted for £369 per annum, including the rent charge on the glebe. A good school has been erected within a few years, at the cost of £80. 16s.; to defray which, the following sums were subscribed by—

Mrs. Barret	£15.
Rev. Charles Green	5, and the land to build upon.
Mr. Nesbitt	10.
Mr. Ferrier	20.
Suffolk Diocesan Society	10.

¹³ Valor Eccles. p. 344.

¹⁴ North Leet Rental.

¹⁵ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

The roof of this school-room is tied across the centre by an ancient beam, mentioned by Ives as being in his time "a balk of a kitchen in a small farm-house." The farm-house having been pulled down, not long since, this relic was destined to the unworthy fate of propping a stable at Bradwell, and had been actually taken away, when Mr. Green recovered it, and caused it to be placed in the position which it now occupies. The following inscription, in good and firm black letter, is cut across it, in one line :

**Bis cremabatur denuo reedificabatur. Twyse brent aforne is bylt ageain
bi Robert Thorne, the parson. 1548 Edwidi 6.**

From which it would appear, that the old house having been twice consumed by fire, was again re-edified by the Rector. Many readings, and various dates, have been given of this curious relic; but the fact that Robert Thorne was instituted to the rectory of Burgh in 1531, and was succeeded in 1554 by Richard Thacker, brings the date to a narrow compass for controversy; more especially, as the beam was put up in the reign of Edward VI., it must lay between January, 1546, and July, 1553. The words of the inscription are too clearly carved to admit of a mistake.

There is an excellent parsonage-house, built by the present Rector close upon the west side of the church-yard, and nearly upon the site of the ancient rectory, the offices of which appear, from an entry in the parish register, to have been greatly injured in 1779 by a violent gale of wind. "January 1st, 1779, about 4 o'clock in the morning, the parsonage-barn, from the stable to the south-west porch, was blown down; the expense of rebuilding which, exclusive of the old materials, was £77. BELWARD, Rector."

The benefice is a rectory, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and was granted by Roger de Burgh to the prior and convent of St. Olave, at Herringfleet, and confirmed to them in the fifty-fourth of Henry III. The prior presented to the rectory as patron, and had a reserved pension of four marks out of it. £1. 2s. 8d. are now paid to the owner of St. Olave's. After the Dissolution, the right of patronage was exercised by the Jerningham family, and in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Thomas Crofts presented. The patronage was then claimed by the Crown, where it has since remained.

THE CHURCH

is a small unpretending edifice, comprising simply a nave and chancel, the latter deviating at a slight angle from the right line of the nave, though two arches, now closed, in the north wall of the chancel, and the discovery of foundations in that direction, seem to prove the existence of a small aisle or chapel in former days. The prominent

architectural features of this building are late perpendicular. At the west end of the nave stands a circular tower of flint-work, from the top of which, seventy churches, besides Norwich Cathedral, may be seen with the aid of a telescope; most of which, with the assistance of a map, have been identified. In this tower hang three bells, the oldest of which was cast by John Darbie, in 1663. There is a small piscina, and a niche for an image, in the south wall of the chancel; and at the west end of the body of the church stands a good octangular font, the panels of which, besides bearing the emblems of our Lord's Passion, and of the Trinity, show the arms of the bishopric of Ely. John Alcock, who presided over that see in the reign of Henry VII., is said, by a collateral descendant of that prelate, now living at Yarmouth, to have been prior of St. Olave's. As the church of Burgh was a dependency of that house, could the presence of these arms on this font be connected with this circumstance, supposing the tradition to be true, which I very much doubt, as no such name as Alcock occurs in the list of priors there? Some fresco paintings have lately been laid open on the walls of this church, amongst which the figure of St. Christopher appears as usual.

Monuments.—William Fisher, Esq., of this parish, and of Great Yarmouth, died 30th July, 1835, aged 80. William Nesbitt Fisher, died 9th January, 1834, aged 17. William Greenwood, Esq., buried in 1656. Thomas Greenwood, Esq., a staunch loyalist, died 17th January, 1677, aged 57. These gentlemen appear to have been lessees of Gapton Hall, for, in an old survey of that manor, dated 1656, the death of William Greenwood, Esq., is presented, and Thomas Greenwood, his only son and heir, was admitted. Greenwood bears . . . a chev. ermine between 3 crosses saltire, each charged with a crosslet. John Ellys, A. M., Rector of this church and Belton, died 13th Jan. 1728, aged 62. Johannes Pitcairne, huj. eccl. et vicinæ de Belton, per xxv annos rect. ob. 1753, æt. 63. Catharine, his wife, died 26th Nov. 1766, æt. 72. Henrietta Maria, wife of the Rev. Jacob Hugo North, vicar of Carbrooke, and eldest daughter of Benjamin and Maria Dowson, of Great Yarmouth, died Jan. 22, 1843, aged 25 years. Mary, the second daughter of Thomas and Margareta Maria Kay, of Botesdale, died 5th March, 1843, aged 18 years.

The parish registers of Burgh commence in 1697, and are in beautiful preservation. In the year 1403, it was presented by the jurors appointed to inquire into the misconduct of the clergy, "that the rector of Burgh church, dean of Yarmouth, keeps and maintains fornicators in the town, taking of them bribes, and does not correct them. Fined 40s."¹⁶ With more pleasure I record the amiable character of a worthier successor in this preferment. "Died, Sept. 30th, 1792, most poignantly lamented by all his friends, relatives, and parishioners, the Rev. Mr. Belward, Rector of Burgh Castle, and

¹⁶ Blomefield.

Ashby, and Perpetual Curate of Herringfleet, in Suffolk. His literary attainments merited and procured the respect of the learned; his Christian virtues, accompanied with the most amiable mildness and softness of manners, attracted the esteem and affection of all who knew him. A stranger to envy and ambition, he kept the humble tenor of his way through the sequestered paths of life, though his knowledge and his piety would have irradiated and adorned the most elevated public station. Mr. Belward was the author of an excellent sermon, entitled ‘The Established Mode of Subscription Vindicated,’ preached at Beccles, in Suffolk, April 18th, 1774, before the Archdeacon and clergy, and published at their request.”¹⁷

Extracts from the parish registers, 1784.—“Belonging to the parish of Burgh Castle is a marsh containing, by estimation, about eight acres. It has been letten for some years past at £4 per an. to Mr. John Killett; now to his tenant, Charles Thacker, which rent is applied in aid of parish rates. Mem. There is no modus or established custom of any kind, relating to the small or great tithes of this parish, to the prejudice of the rector; but every thing titheable, by law or custom, is paid in kind, or ad valorem. Surplice fees of all kinds are likewise due. I have usually, indeed, excused the payment of these fees to the poorer sort, which I mention to prevent their pleading with my successor any right of exemption from such payments, if he thinks proper to demand them. JOHN BELWARD, Rector.”

RECTORS OF BURGII CASTLE.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Peter de Hechem	1302	Prior and Convent of St. Olave.
Thomas de Bradwell	1313	Id.
Matthew de Rollesby	1328	Id.
John de Garboldesham	1339	Id.
Adam ———	1344	Id.
Peter de Normandby	1345	Id.
Robert Bernard, de Poringland	1349	Id.
Reg. Wychie	1370	Id.
John de Carleton	1380	Id.
Galf Waltre	1403	Id.
William Foster	1425	Id.
John Kilborne	1452	Id.
Robert Wrenn	1483	Id.
William Wrenn		
William Jakson	1504	Id.
Robert Thorn	1531	Id.

¹⁷ Gentleman’s Magazine.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Richard Thacker	1554	Henry Jerningham, Esq.
Christopher Winton	1556	Id.
Roger Wright	1558	Id.
John Underwood	1558	Id.
Thomas Bower		
Richard Russell	1575	Thomas Crofts, Esq.
John Underwood	1584	The King.
William Coe	1586	Id.
William Ward	1614	Id.
William Wardell	1617	Id.
Samuel Fleet	1660	Id.
Thomas Clarges	1694	Id.
John Ellys	1714	Id.
James Pitcairn	1728	Id.
John Belward	1753	Id.
Harry Charles Manning	1792	Id.
Charles Green	1829	Id.

Estimatur ad x. marc.

Population in 1841,—327.

Corton.

CORTON is now situated upon a high and commanding cliff, and gives name to an anchorage much frequented by coasting vessels, though not many centuries since it was an inland parish, having the village of Newton interposed between it and the sea. The ruined church stands within a quarter of a mile of the beach, and as the cliff is composed of a sandy loam, continually undermined by the sea, it may, in process of time, share the fate of Newton.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, Karetun was the estate of Earl Gurth, and was farmed by a free-man named Alric. It was then valued at 20 shillings, which value it retained when Domesday Book was compiled, being then in the hands of the King. It afterwards belonged to the family of De Corton, the last of whom presented to the church in 1332.

In 1360, John de Herling had free-warren allowed him in the manors of Corton, Newton, and Knattishall.¹ He was succeeded in these estates by Sir John de Herling,

¹ Blomefield.

his eldest son and heir, who, in 1374, settled the manor of Corton on George de Felbrigge and others, with all his lands and estates in the towns of Corton, Hopton, Gunton, Lowestoft, Blundeston, Oulton, Flixton, Lound, Belton, Bradwell, Gorleston, Gapton, and Westgermouth, and elsewhere within the hundred of Lothingland.² This George de Felbrigge was trustee of these estates for Margery, the mother of Sir John de Herling, who was then the wife of Sir John de Tuddenham. The latter knight died in 1392, seized, inter alia, of the manors of Corton and Lound.³ They then became the property of Cecily, the widow of Sir John de Herling, and were afterwards held by Sir John Rateliff, her second husband. They were next in the possession of Sir Robert de Herling, a great warrior in France during the reign of Henry V., whom he attended, in 1412, at the siege of Meaux, which they took by assault; and during the rest of his life he was continually exercising arms in that kingdom, where he died, like a brave soldier, in his calling, being killed by the French at Paris, as he endeavoured valiantly to defend that city, in the year 1435.⁴ By his last will, dated on the 5th of June, 1421, and proved on the 12th December, 1435, he desires, in the first place, that Johan, his wife, should have, besides her dower, a life interest in his manors of Corton, Newton, and Lound, with the patronage of the church of Lound, aforesaid; and that the reversion of these manors, &c., should be at the disposal of his executors for the fulfilling the intentions of his will. Ann de Herling, his only daughter and heiress, who inherited Corton, was thrice married. First to Sir William Chamberlain, of Gedding, in Suffolk, Knight of the Garter, a warrior of great renown, an able governor, and expert soldier, who, while governor of Craill upon Oise, in France, which in 1436 was besieged by the French, immediately after they had taken Paris, behaved himself so bravely, that, with five hundred Englishmen only, he issued out of the town, routed his enemies, slew two hundred of them, and took a great number prisoners.⁵ Her second husband was Sir Robert Wingfield, Knt. He was Comptroller of the Household to Edward IV., and a man of great interest at Court,⁶ and died in 1480, seized of the manor of Corton, in right of Lady Anne, his wife. She afterwards married John, Lord Seroop, of Bolton, her third husband, whom she also survived, and died soon after the year 1502, without issue. Her estates devolved on Margaret, her aunt, the wife of Sir Robert Tuddenham. Sir Edward Jerningham, Knt., died in 1515, seized of the manors of Corton and Newton, which he obtained by marriage with Margaret, daughter of Sir Edmund Bedingfeld, by Margaret his wife, heiress of the Tuddenhams. In the twenty-ninth of Elizabeth, 1587, John Castelli, who was, probably, an executor, sold the manors of Corton and Newton to John Wentworth, Esq., who died in 1618, when they were found to be holden of Sir John Heveningham, as of his manor of Gorleston.⁷

² Harl. MSS. 5193. ³ Blomefield. ⁴ Id. ⁵ Id. ⁶ Id. ⁷ Inquis. capta. 17 James I.

In the sixteenth of Charles I., Sir John Wentworth, Knt., was lord of the manors of Somerleyton, Flixton, Gapton, Ashby, Corton, and Newton. On his death, in 1652, they passed by heirship to Thomas Garneys, Esq., his grand-nephew, who, in 1668, levied a fine, and suffered a recovery, inter alia, of the manors of Corton, Somerleyton, Ashby, Newton, Flixton, Gapton in Bradwell, and Stalham's in Lound, and declared the uses to be to Thomas Mann, for a term, with remainder to himself for life; remainder to his issue in tail. On the 15th of February, 1672, Thomas Garneys, Elizabeth Mann, John Mann, and others, conveyed Corton, Somerleyton, &c., to Sir Thomas Allin, Knight and Baronet, in fee, from whom they have passed to the families of Anguish, Lord Sydney Osborne, and Peto.

The advowson of Corton was granted to the Abbot and Convent of Leiston, in Suffolk, who, in 1361, procured its appropriation, and endowed a vicarage.⁸ Upon the dissolution of that abbey in the reign of Henry VIII., the rectory of Corton was granted, with its other possessions, to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, who appears to have held this property by the service of a tenth of a Knight's fee, and an annual rent of £137. 8s. 10d. As Charles Brandon afterwards exchanged the site of the abbey, and the manors, rectories, and lands attached to it, with the Crown for Henham Hall, the advowson and great tithes of Corton fell again into the hands of the King, and were let to farm by Queen Elizabeth for a term of years, as will appear by the following grant.

Rua. Sciatis, &c. qd nos et tradidimus, et ad firm: dimiss: Johi Moyle, Gen: servient: nro de le Ewry, inter alia, tot: illam rectoriam nram de Corton, cum jurid: et pertin: in com: Suff: pcell: possess: nup: Mon: de Laiston in dco com: Suff: postea pcell possess: &c. Caroli dudum Ducis Suff: ac cuid Edro Clere mil: p. lras patent: nras dat: apud Westm: ix. Apr: A. R. nri xxvij, p. term xxi. annor: incipiend: a festo Annunc: bte Marie, tunc ultim: prtin: &c. dimiss: &c. Hend: et libat: faldage in Northwood-more in Wymondham, Norf: et rector: de Corton, ac cetera aia pmissa pffato Edro Clere, dimiss: a tempore quo prde: lre paten: determinare contig: ad fin: term: xl annor: reddend: inde annuat de prdea reoria de Corton, &c. £iiiij. x^s. ad duas term: &c. Teste, &c.

A^o Rue Eliz: xxxiiij^o.⁹

On the 5th of August, 1618, King James I., by letters patent, granted, inter alia, the rectory, or church, of Corton, and all glebe lands, tithes, and profits thereunto belonging, to George, Marquis and Earl of Buckingham; and on the 15th of November, 1626, George, Duke of Buckingham, sold the said rectory, &c., to Price Williams and Anthony Nevill. On the 27th of January, 1630, Richard Milles, Alice his wife, Price Williams and Anthony Nevill, resold the said premises to Daniel Harvey, Esq., Eliab Harvey, and Matthew Harvey.¹⁰ On the 31st of May, 1651, appears a recovery against

⁸ Rot. Pat. 36 Ed. III. Pro ecclis. de Corton approprianda.

⁹ Harl. MSS. 1646.

¹⁰ Jermyn MSS.

Thomas Barnes, by a verdict at common law, of the rectory of Corton; and a recovery of the glebe lands, &c.¹¹

In 1703, the rectory of Corton was let to John Nobbs for the rent of £ 36 per ann., the taxes for the same being £ 5. 10s. The impropriation of Corton subsequently became the property of John Ives, Esq., of Yarmouth, from whom it passed to the Fowlers of Gunton, in which family it remains. The commuted rent charge, payable to the impropiator, is £ 242, the vicarial amounting to £120. The exact extent of Corton is 1175 acres, 1 rood, 2 perches: there are no glebes. The patronage of the vicarage, which appertained to the abbey of Leiston, seems to have reverted to the Crown, though it was once presented to by Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, after the Dissolution. An unsuccessful attempt to re-annex it to the impropriation appears to have been made about a century since by Mr. Ives, as would appear from the tenor of the following letter, addressed to the Rev. Mr. Bowness, of Gunton.

Sir,

According to my memorandums relating to Corton, the glebes and tithes, in that parish, were devised A.D. 1367 into an impropriation, and a vicarage. And the impropriation, with the advowson of the vicarage, was thereupon granted unto the abbot and convent of Leyston, near Aldborough, Suffolk. That abbot and convent presented the vicar till the Reformation. The abbey of Leiston was dissolved early, being one of the lesser houses, that had not £ 200 clear yearly revenues, and granted, on April 7th, twenty-eighth Hen. VIII., which I take to be 1537, to Charles, Duke of Suffolk; I suppose Charles Brandon, who married King Henry the Eighth's sister. Charles, Duke of Suffolk, presented to the vicarage of Corton, A.D. 1537; but 28th May, 1597, George Pilkington was instituted unto the vicarage of Corton upon the presentation of Queen Elizabeth, pleno jure patrone, according to my notes. Dec. 6th, 1623, John Utting was instituted into Corton, vacant by the death of George Pilkington, upon the presentation of King James. Mr. Utting was ejected in 1642, and no other institution occurs to me, till Mr. Shewell's in 1745, when the Lord Chancellor presented to it in the King's name, not as vacant per lapsum temporis, but as belonging to the King's presentation, pleno jure. As to the Duke of Suffolk presenting once in A.D. 1537, I don't think it will bear much weight, because I find other grantees presented at first to rectories and vicarages, which they were soon after obliged to desist from. The advowson of Burgh Castle, for instance, belonged to the prior and convent of St. Olave, Herlingfleet, now called Herringfleet, was granted to Sir Henry Jerningham, Knight, who presented three times to Burgh Castle, but, A.D. 1584, the Lord Chancellor thought it not included in his grant, and therefore presented to it ever since. And, which comes nearer to the case, the rectory or impropriation of Wickham Market, near Woodbridge, belonged to the nunnery at Campesse, and upon the dissolution of that house was granted to Anthony Wingfield, who thereupon presented to the vicarage in A.D. 1545, or 1546. But A.D. 1590, Queen Elizabeth presented to the vicarage there, and after the Crown hath presented to it ever since. This seems to make very much for the Crown's title; but what Mr. Ives hath to allege against it I can't say. And if Mr. Ives will give you a presentation, and engage to be at the charge of trying it with the Crown, if any body should think fit to take out the broad seal for it, it might not be amiss for

¹¹ Jermyn MSS.

you to take it upon his title. I heartily wish you success, both for your own and my good tutor's sake; and am, with compliments to Mr. and Mrs. Luson, Sir,

Your Brother and Servant,

T. TANNER.

Nov. 1, 1757.

P. S. The vicarage of Corton is not valued in the old Valor Beneficiorum, commonly called the King's Books. In the year 1707 it is returned to be of the clear annual value of £ 10, and what it is worth more now, is supposed to be from the improvement made in husbandry since that time. Mr. George Pilkington was buried at Corton, Sept. 16, 1623, and Mr. Utting's being instituted Dec. 6, 1623, shows there could not possibly be any lapse then. It is said in Wood's Institutes, p. 557, "The law doth favour a long possession as an argument of right, though no deed can be shown, rather than an antient without possession."

It is probable that Mr. Ives took no further steps in this business, as Mr. Bowness was instituted to the vicarage of Corton in the year following the date of the above letter, on the presentation of the King. The vicarage of Corton has been thrice augmented by Queen Anne's Bounty. In 1744, by £ 200; in 1763, by £ 200; and in 1789 by the like sum.¹² The Rev. Francis Bowness, the then vicar, in March, 1763, purchased ten acres of land at Beccles, with the first augmentation, and in 1789, he bought nineteen acres of land at Tunstall, with the two last augmentations.¹³ There is paid annually out of Mr. Fowler's estate one pound, for the purchase of bread, to be given to the poor of this parish. A piece of ground of something more than half an acre, called the Town Pightle, is let by the parish for one pound per annum, which sum is paid in part of the clerk's wages.¹⁴ The population of Corton in 1841 was 442 souls, but its more flourishing state in ancient days is argued from the size of its now ruined church, and the foundations of many old houses which are frequently discovered. Tradition assigns the period of its greatest importance to the 13th century, when the haven of Yarmouth extended nearly as far south as this village. The truth of this tradition I am unable to confirm; but the former magnificence of its church may, undoubtedly, be ascribed to its dependance on the Abbey at Leiston. A very remarkable discovery was made here in 1812, after a violent storm, which washed away a considerable portion of the cliff, when a stratum of oak plank, in regular layers, several feet in thickness, and extending more than two hundred yards in length, was laid bare. Some of the planks were perfect, but the greater part appeared much decayed. Fossil elephants' bones, vertebræ of large fish, and bones of the mammoth, have also been frequently discovered, bedded in clay, in various parts of this parish. The perfect state of the specimens, not rolled or worn by the action of water, proves that these animals lived and died on the spot where their remains have been found.

¹² Printed list of Augmentations, 1804.

¹³ Terrier.

¹⁴ Id.

THE CHURCH

at Corton, dedicated to St. Bartholomew, was once a noble structure, of which the chancel only is now used for divine worship, the body of the church having long been a roofless ruin. The walls are mantled with ivy, and the windows robbed of their tracery; yet the interior, with all its desolation, is still effective from its ample and just proportions. The nave, which never had aisles, appears to have been constructed in the decorated style of architecture, though the chancel presents a large east window, of perpendicular character. A noble square tower, about ninety feet high, stands at the west end of the nave. A singular tradition is related respecting the foundation of this edifice. In 1810, as the sexton, Thomas Soames, was employed in the church-yard, he was accosted by a stranger, who inquired of him the name of the building, and that of its founder. To the latter question the sexton was unable to reply; and the stranger then stated that he had been in Italy during the revolution, when the French armies were overrunning the country and rifling the monasteries. Employing himself one day with examining the records of a religious house there, he discovered a manuscript, purporting to have been written by Francis Cecelia, a monk of the Premonstratensian order, who stated himself to have been Abbot of Leiston, in Suffolk, and founder of St. Bartholomew's church at Corton. The sexton having little antiquarian curiosity, no further conversation occurred, and the stranger left him without making known the date, his name, or any further particulars.¹⁵

Gillingwater informs us, "that when the church became ruinous, the parishioners, finding themselves unequal to the expense of repairing it, and at the same time thinking it unnecessary, petitioned the bishop of the diocese for his license to suffer it to remain as it was, on condition that, at their own charge, they would fit up and maintain the chancel as a place of public worship, which was granted them, and the chancel was made very adequate to the purpose."¹⁶ This petition was probably preferred before 1768, for on the 13th of June in that year the church was surveyed. "But in a long series of years, either by means of the inability, or through the inattention of the people, this too was suffered to fall into decay, insomuch that in the year 1776, the lead admitted the rain in various places, and the pulpit, desk, gallery, &c., were rotten, and ready to fall down. Under these circumstances, the Rev. Francis Bowness, then vicar, thought it expedient to coincide with the wishes of the generality of the parishioners to apply to the diocesan for a faculty to dispose of the lead, and lay out the money arising from the sale of it in the reparation of the building; and notwithstanding much opposition, the perseverance of the vicar prevailed, and he obtained, from the candour of

¹⁵ Druery's *Lothingland*, p. 213, note.

¹⁶ Gillingwater's *Lowestoft*, p. 82, note.

Bishop Yonge, a full power to sell not only the lead, but also, if it should be necessary, a large bell, which hung in the porch of the old church. He availed himself of no more than the former part of the license; and with a very small rate, added to the produce of the lead, the chancel was again put into complete good order.”¹⁷

Matters remained thus, as left by Mr. Bowness, till within the last few years, when the west, or partition wall of the chancel, was pulled down; and a portion of the nave was added to the chancel, and restored to the purposes of divine worship. The old bell is thus inscribed,

C. R. Anno Domini, 1626;

and bears this coat of arms,—3 lions' heads coupéd, over that in base a marquis's coronet suspended.

The parish registers commence in 1651, and amongst others we find the following entries: “Old Newton was buried the 10th of June. Memorandum, that through the injurie off the tymes, and wacancie of this vicarige, having no incumbent, many burialls were not registred which afterwards was thus collected by me Henry Watts; curatt as followeth.” Mr. Watts, whose orthography and grammar are not remarkably exact, is quite correct in his notice of the long vacaney in this preferment. From the year 1623, when Mr. Utting was inducted vicar, no institution occurs in the records of the bishop's office for above one hundred and twenty years, when at length Abraham Shewell was presented in 1745.

Monuments.—An old stone bears the date of 1446 cut in brass. Dorothy Nappier, widow, died April 20th, 1718, æt. about 70. *Arms.* Nappier, gules 3 bars gemelles or; on a canton sable, a crescent argent. Robert Briggs, youngest son of Augustine Briggs, late of Norwich, Esq., died 22nd of Dec. 1718, æt. 50. The annuity of £1. per annum, already mentioned as being charged upon Mr. Fowler's estate for the purchase of bread for the poor, was bequeathed by this Mr. Briggs, who was descended from the ancient family of De Pontibus, or Briggs, who were settled at Salle, in Norfolk, as early as the reign of Edward I.

This church formerly had a provision to find lights to be burnt before the images of St. Anne and the Virgin Mary. Here was also the guild of St. Bartholomew.

RECTORS OF CORTON.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Simon de Norwico	1299	Galfridus de Corton.
Thomas de Corton	1302	Id.
Edm: fil: Dñi: Hen: Bacun, mil:	1332	John of Corton.

¹⁷ Gillingwater's Lowestoft, p. 82, note.

VICARS OF CORTON.

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
John de Dersham	1376	Abbot and Convent of Leyston.
John Symond de Dersham	1389	Id.
Thomas Dolle		
Walter Spere	1446	Id.
Robert Bradley	1487	Id.
William Mawer	1498	Id.
William Grenewode	1505	Id.
John Anderton	1529	Roger Kent.
Robert Lyngarth	1530	Abbot and Convent of Leyston.
William Reve	1537	Charles, Duke of Suffolk.
George Pilkington	1597	The King.
John Utting	1623	Id.
Abraham Shewell	1745	Id.
Francis Bowness	1758	Id.
Richard Huck	1801	Id.
Frederick Cook Fowler	1837	Id.

Appropriatur Abbati et Conv: de Leyston. Estimatio ejusdem xxx marc.

The village of Newton, which formerly laid eastward of Corton, is now entirely destroyed by the sea, except a small piece of land which retains the name of Newton Green. The lordship passed through the same families, and in the same succession, as that of Corton. It is recorded in Domesday Book as the property of the Crown, when it was valued at 3 shillings. It was probably always an inconsiderable village, and is chiefly remembered in local history by its connection with the mouth of Yarmouth Haven, which, in the fourteenth century, discharged itself into the ocean at this place. The following copy, from Gillingwater's MSS., of a survey of an estate at Newton in 1644, though not very interesting, is given as an almost solitary record of this wasted village.

A particular of the tenements and lands in the townes of Hopton and Corton, now in the occupation of the heyres of John Deny, or their assignees, prte of which was measured nono dies Aprilis Ao Dni 1631, and the residue measured this present 3rd of June, 1644, by me,

JOHN MARTYN.

Item, one close, called Newton Close, or Lamb's Newton, as it lyeth there betweene Scoulding's Pitt Close aforesayd, in prte, and the field called Backhouse Close, in prte, on the part of the west;

and the Prambulacon Way, or Bounds, dividing Hopton and Newton, on the part of the east ; it abutteth upon diverse men, as well towards the south as the north, and cont: 14 A. 3 R. 1 P.

Note, that in this close is a rood of land, belong. to the town of Hopton.

Item, one close, lyeing in Newton Field, in Corton, as it lyeth between Lamb's Newton aforesayd, (the Prambulacon Way betwixt) in pte, and Mill Pightle in pte, on the pte of the west ; and the Common Way called Wharway in pte, and Newton Green in pte, on the pte of the east ; and abutteth upon the sayd Wharway, and a late common of Corton towards the south ; and upon the next-mentioned close, towards the north and south : 5 A. 2 R. 31 P.

Item, one other close, sometyrne called the Caryver, or the Cake Close, as it lyeth there between the last abutted close on the pte of the south ; and the close, sometime called Twelve Acres, in pte, and Newton Yard in pte, on the pte of the north, and abutteth upon Newton Green, towards the east ; and upon Lamb's Newton, on Newton Close aforesayd, towards the west, and cont: 6 A.

Item, one p̄cel of meddowe or pasture, called Newton Yard, wherein the site of the manor of Newton was, as it lyeth there between the close, sometime called Twelves Acres, on the pte of the west, and the sea-cliff on the pte of the east ; it abutteth upon Newton Green towards the south, and upon a close of S^c. John Wentworth aforesayd, now called the Eleven Acre Close, towards the north, and contain 6 A. 1 R. 34 P.

Item, one close, called the Pound Close, as it lyeth there betweene the Prambulacon Way dividing Newton and Hopton aforesd. on the pte of the west, and the next-mentioned close, on the pte of the east ; it abutteth upon the last-mentd. close in pte, and the land late in the tenure of Peter Horne in pte, towards the south ; and the close called the Old Warren, the north, and contayneth 16 A. 3 R. 20 P.

Item. There is one piece of Briery or Sheep Walk lyeth along betwixt the Mayne Ocean Sea, on the part of the east, and divers of those parcells of land mentioned on the pte of the west ; and extendeth in length from John-a-Lane's Crosse, at the north end thereof, and Newton Green aforesayd, at the south end of the same, and contayneth about 120 acres.

Note, that in the Prambulacon Way dividing Corton and Gorleston stands a White Stone, anciently called John-a-Lane's Crosse ; and at the west end of the sayd Prambulacon Way stands another stone, where Corton, Hopton, and Gorleston meet.

Flixton.

FLIXTON, like the village of the same name in the Hundred of Wangford, is said to have received its appellation from Felix, the first Christian bishop of East Anglia ; and its church, according to Tanner, was once considered as the mother church of that district. Domesday Book, however, is silent on this point, and neither records a church as then existing here, nor mentions any ecclesiastical endowment : a fact which rather militates against such an assumption, though possibly it may be no positive proof. In

the reign of Edward the Confessor, Flixton was divided into four manors, held by Hacun, Ædric, Turgar, and Siric. But these, having formed part of the estates of Gurth, who fell at the battle of Hastings, were seized by the Conqueror, and retained as his demesnes.

There was not, I think, a division of the lordship subsequently to this period, though from the title of the manor, which is sometimes styled the manor of Flixton, and at other times the manor of Lawney, considerable confusion arises. Surely the unity of the lordship is proved by the fact, that in the reign of Elizabeth, and afterwards, the advowson of the church was conveyed with the manor of *Flixton*, though it had been possessed by the *Lawneys*, and passed to the family of Hobart, their successors in the manor of Lawney, from which it does not appear to have been ever alienated.

In the reign of Henry III., Galfridus, fil. Osberti, had free-warren in Flixton,¹ but whether he enjoyed the manor is uncertain. In the following reign, Flixton was held by the family of Lawney, who presented to the church, uninterruptedly, till the beginning of the fifteenth century. In 1492, the patronage and manor were with the Hobarts, and in 1551 it was entered on the court-rolls, that "Walterus Hobart, armig: ten: man: de Lawney in Flixton, et redd: inde p: an: 20^s. 4^d." ² On the 20th of November, forty-fourth of Elizabeth (1602), is an indenture of feoffment from Robert Migghells, of Chelmondiston, Gent., and Johanna his wife, to John Wentworth, Esq., of Somerleyton, and William Southwell, of the same place, Gent., and the heirs of John Wentworth, of sundry estates in Flixton, Oulton, and Blundeston, and also of the manor of Flixton aforesaid, with the appurtenances, and *the advowson* of the parish church of Flixton aforesaid; and all rents, court-leets, view of frank-pledge, free-warren, &c. In the same year a fine was levied, between the above parties, of the manor of Flixton, with the appurtenances, 3 messuages, 3 gardens, 100 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 10 acres of wood, 100 acres of heath and briery, 40 acres of marsh, 60 of alder, and 20 shillings rent in Flixton, Oulton, Blundeston, and Belton, and the advowson of the church of Flixton.³ At an inquisitio post mortem, held in the seventeenth of James I. (1618), on the death of John Wentworth, Esq., it was found that "the manor of Flixton, and the advowson of the church aforesaid, were holden of Sir John Heveningham's manor of East Leet, in free and common soccage." On the 3rd of October, eighth of Charles I., Robert Jettor, of Flixton, Gent., conveyed to John Wentworth, of Somerleyton, Knt., a messuage called Flixton Park, with the land and appurtenances which were late of Robert Jettor, his father.⁴ From the Wentworths the manor and advowson of Flixton descended to the Garneys, and from that family to the Allins. In 1676, a bill in Exchequer was brought against Sir

¹ Rot. Pat.

² Rental of South Leet: An. 6 Ed. VI.

³ Jermyn MSS.

⁴ Id.

Thomas Allin, &c., by Lady Mary Heveningham's trustees, for discovering the several parts of the estate, late of Sir John Wentworth, which had been conveyed to the different assignees of Sir John's heir, Mr. Garneys. It is stated, *inter alia*, that Sir John Wentworth died seized of the manor of Lawney, in Flixton, held of the manor of East Lect, by the rent of £1. 0s. 4*d.*⁵ This estate subsequently passed to the Anguishes, and descended to Lord Sydney Osborne, who sold it to Samuel Morton Peto, Esq., in 1844.

THE CHURCH

at Flixton, dedicated to St. Andrew, and frequently called the chapel, is now a ruin, open to the elements, and overgrown with ivy. It appears to have been a very small edifice, though well-proportioned, and possibly not inelegantly finished. The walls, as usual in the smaller Suffolk churches, are composed of flint-stones, held together by mortar of a very tenacious quality, and here, occasionally intermixed with courses of thin bricks or tiles, laid in the fashion called herring-bone masonry. It fell into a state of decay about two centuries ago, when it was restored by Sir John Wentworth, in the year 1630. Upon its re-consecration, a sermon was preached by the Rev. Thomas Brinsley, entitled 'The Glory of the Latter Temple greater than the Former,' and published at London in 1631, in quarto, as 'A Sermon preached at the Consecration or Restitution of the Church of Felixton, in Lovingland, Suffolk, being sometimes the Mother Church of the East Angles.' The fabric, however, in spite of this restoration, became irretrievably ruined in the beginning of the following century, when the roof was blown off in the memorable storm of the 27th of November, 1703; and in the following year, George Burrows, chapel-warden, delivered to his successor, Henry Green, the following things belonging to this chapel: viz., two books, a surplice, a cup, a cloth, a cushion, and an anchor, and two pieces of iron belonging to the chancel window.⁶ Gillingwater says that in his time the building was made use of for the vile purpose of a farmer's out-house; the walls demolished for the reparation of stables, and the font split asunder to support the two ends of a hog's trough, to the great offence of common decency.⁷ It is with pleasure we record that these desecrations have now ceased, and that the cemetery surrounding the ruins is decently fenced and kept. The ancient font has been recovered by Charles Steward, Esq., of Blundeston, and placed in a part of his pleasure-grounds, situated in the parish of Flixton. It is much to be regretted that the following legend, commemorative of its history, from the classical pen of the Rev. James Ford, of Navestock, has not yet been inscribed upon it.

⁵ Jermyn MSS.

⁶ Gillingwater.

⁷ Id.

Hunc Fontem Lustralem
 Ecclesiæ de Flixton,
 Olim Consecratum,
 Et De Sordium Congerie,
 In Agro vicino Ereptum,
 Hic Poni Curavit
 Carolus Steward,
 De Sydnors, Armiger.

The parish register, said to have been lately in existence, and in the possession of Mr. William Neslin, has shared the fate of the famed Alexandrian Library, and fed the flames of copper-holes and ovens. Among the chapel-warden's disbursements in the year 1700, were the following :

“ Ditching the chapel yard	3s. 6d.
Glazing the chapel	6d.” ⁸

Mr. Gillingwater has preserved a few entries in the now destroyed register book, and which, as the record itself has perished, are here perpetuated : “ Richard Newman was buried Jan. 14th, 1682. Elizabeth Bugg, buried May 23rd, 1683. William, son of William Fisk, husbandman, and Mary his wife, was baptized Nov. 12th, 1702. John Wallis, of Great Yarmouth, single man, and Mary Hollis, of Gorleston, single woman, were married Dec. 21st, 1697. John Davey, of Raydon, single man, and Elizabeth Shinglers, of South Town, single woman, were married July 4th, 1699. William Dawson, of Cromer, in the county of Norfolk, single man, and Ann Richardson, single woman, were married Feb. 4th, 1695.”

RECTORS OF FLIXTON.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Roger Man	1308	William de Laweney.
Roger Launeye	1349	John Launeye.
Walter Lamok	1349	Sarah Launay.
John de Blicling	1351	Sarah, relict of Will. de Launey.
John Atte Medew, de Finborough	1375	John Launey, Esq.
John de Donkeerstre	1380	Id.
Peter Cuttyng	1384	Id.
Michael de Barsham	1404	Id.
Henry Skeét	1441	John Clifton, and others.
John Elynsh	1473	Gilbert Debenham, Esq.
John Sqwyer	1476	Id.

⁸ Jermyn MSS.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Nicholas Goldwell	1492	James Hubberd, Esq.
Milo Kerrich	1505	James Hobert, Esq.
John Fale	1511	
Richard Jaeson	1524	Walter Hubbert, Esq.
William Horning	1537	Thomas Godsalve, Esq.
William Ugge		
William Stephens	1556	Owen Hobarte, Esq.
Franc Yaxley	1558	Id.
John Thurston	1562	Christopher Heydon, Esq.
Clement Bacon	1602	The King, by lapse.
Anthony Wilkinson	1623	John Wentworth, Esq.
Spencer Fell	1633	Id.
James Aldrich	1635	Id.
Daniel Benton	1664	Id.
Robert Hobson	1669	Thomas Garneys, Esq.
James Smyth	1681	Thomas Allin, Esq.
Thomas Skeet	1703	Richard Allin, Bart.

Estimatio ejusdem vj mare.

Population of Flixton in 1841,—23.

Fritton.

FRITTON lies on the western borders of Lothingland, and gives name to a beautiful lake, known as Fritton Decoy, though its waters are included in the boundaries of several parishes.

Rising near Hopton and Lound, and pursuing a winding course as a quiet rill for about a mile, it swells into the wide mere, called Browston Broad, which, contracting again, is crossed by the high road at Lound Run, where the stream soon after expands into a noble sheet of water. Sweeping hence for more than two miles, in a western direction, by graceful curves, which are in some parts nearly a quarter of a mile in width, it discharges its waters by a narrow creek, which, flowing past the ruined site of St. Olave's Priory, mingles with the tides of the Waveney. The shores of this charming decoy, which present a variety of beauties of the milder kind, are principally fringed with natural groups of the graceful birch-tree, mingled with oaks, which sweep the margin of the water with their light and pendulous sprays. Pike, perch, and eels, of considerable size, are taken here, and wild fowl, of different

species, resort during winter to the shelter of its numerous inlets. The catching of the latter by artificial pipes or nets affords a considerable profit to various proprietors whose estates environ the shores.

The parish of Fritton seems to have been known to our Roman masters, for in a small hillock, lying about half a mile north of the lake, are occasionally found pieces of pottery, evidently moulded by the hands of that people. In the time of Edward the Confessor, Fridetun contained, as it does still, the two manors of Fritton and Caldecot, then written Caldecotan. Both were the estates of Earl Gurth, whose free-man, Godwin, held in the former, two carucates of land for a manor, in which were woods sufficient to maintain twenty swine. This free-man possessed two draught horses, sixteen swine, 160 sheep, three goats, and three apiaries, valued at twenty shillings; under whom two other free-men rented sixty acres of land, with a plough, valued at five shillings. This estate became, by forfeiture, the property of the Crown, and was managed for the Conqueror by Roger Bigot.¹ In the reign of Edward I., the manor of Fritton was held by Nicholas de Freton, and afterwards by the family of Fitz-Osbern.² In the reign of Edward III., Sir Robert de Mauteby was lord and patron, who was succeeded by John de Mauteby. In 1374, Sir John de Mauteby, son of Sir John de Mauteby, Knt., by his last will, dated at Fritton, leaves his body to be buried in the church of St. Edmund, at Fritton, before the altar of the blessed Virgin Mary. He bequeathed to Richard Galyerd, parson of the church there, whom he appoints one of his executors, forty pence, to be expended in masses for the good of his soul. Sir John's will was proved on the first of October in that year. In 1413, Robert Mauteby, Esq., enfeoffed Sir Simon Felbrigge, Sir Miles Stapleton, and Sir William Argentein, in divers manors and rents in Norfolk, and in Fritton manor in Suffolk, to fulfil his will.³ These feoffees accordingly presented to the rectory here in 1425. John Mauteby, his son and heir, married Margaret, daughter of John Berney, of Reedham, Esq., by whom he had Margaret, his only daughter and heiress, who, marrying John Paston, Esq., son and heir of Sir William Paston, the judge, brought the manor and advowson of Fritton, inter alia, into her husband's family, where they continued nearly a century and half. On the 20th of October, in the tenth of Elizabeth, William Paston, of Paston, in the county of Norfolk, Esq., conveyed to John Throgmorton, of the city of Norwich, Esq., all that manor of Fritton, called Fritton Paston's, in Fritton, in the county of Suffolk, and all and singular the lands, tenements, gardens, pastures, feedings, marshes, woods, underwoods, liberty of foldage, waters, fishings, rents, advowsons, rectories, parsonages, and hereditaments whatsoever, to the same belonging, in Fritton, Belton, Caldecote, &c., within the Hundred of Lothingland,

¹ Domesday. Terra Regis.

² MSS. pen. Epis. Norwic.

³ Blomefield.

with all court-leets, &c., to hold to the said John Throgmorton, in fee, of the chief lord, &c., by the accustomed services, &c., and appointed John Caldecot, and Robert Brown, to deliver seizin, &c. John Throgmorton conveyed the said manor and premises, in the same year, to William Sydnor, Esq., who by deed indented, dated 6th of October, twenty-sixth of Elizabeth, in consideration of a jointure to Elizabeth, the wife of Henry Sydnor, his son and heir apparent, did enfeoff certain trustees, and their heirs, among other estates, of all that manor called Blundeston, and the manor of Fritton, with the appurtenances; and as to the manor of Fritton, &c., did declare the uses to be to the use of the said William Sydnor, and Bridget, his then wife, and after to the use of the said Henry, and of his heirs male, by the said Elizabeth, his wife, and afterwards to the right heirs of the said William. The marriage between Henry Sydnor and Elizabeth took place February 1st, twenty-seventh of Elizabeth. Henry Sydnor died 10th of December, in the 10th of James I.; William Sydnor died 26th of August, eleventh of James I.⁴

On the 30th of August, in the twelfth of James I., it was found that William, the eldest son of the said Henry, was then twenty-four years of age, and Elizabeth was then living; and that the manor of Fritton Paston's was holden of Sir John Heveningham's manor of North Leet, in soccage.⁵ By an inquisition taken at Eye, 16th January, ninth of Charles I., and by another taken at Bungay, 29th of May, tenth of the same reign, upon the death of William Sydnor, Gent., he was found to die on the 13th of January, 1632, seized, inter alia, of the manor of Frytton, alias Fritton Paston's, &c., and the advowson of the church, held in soccage of the manor of Lothingland, and valued at £ 5.⁶ Dying without issue male, it was found that Elizabeth, Anne, Sarah, Mary, Hester, Susanna, Abigail, and Lydia, were his daughters and heiresses. On the 19th of December, 1651, the said eight daughters and co-heiresses conveyed the manors of Blundeston and Fritton to William Heveningham, Esq., as already detailed under Blundeston, who resold them to John Tasburgh, Esq., who in turn conveyed them to Thomas Allin, of Lowestoft, Knt., in 1668; from whom they descended to the Anguishes; Richard Anguish, Esq., being lord in 1696. In 1704, Sir Richard Allin, alias Anguish, alienated the advowson of Fritton, as will be presently shown; and in 1710, his trustees, by Act of Parliament, held the manor of Fritton, and conveyed it to Samuel Fuller, Esq. Richard Fuller, Esq., M. P. for Yarmouth, devised this manor and estate to the Rev. Francis Turner, one of the ministers of Yarmouth chapel, for life; with remainder to the Rev. Charles Onley, of Essex; remainder to Mr. Francis Turner, of Yarmouth, surgeon, for life; remainder to James Turner, of Yarmouth, banker, for life; remainder to the Rev.

⁴ Jermyn MSS.

⁵ North Leet Rental.

⁶ Cole's Esch.

Joseph Turner, Dean of Norwich, for life ; remainder to the Rev. Richard Turner, perpetual curate of Yarmouth, for life ; remainder to the Rev. Francis Turner. Mr. Francis Turner, surgeon, during the lifetime of the Rev. Francis Turner, purchased the life interests of those in remainder, and devised the same to Elizabeth his wife, for life. Then one-fourth to Mr. Dawson Turner, Mr. James Turner, and Mr. Powell ; one-fourth to the Rev. Dean Turner ; one-fourth to Mrs. Dade ; and one-fourth to the Rev. Richard Turner.

All these several persons, by deed dated the 9th and 10th of November, 1819, conveyed the manor and the bulk of the estate to Andrew Johnston, of Hempnall, in Norfolk, Esq., in fee. This gentleman, who was a West India proprietor, went to Jamaica, soon after his purchase ; and in July, 1830, the manor and estate were sold by auction at Yarmouth, and were purchased by Francis Turner, Esq., of Lincoln's Inn, London, who is the present lord. The name of the manor is Fritten, alias Fritton, alias Fretton, alias Freton Paston's.

The advowson of Fritton, after having remained so many centuries with the manor, was granted, November 4th, 1704, by Sir Richard Allin, alias Anguish, to Robert and Francis Baldwin. In 1714, Samuel Fuller purchased it, inter alia, and in the following year, the said Samuel Fuller, the elder, and Samuel Fuller, the younger, by indrē of lease and release, for a competent sum of money, conveyed the advowson of Fritton to Gregory Clarke, of Blundeston, and his heirs, with condition to do any further act of assurance at the cost of Mr. Clarke. John Fuller, senior, being then beyond sea, a recovery was suffered of the advowson, and a good title made. Gregory Clarke, by will bearing date June 3rd, 1726, bequeathed this advowson, with all its appurtenances, to his brother-in-law, James Birkin, Esq., from whom it passed by marriage to the family of Burroughes, of Burlingham, in Norfolk, of whom it was purchased by the Rev. Francis William Cubitt, who is the present patron and incumbent.⁷ This gentleman married Jane Mary, daughter of the Rev. Henry Nicholas Astley, son of the late Sir E. Astley, Bart., and uncle to the Lord Hastings ; and has issue Frank Astley Cubitt, Spencer Cubitt, and three daughters, Lucy, Jane, and Sophia. He is a younger brother of Edward Cubitt, Esq., of Honing Hall, in Norfolk ; and has a handsome seat overlooking the most beautiful part of Fritton Lake.

. THE MANOR OF CALDECOT HALL.

In the time of Edward the Confessor, Earl Gurth held the manor of Caldecot, which comprised a carucate of land ; and Bund was his tenant. It was then worth 10 shillings.

⁷ MSS. pen. F. W. Cubitt, clk.

At the Norman Survey its value had decreased to 8 shillings, when it was returned as the property of Ralph Balistarius, the same who held Burgh Castle.⁸ Like all other estates, it soon fell into the hands of a family that assumed their name from the place, and accordingly, in the reign of Henry III., we find Henry Caldecot obtaining a license for free-warren, a market, and a fair, here, and in Belton.⁹

In the following reign, this Henry Caldecot, who is then termed a knight, is returned as holding his estates in Fritton, Caldecot, and Belton, of the King, in capite; which estates he derived from his ancestors, who obtained them from Robert Estan.

Henr: de Caudecotes, miles, tenet de dño rege in capite pla: socag: in Freton Caldecotes et Belton, de p̄sito anc: suor: p̄t: socag: q̄d fuit Robti: Estan faciend: in p: an: Dno: R: xxvj. sol: iij^d. et p: socag: illo q̄d fuit p̄dei Robti: Estan v. sol: set q̄t socag: ipe Hen: teneat, neciunt, nec inquirere possunt.¹⁰

This Sir Henry Caldecot bore for arms, per pale or and azure, a chief gules. He left a son, William de Caldecot, living in the eighth of Edward II., who by Joane his wife, who re-married to Bartholomew Daviller, left a son, John de Caldecot, mentioned in the fifth of Edward III. The family unquestionably derived their name from this manor, in Fritton, which they seem to have given to lordships in Onehouse and Fynborough. They were also land-owners in Debach.

The manor of Caldecot Hall was, probably, soon after the property of the Fastolfs, for Blomefield, the historian of Norfolk, says that Sir John de Ulverstone, Knt., was foffeee, in 1390, of the manor and advowson of Fritton, for Sir John Fastolf, Knt. This, however, could not be strictly correct, as the manor and advowson of Fritton were at that time the estate of the Mautebys, as already shown. Blomefield had probably confounded this lordship with that of Caldecot, in Fritton, which, it appears, Sir John Fastolf presented to Magdalen College, Oxford, as we learn from the following authority: "It is ascertained that the Boar's Head, in Southwark, now divided into tenements, and Caldecot manor, in Suffolk, and probably other estates in Lovingland, in the same county, were part of the benefactions of Sir John Fastolf, Knt., to Magdalen College, Oxford."¹¹ The Master and Fellows of this Society are still owners of the manor of Caldecot Hall.

The estate has been long leased out, and by the quit-rentals for the manor of North Leet it appears, belonged in 1664 to William Fidder, Gent. It was afterwards leased to Mr. Alexander Hasler; in 1724 to Mr. Hopton; in 1749 to Mr. Hickman; and in 1771 to the Governors of the Grey Coat Hospital, in London, who are still lessees of the estate, though the college retains the manor.

Willus de Wydingham, et alii dederunt Rico Galicio, parsonse ecclie in villa de Freton in Lothynglond unam rodam terre cum p̄tin ibm.¹²

⁸ Domesday. Terræ Radulfi Balistarii.

⁹ Carta, 54 Hen. III. p. un. m. 10.

¹⁰ Rot. Hund.

¹¹ Chalmers' History of Oxford.

¹² Inq. ad quod damnium. 33 Ed. III. n. 5.

of Fritton Hall, to the parish church of Fritton, in Suffolk, in the year 1769." This unmeaning, but costly bowl is, therefore, the dedication of tastelessness, but not the offering of parsimony. The small east window contains a few pieces of stained glass, the fragments of a splendid enrichment which once sparkled here in greater profusion, as we learn from a survey of this church made about the year 1573.¹³ At that period the following armorial ensigns were in the windows of "Freton church."

Gul: 3 gemelles, or, a canton arj: syded with or and gules, quarterly a battune in bend gules. Mauteby impaled with Lovaine and Clavinging syded. Caley impaled with Mauteby. B and or, pale, a chief gul: impaling Repps.

In the parish registers is the following rather curious entry: "On the 17th day of August, 1816, Hannah Freeman did penance in this church for defaming the character of Mary Bauham, spinster." I transcribe the next article, as showing the price of wearing apparel in the year 1701, furnished to a parish pauper.

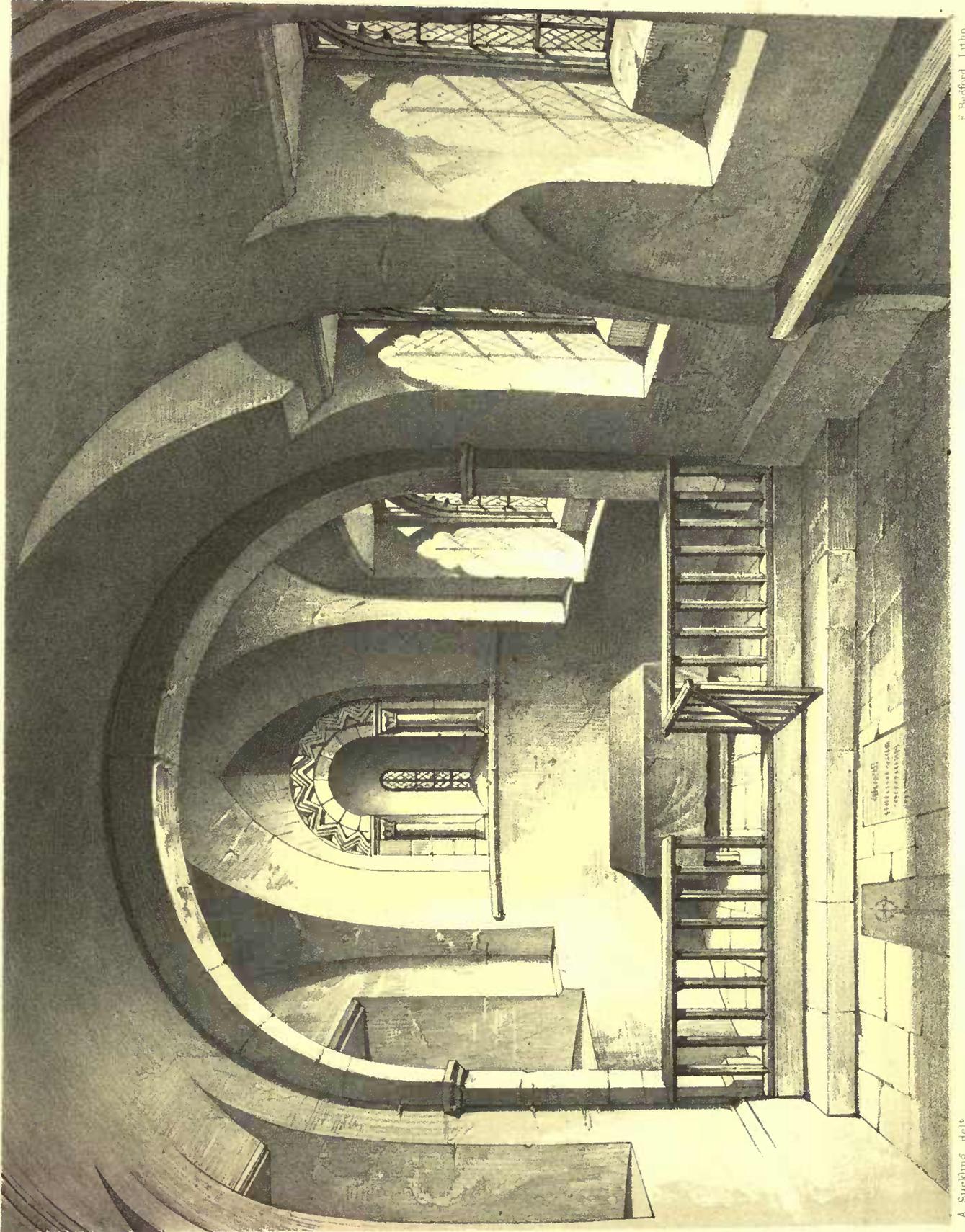
"Layd out for the moder Codnum	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
For a gowne	4	6
More, for a par of bodyes	2	2
For a shift	2	0
For a petty coat	1	10
For a pair of storkings	1	8
For a mentell	1	8
For a hat	10	
For a pair of shoes	2	4

Monuments.—The Rev. William Bevan, clerk, many years Rector, died June 14th, 1767, æt. 60. Francis Turner, Esq., of Great Yarmouth, and of this parish, died 17th Dec. 1796, æt. 54. Elizabeth, his relict, died 5th Jan. 1830, aged 84. On a tablet imbedded in the exterior face of the chancel wall: Thomas Skeet, Rector 45 years, died y^e 22nd Sept. 1720, aged 68. This gentleman must, therefore, have been inducted in his twenty-third year.

RECTORS OF FRITTON.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Robert le Rye	1306	Agatha, widow of Nicholas of Freton.
William de Sotherton	1318	Katharine Fitz-Osbern.
Robert de Burshyerd	1322	Ead.
William de Aldeby		
Stephen de Redham	1328	Ead.

¹³ Lansdowne MSS. 258,



A. Suckling, del.

F. Bedford, Litho.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
John le Neve, de Belton	1329	Katharine Fitz-Osbern.
John de Belton	1332	Ead.
Richard Galyerd, de Sandringham	1349	Robert de Mauteby, Knt.
John Hunt	1383	John de Mauteby.
Robert Bokenham, de Ellingham	1389	Id.
John Cade	1425	Simon Felbrig, and others.
John Atte Chirche	1430	Id.
John Holtman	1445	John Paston.
John Wimondham, Canon: S: Olavi	1449	Id.
William Tindale	1453	Id.
William Beverley	1458	Id.
Thomas Ennok	1460	Id.
William Norwich	1474	Margaret Paston, of Mauteby.
Edward Andrew	1483	Ead.
John Heydon	1485	John Paston, Esq.
Thomas Wilson	1505	William Paston, Esq.
Peter Man		
Thomas Pydcock	1532	Id.
Robert Smith	1563	The Bishop, by lapse.
John Underwood	1563	Clement Paston, exōr of William Paston, Esq.
John Watlynge	1585	William Sydnor, Esq.
John Underwood	1598	William Sydnor, of Blundeſton.
Jernegan Jenney	1600	Id.
John Underwood	1624	Id.
John Caley	1640	Cler. Talbot.
William Barbour	1674	Thomas Allin, clk.
Thomas Skeet	1675	Id.
Gregory Clarke	1720	Gregory Clarke, Gent.
George Ogle	1726	Eliz. Clarke, widow.
George Ogle, 2nd time	1727	Ead.
Thomas Carter	1731	John Burkin, Esq., and James Carter, clk.
William Bevan	1742	James Burkin, with consent of John Fowle, Esq., his guardian.
William Buckle	1767	Sarah Allin, widow.
Charles Buckle	1788	Catharine Buckle, spinster.
Francis William Cubitt	1829	Himself.

Estimatio ejusdem x marc. Norwich Domesday.

The parish of Fritton contains 1562 acres, 3 roods, 31 perches of land, of which 69 acres, 17 perches, are covered by the lake. Domesday Book makes no mention of a church or glebe lands here: the glebes at the present day include 13 acres, 3 roods, 33 perches, and the rent charge in lieu of tithes amounts to £ 270.

The population in 1841 was returned at 223 souls.

Gorleston.

GORLESTON was, probably, a place of importance before Yarmouth was built, and seems to have declined in prosperity as the latter town has advanced. Yet of its earlier history little can be said. Even the national annals of East Anglia are meagre and defective, and the records of its villages must, consequently, be incomplete. Many large stones, however, arranged in the form of a circle, which were removed from a field called Stone-close, in the year 1768, and three from a neighbouring enclosure, of a large size, and full ten feet high, attest in a great measure the truth of a tradition, that Gorleston was a spot selected by the Druids for the celebration of their mystic rites. But more certain evidences of Roman occupation are gathered from the frequent discoveries of coins and urns, and broken utensils, of that wonderful people. And here, crowning the summit of some bold commanding cliff, now wasted, perhaps, by the ocean, might have stood Garianonum, with more probability than at Bugh. Its very name, as anciently written, is by no means unindicative of such an appropriation; Garleston bearing an evident reference to its situation at the mouth of the Gar.¹ If the intermediate syllable be considered epenthetical, we have simply "the village on the Gar;" but if the word be composed of the Saxon Gar-leas-ton, we derive from the combination, "the smaller town on the Gar," or, in modern language, Little Yarmouth: a very singular coincidence. I do not, however, advocate such a position for the site of Garianonum, for reasons already adduced, but would contend for a minor station, or speculative fortress; which, if erected here, must have commanded a most advantageous view of the ocean, with the fullest means of interior communication.

Upon the final abandonment of Britain by the Roman legions, Gorleston, from its prominent position on the "Saxon shore," must have been the scene of various and sanguinary encounters. Human skeletons and fragments of bones, found in vast profusion, attest the truth of traditions current to that effect; and probably the landing of Cerdic, in the year 495, was not far distant from this spot. Any attempt, however, to detail with minuteness the particulars of this or subsequent irruptions, might amuse the fancy of the ardent, but would only perplex veracity, and fail to elicit historical truth. Of the geological changes which Gorleston has witnessed, the formation of the sand-bank on which Yarmouth now stands is the most remarkable; but leaves and

¹ In a very ancient map of this village, formerly belonging to 'honest' Tom Martin, its name is spelt Garleston.

fruits, and other productions of nature, which have been found underlying at a considerable depth the present surface of the soil, in the lower parts of the village, show the vast accumulation that has been made, since the remote times when the river filled the entire valley.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, Earl Gurth held in Gorleston five carucates of land as a manor. There were then twenty villeins, or husbandmen; but at the period of the Domesday Survey, and when this lordship was royal demesne, these were reduced to twelve. There were at both periods five bordars. The Earl had five slaves here, but the Conqueror possessed only four: in short, the value of the entire estate was greatly depreciated. Gurth had employed two ploughs on the demesne lands, but the King used only one. The Saxon tenants had five ploughs, but the Normans kept only three. The former had possessed two draught horses, but at the Survey there were none. The Druidical oaks, if they ever flourished here, must have disappeared at any early period, for in the Confessor's reign, and also at the Conquest, there was wood sufficient to maintain only five swine. There were but ten acres of meadow in the parish, from which we gather that the fertile lands, which now lie between Braydon and the town, were covered by the tides, or formed boggy salt-marshes at the best.

Three salinæ, or salt-works, were established; and the manor always maintained 300 sheep. A curious return, connected with Gorleston, was that twenty-four fishermen, who belonged to the manor, resided at Yarmouth. Ninety acres of land, parcel of the lordship, were situated in Somerleyton, which seem to have been the property of twenty free-men dwelling at Gorleston. Four other free-men also held an estate in the latter parish, which had fallen in value from 20 shillings to 16 shillings. Roger Bigod was the King's steward over the whole lordship.²

The manor of Gorleston appears to have remained with the Crown till the reign of Henry III. or Edward I., when it was held by Warin de Munchensy, by the service of one knight's fee.

*Inquisitio de singularibus feod: milit: de socag: et sergantiis que tenent: de dno R: in cap: in comitatibz Norff. et Suff. Que dicit Warin de Munchensy ten: Gurlleston p: svic feod: uni: mil.*³

In the reign of Edward II., John Baliol was lord of Gorleston, when it seems to have been annexed to the Half Hundred of Lothingland, as it passed in succession through the same descents. Being forfeited by the De la Poles, it was regranted on the 28th of January, 1510, by Henry VIII., to Edward Jerningham, Esq., and Mary his wife. Sir Edward died in 1515, seized, inter alia, of the manors of East and West and North and South Lect, in Gorleston.⁴ Following the same conveyances as the Half Hundred, this

² Domesday, Terra Regis, &c.

³ Testa de Nevill, 283.

⁴ Inquis. p. mort.

property fell into the family of Anguish, and afterwards descended to Lord Sydney Osborne, who sold it in 1844, to Samuel Morton Peto, Esq.

The court books for the manor of Gorleston begin in the year 1665; the style of them is, "The court of ancient demesne." From the above year till 1670, the leets are regularly entered, and chief pledges sworn for Gorleston, and the usual presentments and entries made. There were formerly a set of stewards of these leets, elected from among the chief tenants of the manor, and called Chievers, whose office was to collect the ancient demesne rents, yearly, in rotation. An ancient MS., commencing in 1583, contains "a particular of the Cheevers in Gorleston, who are to collect the ancient demesne rents there, yerlie, by and in their courses and orders, being xxxiiij^s. and iiij^d. per an., there being xvij cheevs in number. To be elected by the inquest of office at a court yerlie, at Gorleston, called the auncient demesne court, holden for the manor of Gorleston on Fridaie in Quinquagesima weeke, to beare the office of Bayliffe for the said manor of Gorleston. The rents are to be collected at thanciacion and michaelmas following after the election, and to be paid to the lorde of Lothingland, or to his Bayliffe yerlie by equal porcons, viz. the some of xxxiiij^s. iiij^d. And the Chiever, or his deputie, is to have for his labour vj^s. viij^d., so in all there is yerlie to be collected the some xli^s., as appears by ancient rentals." Among the Chievers' memorandums is one dated 1595, "That Richard Ward did leave the office for this chief (Hertes Chief) in an^o. 1595, anoque Eliz. Rnē Angl. xxxvij, and then did paie the whole rent w^tout eny helpers, because he could not fynd eny lands belonging unto the said Tente or Chiefe, out of his owne possession or occupation." Then follows a list of persons annually elected from 1645 to 1662; the last of whom was the lord himself. The chiever has not been elected nor the rent collected for many years, and indeed no traces remain of the custom.

THE MANOR OF BACON'S, IN GORLESTON.

This manor seems to have acquired its name from the ancient family of Bacon, who possessed considerable interests here towards the latter end of the thirteenth century. In 1292, John Bacun, most probably the warrior buried in the chancel of Gorleston church, is mentioned in the Inquisition Rolls, "de via in Reston inter Jernemuth et Morford includenda."⁵ In 1335, Sir Henry Bacon appears to have been enfeoffed of this manor, which seems to have been always held of the paramount manor of Gorleston; for in the reign of Henry VIII., John Spring, Esq., who was then lord, paid for his manor of Bacon's 26s. 4d.⁶

⁵ Calend. Inquis. post mort.

⁶ East Leet Rental.

In the first of Edward VI., Richard Gunville, Esq., was lord of Bacon's, with whose descendants it remained till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when Alice, relict of Henry Gunville, Esq., died, seized thereof, in 1580, or the following year. Richard Ward next held this manor in right of Ann, his wife, sister of the aforesaid Henry Gunville; and in the forty-fourth of Elizabeth, Henry Ward was lord. In the reign of Charles I., William Vesey, Esq., was in possession of the manor of Bacon's in Gorleston, and in 1645, Alice, his widow, held it. In 1681, Richard Vesey, Esq., was owner; and in 1693, William Vesey possessed it. In 1723, Mary Prattent, widow, occurs as lady of this manor. It was next the estate of Francis Larwood, Esq., who by will, dated February, 1749, and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 7th of May, 1750, devised it to Christopher Routh, of Norwich, Gent., in fee; who by will of the 9th of July, 1774, and proved on the 31st of July, 1783, devised it to trustees for sale, who conveyed it to Robert Harvey, the elder, Esq., citizen and alderman of Norwich, on the 11th and 12th of October, 1785. The said Robert Harvey, by will, dated October 8th, 1810, devised it to his three sons, Robert, John, and Charles, in fee, as tenants in common; who, on the 9th and 10th of October, 1818, sold and conveyed it to Thomas Read and Robert Read, of Frettenham, in Norfolk, farmers, who sold and conveyed it on the 13th and 14th of November, 1821, to James Barber, of Hopton, and afterwards of Gorleston, farmer. James Barber by his will, bearing date the 29th of January, 1842, devised his manor of Bacon's to trustees for sale, who conveyed it to William Thurtell, of Great Yarmouth, Esq., and Arthur Steward, of Southtown, otherwise Little Yarmouth, Esq., who are the present lords.

The local history of Gorleston is principally confined to the suits and contests in which it has been engaged with Yarmouth respecting the rights and privileges of the port. These have been so fully detailed by Blomefield and Swindon, in their respective histories of Yarmouth, that they require the briefest recapitulation here. While Yarmouth and Gorleston were in the King's own hands, these suits and jealousies appear never to have existed between the two places. No sooner, however, had the former obtained a charter from King John, investing its burgesses with important privileges, and the sole government of the town, than the inhabitants of Gorleston and Southtown, apprehensive of the future power of Yarmouth, discovered themselves as formidable rivals and implacable enemies. We do not, however, find any material opposition between them till the year 1228, when Roger Fitz-Osbert, warden of the manor of Lothingland, took certain customs in the port of Yarmouth, against the express liberties of the burgesses; which being represented to the King, he commissioned Martin de Pateshall, and others, to inquire into, and ascertain what customs belonged to the burgesses, and what to his said manor of Lothingland. Whereupon an inquisition was taken at Yarmouth, the same year, upon the oaths of twenty-two knights, and

others, of Norfolk, and twenty-six of Suffolk; when a verdict was found that all wares ought to be sold and unladen at Great Yarmouth; and that all the haven belonged to the burgesses of that town; but that the lesser wares and victuals might be unladen at Lothingland, or the Yarmouth side, at the option of the owners, or the importers thereof. This determination, however, was far from satisfactory to the burgesses of Yarmouth, for since by it ships might unlade with victuals on the Lothingland side, and as their chief trade was fishing, they found themselves considerably injured in the disposal of an article whence arose their greatest profits. In the year 1256, therefore, they petitioned for and obtained of the King a new charter, that all merchandizes and wares, as well of fish as of other commodities, should be sold at Yarmouth, by the hands of the importers of them into the haven, whether found in ships, or without; and that henceforth there be no brokers in the aforesaid town of Yarmouth, by whom the buyers and sellers may be impeded, to the detriment of the said town. Notwithstanding this charter, there were afterwards frequent controversies between the burgesses and the inhabitants of Gorleston. The latter on many occasions continued their claim to, and exacted, some of the customs exclusively granted to Great Yarmouth. In the eighth of Edward II., an inquisition was consequently taken about the rights of John Baliol, in his Hundred of Lothingland, and the towns of Little Yarmouth and Gorleston: he having taken for every foreign ship 18*d.*; for every English ship 4*d.* per annum; for every loaded cart or horse one halfpenny; for every last of herrings by a foreign merchant 4*d.*; the payage belonging to him was valued at 4*d.* He used also to take attachment of every ship anchoring on the Lothingland side, as far as the file of the water.

Disputes continuing to arise between the contending parties, in the beginning of the reign of Edward III., the men of Little Yarmouth and Gorleston, in defiance of the King's proclamation and all means used to restrain them, proceeded to the most daring and tumultuous riots, by which the burgesses of Yarmouth were insulted and plundered of their goods, and one of the inhabitants killed. In the third of Edward III., six men of Gorleston were tried for taking away, by force, herrings and other goods, to the amount of £20, the property of Richard Rose, of Great Yarmouth; and the next year the said Richard Rose again prosecuted five other men of Gorleston, for carrying away his vessel, by force and arms, value £10. In the same year, also, Henry Randolph impleaded fourteen men of Gorleston, for taking away £30 of his cash; and beating, wounding, imprisoning, and otherwise cruelly treating John Whynhowe, his servant, so that he was deprived of his services for a long time. In the fifth of the same King, anno 1331, amongst other cases, John Elys impleaded eleven men of Gorleston for a similar offence; and in the same year many men of Little Yarmouth and Gorleston were judged for murdering a man in one of these riotous conflicts. However, as the rights of the burgesses of Yarmouth became more clearly determined, and more solemnly

ratified, these daring assaults and contests in proportion subsided. Thus matters continued, without any material interruption, till the twelfth of Queen Elizabeth, when the Earl of Richmond, and his tenants of Southtown, or Little Yarmouth, raised a contest about the ground on the south side of the haven's mouth. This and other differences were referred to the arbitration of Sir Christopher Heydon and Sir William Butts, whose award, in a few plain articles, was conclusive and satisfactory to both parties. In the first place, they decreed that certain stakes or doles should be set near the haven of Great Yarmouth, and that the south part thereof should be to Sir Henry Jernegan, then lord of the manor of Gorleston, and his heirs, for ever, and the north part unto the town of Great Yarmouth, in perpetuity. Provided that if the haven shall win or run in its former passage, and leave the same waste soil between the haven and the sea, then this article to bind no longer any of the parties. Also, that Gorleston and the inhabitants thereof, whensoever they fish, shall and may as largely and lawfully sell and discharge their fish, out of their own bottoms, at their pleasure, and where they will, as heretofore they have used, so as their order extend not to any stranger not inhabiting there. Also, that whensoever there shall happen any boat to be fastened on Gorleston side, so that the same do not float to the nuisance of the haven, or else drawn up on land on that side, that no bailiff, or other officer of Yarmouth, shall from henceforth any ways arrest, attach, or take the same boat, during the time that the same remain so fastened or drawn up. Provided that this article, or any part thereof, shall not extend to the imbaring of the admiral-jurisdiction, or any parcel of the same. Also, that all manner of suits, now depending between the town of Great Yarmouth and Sir Henry Jernegan, or between the same town and the town of Gorleston, shall utterly cease.

Notwithstanding this equitable arbitration, about six years after, anno 1579, when Queen Elizabeth was at Norwich, an old dispute having been revived concerning the sale of fish and other merchandizes at the town of Gorleston, the burgesses obtained a letter, addressed to the sheriff and justices of Suffolk, from Her Majesty's Privy Council, forbidding "such fair, market, buying, selling, &c.;" upon which the men of Gorleston, Lowestoft, &c., petitioned for a repeal of that prohibition, which occasioned the burgesses again to produce their charters in their justification. In 1616, the bailiffs of Yarmouth petitioned for an extension of their privileges to the west side of the haven, but apparently without effect, till the twentieth of Charles II., 1668, when Southtown was incorporated with Great Yarmouth. This was in consequence of a Bill brought into the House of Commons by Sir Robert Paston, Knt., on behalf of himself and the men of Southtown, or Little Yarmouth, in the sixteenth of that reign; but, from the opposition of Great Yarmouth, the Incorporation Act did not take place till 1668, when the burgesses thought fit to make a virtue of necessity, as the Bill had been already passed three years; and they accordingly settled the terms of their incorporation with Sir

Robert Paston, when the two towns were united. Hence a period was put to their numerous disputes and contentions; for as these chiefly originated from a desire of superiority and a jealousy of each other's privileges and prerogatives, their liberties and franchises no sooner became common, than quarrels and controversies gave place to peace and unanimity.⁷ Southtown is therefore now within the jurisdiction of Yarmouth, although it is considered a hamlet of Gorleston, to which village its inhabitants are parochially assessed.

In the second of Edward III., 1329, Gorleston sent representatives to a council held by that monarch.⁸ In the seventh of the same reign, we find this place furnishing its quota of mariners and ships for the King's service in the Scotch wars.

R: taxatoribz et collectoribz decime et quindecime in com: Norff: saltm: mandamus vob: qd: de denar: de decima, &c., solvatis Johi Perbroun, quem constituim⁸ capitaneum et admirallum flote nre navium que in obsequium nrm ad ptes Scoocie sunt venture centum marcas sup: expensis marinarior quinq: navium quas apud Magnam Jernemutam et Pvam Jernemutam et Gorleston p videri, et exinde usq: dcas ptes Scoocie ordinavim destinare faciend: put: &c: Et hoc &c.⁹

In the nineteenth of Edward III., Sir John de Herlyng claimed a tallage on the herrings brought into Gorleston haven. This must, I presume, have been imposed in right of his manor of Newton, in which parish the mouth of the river then joined the sea.

Joes de Harlyng huit quandam custumam duor: denar: de quolibet lasto alecis apud Magnam et Parvam Jernemuth, et Lothingland.¹⁰

The bridge over the Yare, which unites Yarmouth and Lothingland, was first built in 1417, at a place where there had been a ferry-boat employed before; but it was not until 1553 that it became a drawbridge. This alteration was not made for the convenience of commeree, but for the purpose of defending and keeping the town of Yarmouth for the use of Queen Mary, in whose favour the burgesses had greatly exerted themselves. This drawbridge was broken down and carried away by a strong tide and tempestuous weather in 1570. As there was no passage over the haven while this was rebuilding, the jealousies of the inhabitants of Yarmouth and Gorleston rekindled disputes about the ferries. It appears from old rolls, that in the reign of Edward II. there were two ferries; one, a foot ferry, where the bridge now stands, and a horse ferry at the north end of Gorleston Street, which continued to be so used, as the king's highway passed the Yare at that spot, till the building of Yarmouth Bridge. The pontage of the former ferry belonged to the burgesses of Yarmouth, but the right

⁷ Swindon. Blomefield.

⁸ Willis, Parl. Not. v. i. p. 33.

⁹ Claus. Rot. 25, 7 Ed. III.

¹⁰ Calend. Inquis. ad quod damnum, 19 Ed. III.

of the ferry at Gorleston Street was always an appendage to that manor. In the first of Henry VIII., 1509, the ferryman at Gorleston paid 8s. 4*d.* rent to the lord.¹¹ The right of a foot ferry is also mentioned in the grant of the manor, by the same monarch, to Sir Henry Jerningham and his heirs for ever, to be enjoyed as hath been used and now is.¹² This right was also conceded to Sir Henry Jerningham and his heirs by Sir Christopher Heydon and Sir William Butts, when they compromised the disputes, as already related, in the year 1571.

In consequence of the increase of population and commerce, the following application was made to the lord of the manor of Gorleston, in 1834, for the establishment of an additional ferry over the Yare.

“To the Rev. George Anguish.

“We the undersigned occupiers and owners of property in Great Yarmouth and Southtown, constantly experiencing great inconvenience from the want of an additional communication between the present ferry at Gorleston, and Yarmouth Bridge, beg to request Mr. Anguish, the proprietor of the ferry, to provide an additional ferry-boat to ply on the river, in the vicinity of the Armoury, by which persons connected with trade will be accommodated, and facilities of communication afforded to the increased number of inhabitants, on either side of the river.

(Signed)

WILLIAM BARTII.

“Yarmouth, January 27th, 1834.”

Nearly one hundred signatures were attached to the above requisition, which was complied with by Mr. Anguish.

Tradition relates that Gorleston possessed a weekly market in the time of King Canute, but no records seem to prove the fact. Domesday Book makes no mention of such a privilege, and the public rolls of the subsequent reigns contain no grant to that effect. It is true, that in the unhappy contests in which this village was involved with the burgesses of Yarmouth, in the reign of Edward III., it was asserted, that both before and after the making of the aforesaid charter, they—the men of Gorleston—were always seized of a fair and market—“ante confeccionem predictæ carte et post, semper fuerunt seisciti de feria, mercato,” &c. And again, at an inquisition taken at Norwich, in the fifth year of the same reign, although it was admitted that there was no certain fair day at Gorleston, yet the inhabitants claimed a right to hold a market on Thursday. “Dicunt quod ibi est mercatum per diem Jovis, et esse debet, et non est ibi certus dies nundinarum.” Still, in all the subsequent arrangements made to heal these dissensions, no concession appears to have been made to the men of Gorleston of the privilege of a weekly market. So that we may presume, if a market was occasionally held at Gorleston, the holding it was one of those aggressions on the rights and privileges of

¹¹ Court-Rolls.

¹² Id.

Yarmouth which led to the contests already related. A small fair, however, for toys, &c., is annually held at Whitsuntide, but, I believe, by custom only.

A Cross formerly stood near the White Horse Inn, Fenn Street, and another near the Feathers' Inn, High Street. The mutilated remains of others were visible a few years since; that at the south end of the town, removed in 1798, latterly bore the appellation of the Devil's Tomb-stone.¹³ The ancient name of this relic of by-gone days was Clement's Cross, as appears from an entry in the Chievers' accounts for 1597. "Hered: Rogeri Godsalve t. ij ac: terr: quondm dēi Johis Gunvile, olim Henrici Reppis, contra *crucem Clementij*; anglicè, at or against Clemts Crosse."

And in the same record, mention is made of half an acre of land "juxta crucem Clemts, abutting sup: viam ducem a Holgate-way pd. vss Fritton vss aquilon." A white stone, which divided Corton and Gorleston, is mentioned in the perambulation of Newton, where it was called John-a-Lane's Crosse.

It is said that two or three streets were burnt down in Gorleston by an accidental fire, in that part of the town called Burnt Lane, and that a rope-manufactory was also destroyed by the same calamity in the vicinity of Roper's Lane. The fire is stated to have broken out in the kitchen of the priory, and to have devoured all the houses which surrounded that edifice. The houses thus consumed are said to have been large and good structures, and were the property of the prior and monks.¹⁴ But as Leiston Abbey held houses in Little Yarmouth as early as the thirty-fifth of Henry III.,¹⁵ might not the dwellings which were thus destroyed have belonged to that abbey, rather than to the mendicant friars of Gorleston, who by their vows were to remain destitute of all fixed revenues and possessions? Butley Priory had rents in Gorleston, as appears by the court-rolls of the manor for the fourteenth of Edward I.¹⁶

Magdalen College, Oxford, as owners of Caldecot Manor, in Fritton, also possessed an estate in Gorleston, called Spitlings, granted, apparently, by Henry Spitling, of Gorleston.

Colleg: t: un ac: ibm̄ in dēo Clo: voc: Spitling, et jac: ext: occid: coīs vie ducem̄ ab eccle Sci Andrea de Gorleston usq: ad eccliam p̄ve Jernemuth.¹⁷

The Cistercian Abbey of Beaulieu, in Hampshire, had rents amounting to £6. 13s. 4d. per annum, arising from houses and fisheries in South Town, as appears from the Taxatio Ecclesiastica of Pope Nicholas IV., made about the year 1291. The Prior of St. Olave's, also, had 1s. 8d. annual rent here; the Abbey of Boxley, in Kent, 13s. 4d.; the Abbey of Leiston, £2. 10s.; and the Prioress of Campsey 9 shillings.

¹³ Ex inform. Mr. W. E. Randall.

¹⁴ MSS. W. E. Randall.

¹⁵ Court-Rolls.

¹⁶ Id.

¹⁷ Id.

THE PRIORY OF AUSTIN FRIARS, OR FRIARS EREMITES, IN GORLESTON.

I have been able to collect very little concerning the history of this conventual establishment, and Camden, more than two centuries ago, made the same admission. "Here I saw," says he, "the tower of a small suppressed monastery which standeth in good stead for a sea-mark;" which is all I find of it, for the 'Monasticon,' and Speed, out of Leland, make not the least mention of it. This convent was founded by William Woderove and Margaret his wife, about the middle of the reign of Edward I., and probably before 1291, because South Yarmouth is mentioned in the Lincoln Taxation, made in that year. In 1310, the fourth of the following reign, the precincts of this establishment were enlarged by the liberality of Roger Woderove, as appears by an inquisition for Suffolk, taken at that time.

De donatione Rogeri Woderove pro manso elargando: pro priori Sei Augustini Gernemuthe plac: terr: contin: 64 pedes in longitudine, et 4 pedes in latitud: in Bradwelle, Jernemutha Parva.¹⁸

The house seems to have been early involved in disputes with the vicar of Gorleston; and Tanner mentions, as existing among the collections of Bryan Twyne, "instrumenta tria de litibus inter fratres Augustinienses et vicarium ecclie poch de Gorleston coram Willmo de Bergavenny, S. T. P., Cancellario Oxon, et aliis commissariis Johannis Epis. Oxon, conservatoris privelegior: istius ordinis, &c." A composition was afterwards entered into between the provincial of the Friars Eremites of the order of St. Austin, in England and Scotland, and the prior and convent of St. Bartholomew in London, proprietors of the church of St. Andrew, in Gorleston, and St. Nicholas, in Little Yarmouth, respecting a house and oratory in these parishes.¹⁹

The priory of Gorleston is chiefly remarkable, and has a high claim to distinction, as the seat of literature at a period consigned to contempt by many, as barbarous and dark. Lambard, speaking of this convent, says, "here was of late years a librarie of most rare and pretious workes, gathered together by the industrię of one Jhon Brome, a monk of the same house, which dyed in the reigne of King Henry the Sixte." Fosbrooke terms this John Brome "an Ayscough, or Wanley of antiquity." This John Brome, prior of Gorleston, he tells us, put indexes to almost all the books in his library. William Smith, of Weston, by Beccles, in 1504, by his will gave as follows: "Item. I bequeath to the Austyn Friars in Southlton, *i. e.* Gorleston, 20 shillings: they to pray and say for my fader and my moder a solemn dirge with a mass; and every fryer ther, beying a preste, to have 4^d.; every one being no preste, 2^d." Swindon, in his history of Yarmouth, has noticed several of the burgesses as benefactors to this

¹⁸ Inquis. ad quod damnū. 4 Ed. II.

¹⁹ Index Monast.

convent. In 1355, William Oxney gave to the Austin Friars of South Town 10^s. In 1362, Stephen de Stalham left to the friars of St. Austin, of Little Yarmouth, five marks. In 1374, John de Stalham left them the same sum to celebrate mass for his soul. In 1374, Jeffery de Drayton bequeathed to the friars mendicants in Little Yarmouth 40^s. In 1379, Simon Atte Gap bequeathed to these friars 13^s. 4^d. Several other donations of a like kind are recorded in the pages of that laborious antiquary. Eleanor, relict of Sir Ralf Gerburge, Knt., of Wykhampton, by her last will, dated 1386, and proved the 20th of August in the same year, leaves her body to be buried in the cemetery (in sepultura) of the Friars Eremites of St. Augustine, in Little Yarmouth, and bequeaths to that convent £iij. vj^s. viij^d., and to the House of the Lepers there xiiij^d.

Weever furnishes a list of eminent persons interred within the precincts of this house, some of whom were akin to royalty. But the churches of the Mendicant Friars were singularly rich in every species of embellishment, and universally selected as places of sepulture by the wealthy and high-born. The principal of these personages were, Richard, Earl of Clare; Roger Fitz-Osbert, and Lady Catharine, his wife; Dame Sibil Mortimer; Alexander Fastolph; Sir Henry Bacon, of Garleston; Sir Robert Bacon; Sir Thomas Hemgrave; Edmund de Hemgrave; Joan of Acris, Countess of Gloucester, second daughter of King Edward I., though it is probable she was only registered here, as there is better evidence of her interment at Clare, in Suffolk, &c. The burial-ground attached to this conventual establishment appears to have been large, and well enclosed, though it is now parcelled out, built upon, and otherwise desecrated. The remains of these Princes in Israel are occasionally discovered mingled with the dust of the mean and ignoble. All of them have fulfilled their days upon earth, and at length, in the solemn words of Holy Writ, have become "dung upon the face of the field, so that they shall not say, this is Jezebel." After the dissolution of the Priory of Augustines at Gorleston, the site was granted, in 1544, to John Eyre, whom Weever designates as a great dealer in that kind of houses. Its ruins are situated partly in the hamlet of South Town, and partly in Gorleston; the boundary line of the two places passing through the precincts of the establishment. The conventual church, however, stood wholly within the parish of Gorleston; and, if we may judge of its entirety by the fragments of a very lofty tower, lately fallen, it may be presumed to have been a splendid fabric. But the early reformers, with an honest, though indiscriminating zeal, levelled many a fair specimen of architectural taste, and the shrine-work and elaborate canopies of Gorleston Priory have given place to dilapidated ruins and the humblest dwellings. Three sides of the lofty quadrangular tower having gradually crumbled away, left, in the writer's early remembrance, the eastern face alone standing—entire to the parapets.

This tottering fragment, unsupported by angular walls, was hurled to the ground by a furious gale from the westward, in the year 1813. Its demolition was thus recorded in the provincial journals of the day. "The old steeple at Gorleston, about one hundred feet high, which has stood, and been a mark for ships passing through Yarmouth roads from time immemorial, was, on Thursday se'nnight, blown down in the gale, with a tremendous crash."²⁰

Many interesting discoveries have been made at different periods amidst the ruins of this "fallen pile." In 1806, a very ancient stone coffin was dug up in the priory close, which, from its extraordinary size and costliness, excited much attention at the time. Its length was seven feet six inches, and its width at the shoulders two feet. It bore no inscription, but a very beautiful and highly-wrought cross was deposited on the lid. In the same year was discovered in the convent-garden, another very ancient stone coffin, somewhat smaller than the first, with a Calvary cross sculptured on the cover. Fragments of a like sepulchral character, and human skeletons in vast profusion, have likewise been laid bare in the immediate vicinity of the ruins at subsequent periods.²¹ In William of Worcester's 'Itinerary,' page 375, we read "Longitudo tocius ecclesie Fratrum Sancti Augustini de Gorleyston propè Jermuth cum choro 100 gressus. Latitudo navis ecclesie 24 gressus." An impression of the seal of this house is in the Chapter House, Westminster, among the deeds of the Court of Wards and Liveries.

THE LEPER HOUSE.

In the year 1372, a house of Lepers was standing in Gorleston,²² though its situation is now unknown. It is not improbable, however, that the locality which retains the name of Hospital Yard, and Hospital Alley, may actually be the site. In 1379, Simon Atte Gap, of Great Yarmouth, bequeathed a legacy of 6*s.* 8*d.* towards its maintenance.²³ It was dedicated to St. James, and part of its possessions was held of the manor of Gapton by the singular tenure of an annual payment of a pair of gloves, which seems to have been rendered in kind as late as the middle of the seventeenth century. In the receipts for the quit-rents of the manor of Gapton Hall, for the year 1643, is the following entry: "Received of Humphrey Pinne, Gent., for one acre, called Glove acre, a payer of gloves, of him for the house, late the Hospitall of St. James in Southtowne, lyeth by the way towards Yarmouth. viii*d.*"²⁴

Some of its lands are now in the possession of Magdalen College, Oxford, in right

²⁰ Ipswich Journal, Saturday, February 27th, 1813.

²² Will Book, Heydon.

²³ Swindon.

²¹ W. E. Randall.

²⁴ Gapton Court-Rolls.

of their manor of Caldecot Hall, as appears by the following extract from the leet-rolls of Gorleston manor:—

“Colleg: pd: q: Domus lepresorum t: tres rod: ter: infra Inclm̄ q: Willi: Spitling; nunc dict: colleg: que tres rod: ter: jac: inter resid: dēi Inclī exte: orien: et Inclī Henrici Gunvyle, manij sui de Bacons, voc: le great Inclm̄, exte: occid: et abb: sup Inclm̄ nup ipius Henrici voc: Gunvyle’s pightle, vss̄ austr: et sup ter: hered: Rici Holmes vss̄ aquilon, &c.”

In the same deed mention is made of the mill-hill of the lord of the manor of Bacon’s: “p. montem molendini dēi dn̄i de Bacon’s.”²⁵

THE CHURCH

at Gorleston, which is dedicated to St. Andrew, was granted by King Henry II. to the prior and convent of St. Bartholomew, in Smithfield,²⁶ who obtained an appropriation and endowed a vicarage. The nomination to this vicarage anciently belonged to the see of Norwich, but was taken from it by Act of Parliament, in the twenty-seventh of Henry VIII., and given to the King.²⁷ It is now in private hands; James Salter, Esq., of Salutory Mount, Heavitree, near Exeter, being the present patron. The impropriation was granted, with many others, by King Edward VI., in consideration of £2055. 19s. 10¼d., to Charles Cecil, of London, Gent., and John Bell, of London, tanner, in fee, as joint tenants, by letters patent, dated February the 9th, seventh Edward VI.

The vicarage has no glebe lands, but by prescription is endowed with, or has a right to, some part of the great tithes. There are two marsh-farms at Runham, in Norfolk, attached to the vicarage of Gorleston, with South Town and West Town, that pay, at present, two shillings on the pound, rent to the vicar of Gorleston.²⁸ Mortuaries are due, by custom, and constantly paid to the minister thereof. Every boat occupied in the herring fishery, whose owners live within the parish, pays 10s. 6d.; and for every boat employed in the mackarel fare a consideration is rendered.²⁹ In 1290, Walter de Melleford, chaplain vicar of South Yarmouth, now called Gorleston, gave to the Hospital by Magdalen Gates, Norwich, an acre in Sprowston, close by their site.³⁰ The church is a large but plain edifice, comprising a nave and chancel, with two aisles, all of equal height and width, running the entire length of the fabric. These are divided from the body of the church by octangular pillars, which sustain pointed arches. At the west end stands a square tower, in which hang four bells—all that remain of its former complement of six. The three

²⁵ Lect-Rolls.

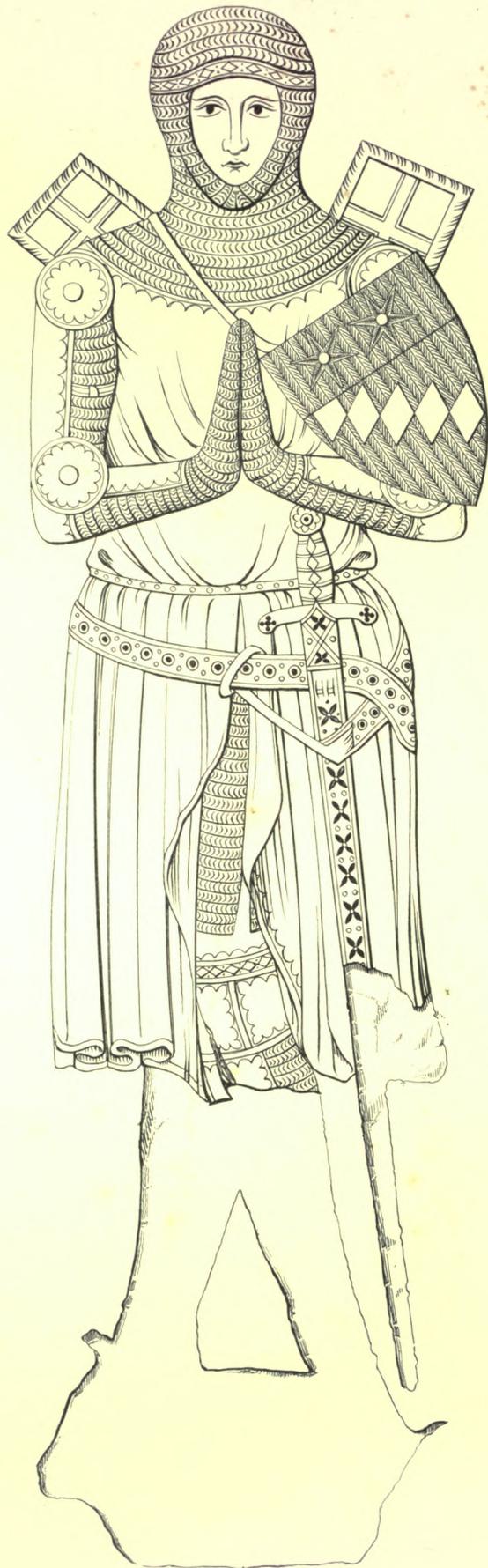
²⁶ Testa de Nevill.

²⁷ Blomefield.

²⁸ Terrier.

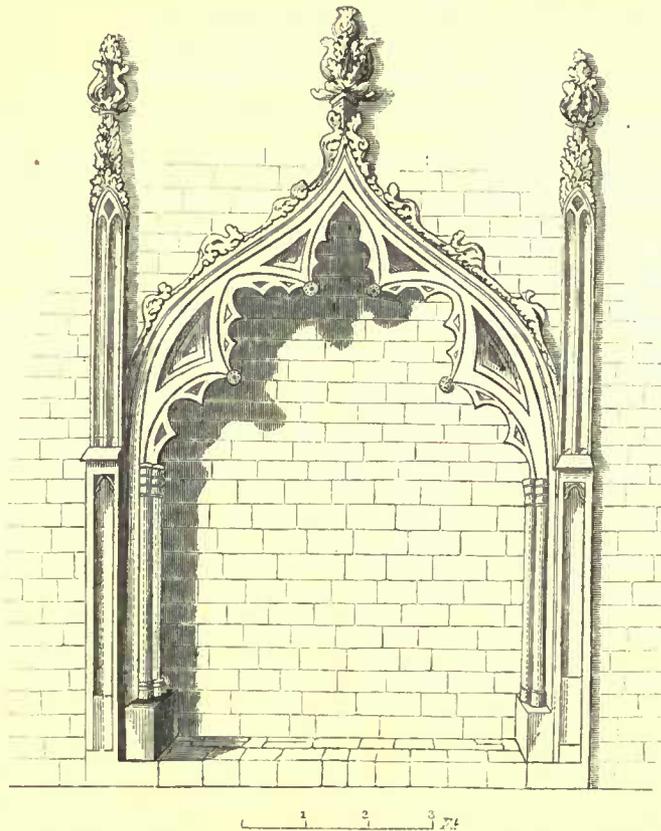
²⁹ Terrier.

³⁰ Blomefield.



5 Feet 6 Inches.

expansive windows which fill the east ends of the nave and aisles are in bad condition, closed with masonry, and consigned to neglect. The interior is neat and reputedly fitted, but is not devoid of modern disfigurements, the most hideous of which is its clumsy altar-piece. It contains, however, several ancient embellishments, which, though partially mutilated, still exhibit boldness of execution and elegance of fancy. In the north wall of the chancel is a pointed arched recess, formed within the thickness of the wall, enriched with crockets and elaborate finials. It contains a mutilated coffin-shaped slab, which probably covers the ashes of the founder.



The east end of the south aisle was formerly separated from the other portions of the edifice by a screen of oak, of which part remains. It formed the private chapel or chantry of the Bacons, lords, in ancient days, of the manor of Bacon's, in this village, and contained, in 1828, four large slabs of Purbeck marble, in which had originally been placed as many sepulchral effigies in brass. Round the edge of one of these memorials was an inscription in Norman-French, illegible in most places, but clearly retaining the letters IO BĀ This stone seems to be referred to in Harvey's

Collection of Funeral Monuments; for he says, "in the church of Gorlestone; 1. gu. a bend lozengy sa. on a chief arg. 2 estoiles of the 2nd; Bacon. 2. Sabyne, the mother of John Bacon." The cross-legged effigy of a knight, bearing the same armorial cognizance, and represented in the opposite engraving, occupied the matrix of a second of these slabs. The figure had long been lost, when this church was first visited by the writer, and considered irrecoverable, but was unexpectedly discovered amidst the collection of sepulchral brasses sold after the death of Craven Ord, Esq., in 1830. It was then purchased by the late John Gage Rokewode, Esq., who laudably restored it to the church from which it had been sacrilegiously abstracted. By the care, and, I believe, at the expense of Dawson Turner, Esq., of Yarmouth, it was refixed in its original matrix, and the stone to which it is attached, having been removed from the Bacon chantry, is now placed vertically against the north wall of the chancel, not far from the founder's tomb—a situation selected to preserve it from further injury. The figure is, unfortunately, broken at the lower extremities, but when entire measured five feet six inches in height, and is placed under a canopy supported by buttresses, all of the fashion of the reign of Edward I.; the brass inlays of which are also reaved. Blomefield, in his Church Notes, mentions that the feet of this figure rested on a boar's head, and adds, "I take this to be of the Bacon family, notwithstanding the bendlet lozengy, as also from the stone which joins to the former, under which lies Jane Bacun." No doubt, I think, can be entertained but that this effigy represents John Bacon, mentioned in the Inquisition Rolls of 1292. The whole design and contour of the monument agree perfectly with this date. This extremely curious memorial is one of five specimens only, which the kingdom now possesses, of cross-legged effigies in brass. As an example of early art it yields in interest to none, though it is not so rich in detail as that of Sir Roger de Trumpeton, at Trumpington, in Cambridgeshire, or the still more elaborate one in Acton church, in this county, which is a little posterior in date. The vambraces and goussettes of plate intermixed with the chain-armour of this warrior show the gradual progress of the former, which finally completely enveloped the person, leaving the latter as an inner defence, or shirt of mail only. At the shoulders appear gonfannons, or ailettes—little wings of leather attached by cords to the armour—and which, in the present example, are charged with the cross of St. George. These curious appendages seem to have been introduced in the chivalric reign of our first Edward, and continued in fashion about half a century. In 1828, the slabs which covered the remains of the Bacons in Gorleston church were raised for the purpose of constructing a vault for the Astley family. On removing the stone to which this effigy had been attached, a perfect skeleton was discovered, wrapped in lead, lying about five feet beneath the surface of the soil. The hair was perfectly white, and



Penrice Bell Esq. del.

J. Weale sculp.

THE RESURRECTION.
FONT IN GORLESTON CHURCH

London, John Weale, 1846.
Printed in Colors by Stanidge & Co.

on being exposed to the air, instantly fell from the skull. Beneath the other slabs several skulls and bones were found, but no perfect skeleton was exhumed.

The font which stands at the west end of the nave, beneath a modern organ loft, is an octagonal block of stone, having seven of its sides charged with sculptures of the Romish sacraments, while the eighth compartment represents the day of Judgment. The Judge of all mankind, seated on the rainbow, and surrounded by cherubim, is calling on the dead to arise. On the lower parts of the panel are seen figures emerging from the water, and hiding beside the hills,—fulfilling the sublime declaration, that “the sea shall give up her dead, and the wicked shall call on the mountains and the rocks to cover them.” The legend painted above is decayed, and rather obscure. It has been read,

Surrexi a mortuis venite ad me. Amen:

which is objectionable, inasmuch as this reading would make the consummation of all things immediately consequent on the resurrection of Christ. Perhaps the words of St. Jerome might be more happily applied.

Surgite mortui venite ad iudicium.

The whole of this elaborate font, now detached from a coat of lime which completely filled in the sculptures, retains much of the painting and gilding with which it was originally illuminated. As examples of art, the subjects cannot rank high, but as delineations of manners, and specimens of ancient colouring, they are entitled to much attention.

Two piscinas and the Easter sepulchre were discovered during restorations which have lately been effected in the interior. The two former are open, but the sepulchre is again concealed from view.

A few years since there were in the aisles of Gorleston church several ancient floor-stones, with floriated crosses upon them. When the church was re-pewed, in 1845, on the removal of the lid of a stone coffin, near the north-east pillar, a skeleton of very unusual size was discovered. The coffin-lid was six inches thick, on which a brass cross, five feet nine inches in length, had been inlaid.

This ancient stone was broken by the masons into six pieces, though quite entire when first discovered. Many other sepulchral memorials of a like character were also then destroyed, but some of them were removed to the west end of the church and laid as floor-stones, the sculptured sides being turned downwards.

Monuments.—Amidst a very large collection of monuments, the following are briefly noticed :

The Rev. Sir John Castleton, Bart., died 7 Nov. 1777, aged 80. Ann Castleton, died 14 March, 1789, aged 72. Lady Castleton, wife of the Rev. Sir John Castleton, A. B., breathed her last in the kalends of February, 1737, aged 45. Castleton bears az. on a bend or, 3 snakes nowed proper. Ambrose Croweh, Doctor of Phisick; Elizabeth his wife, died aged 70. Capt. Francis Saunders, died Sept. 2, 1679, aged 50. Judith, his daughter, wife of John Burrell, Vicar of Gorleston, died 9th of August, 1699, aged 43. Saunders bears party per chev. arg. and sab. 3 elephants' heads erased, counterchanged. Catherine Mary Upjohn, wife of the Rev. Francis Upjohn, Vicar, and only daughter of the late Rev. Clement Tooka, Vicar of Chippenham, in Cambridgeshire, died Sept. 15, 1840, aged 85. Gustavus Belford, Esq., died 28 Dec. 1816, aged 68 years. He was a Colonel in the Army, and son of General Belford, who distinguished himself at the battle of Culloden, in which he commanded the artillery. Anna, daughter of the above, died May 11th, 1819, aged 19 years. Nathaniel Barth, died 19 July, 1803, aged 65. Mary, his widow, died 7 March, 1824, aged 73. Jane, relict of Samuel Jefferies, Esq., late of Windsor Forest, Jamaica, and Pixton House, East Greenstead, Sussex, died 7 Jan. 1826, aged 60. Mary, wife of Lient. Richard Coggan, R. N., died April 26, 1828, aged 72. He died June 8, 1828, aged 72. Daniel Morrison, Purser, R. N., died 26 Feb. 1836, aged 64. Mary Lane, his wife, died Sep. 16, 1828, aged 40. John Beart, died June 15th, 1819, aged 39. Michael Chitty, Captain in the East Kent Militia, died 7 Aug. 1816, aged 47. Edmund Bennett, Lient. R. N., died Aug. 21, 1817, aged 43. Elizabeth, his wife, died Feb. 4, 1822, aged 58. Richard Priestley, Esq., R. N., son of the Rev. Thomas Priestley, vicar of Snettisham and Heacham, in Norfolk, died 12 Feb. 1825, aged 44. The Rev. Thomas Tanquary, died Dec. 1, 1841, aged 71. Elizabeth, his wife, died Sep. 22, 1843. Lient. Daniel Disney, died March 11th, 1792, aged 63. Elizabeth, his wife, died Aug. 4, 1800, aged 61. William Goodericke, Esq., died May 20, 1831, aged 77. Nicholas Bell, died Feb. 12, 1693. George Pattinson, died Sep. 17, 1843, aged 77. He bequeathed £50 to the Gorleston and Southtown national schools. Catharine Astley, died at Norwich, Nov. 9, 1828. She was the grand-daughter of Sir Jacob Astley, Bart., of Melton Constable, and of Henry Bell, Esq., of Wallington Hall, in Norfolk. Thomas Browne, D. D., Master of Christ's Coll., Camb., Rector and Vicar of Gorleston, died April 19, 1832, aged 67. Lucy, his widow, grand-daughter of Sir Jacob Astley, died June 23, 1843, aged 77. Mrs. Mary Master, celebrated for her charities, died Nov. 9, 1753, aged 93.

The registers of Gorleston commence in 1705, though there was, not many years since, a register book commencing in 1674; and in it was the following curious record: "Mr. Bendishe's children set down *born*, not *baptized*, because they were not baptized according to the custom of the Church of England, but by Mr. Sheldrake, the

Independent." There were formerly in the church the images of St. Christopher, and St. John, and the Guilds of St. Andrew, and St. Maria le père. The former is mentioned in the court-rolls of Gapton Hall, in the twenty-sixth of Elizabeth.

VICARS OF GORLESTON.

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
Galfridus de Boudon :	1335	Prior and Convent of St. Bartholomew at Smithfield.
James de Alba Nottele	1338	Id.
Hugo de la More de Carleton . .	1348	Id.
Albert de Southwold	1372	Id.
Thomas de Popeley	1373	Id.
William Hewet	1393	Id.
Roger Naulton	1409	Id.
William Hawarth	1429	Id.
John Duram	1436	Id.
John Cokett	1446	Id.
John Westland	1493	Id. and nomination of the Bishop.
William Trapps	1511	Id.
Thomas Yaness	1524	Id.
Richard Burgh	1545	The King.
Thomas Hodgeson	1554	The Bishop, by lapse.
Peter Dyer	1563	Nom ⁿ . of Bishop, and present ⁿ . of William Roberds, Gent.
Jac: Kynlowth	1573	Id.
Vincent Gray	1580	William Roberds, Gent.
Thomas Breton	1583	Id.
John Childe	1587	Id.
John Bolt		
William Bolt	1624	Owen Smith, Knt.
James Catton	1665	Humphrey Bedingfeld, Esq.
John Burrell	1673	Id.
John Burrell	1690	The King.
Nathaniel Boothouse	1703	Daniel Bedingfeld, Esq.
James Purnell	1704	Christopher Bedingfeld, Esq.
John Castleton	1722	Id.
Joshua Smith	1777	John Astley.
Robert Barnes	1805	The Bishop, by lapse.
Thomas Browne	1808	Catherine Astley, widow.
Thomas Browne	1813	Ead.
William Gunn	1832	Lucy Browne, widow.
Francis Upjohn	1841	Himself.

Estimatio illius xxx marc. Estimatio vicariæ ejusdem x marc.

SOUTH TOWN,

a hamlet of Gorleston, whose history has been incidentally noticed under that of the parish to which it belongs, was added to the borough of Yarmouth in 1681. It is frequently called Little Yarmouth in old writings, and was an inconsiderable place till the beginning of the present century, when the merchants of Yarmouth began to erect many excellent and commodious houses here. It was formerly divided into two parts, called South Town and West Town, by which names it is described in the disputes with the burgesses of Yarmouth, already related. South Town had formerly a church dedicated to St. Mary ultra pontem, which seems to have fallen into decay soon after the year 1511, when the livings of Gorleston and South Town were united, for it was demolished in 1548, and its ruins subsequently removed, and employed in constructing the haven and piers of Great Yarmouth. In the year 1809, there was an inscription on a stone then placed in a wall adjoining the stables of the Bear Inn, which, till within a few years previous, had stood on a piece of land on the west side of the turnpike-road—the site of the church.

Here stood the Church
of
St. Mary ultra pontem,
destroyed anno 1548.

A chapel of ease, dedicated to St. Mary, was completed in 1831, at the cost of about £ 3000, on a piece of land granted for the purpose by the Earl of Lichfield. The first stone of this edifice was laid on the 13th of September, 1830, by William Barth, Esq., acting for the Right Reverend Henry Bathurst, Bishop of the diocese, assisted by the Very Reverend the Dean of Norwich, and other clergymen and subscribers to the building. It is built of white bricks and flint, and is a wretched example of modern church architecture. The minister's stipend arises solely from pew-rents, the great and little tithes of South Town belonging to the impropriators and vicar of Gorleston.

MINISTERS OF SOUTH TOWN CHAPEL.

Ministers.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas Clowes	1831	Thomas William, Lord Viscount Anson, and others.
John Edmund Cox	1842	Id.
Francis Salt	1844	Id.

The Hermitage stood opposite to St. Mary's church, between the high road and the haven. The site is still called the Hermitage, and is the only piece of freehold land in the vicinity. It lies midway between the present St. Mary's chapel and the

Bear Inn. Nothing, however, exists, that I am aware of, to show by whom it was founded, or whether it enjoyed any endowment. It was granted in 1555 to the town of Yarmouth. The situation of the ancient prison is not so well known, though it is certain that there was one in this hamlet, for an entry in Yarmouth church books states it to have been broken open in 1297, by Simon Blaking, of Martham. A grove of old trees, with some ruined walls, and other tokens of former habitation, situated near the South Town road, and about a mile from the bridge, indicate the site of an ancient house, which was pulled down in 1826. This was formerly the residence of Mrs. Bridget Bendish, third daughter of the Parliamentary General Ireton, and grand-daughter of Oliver Cromwell; much of whose enthusiasm and sternness of character she seems to have inherited. This eccentric lady was engaged during the latter years of her life in the business of a salt-refiner. Her manufactories occupied the site of the present salt-refinery on Cobholm, a piece of land of about thirty acres in extent, near the bridge, which was formerly an island, separated from the adjoining marshes by a narrow creek, called Ladies' Haven, now stopped up. A very ancient and curious chimney-piece, most elaborately carved, and coeval, probably, with the building itself, was removed a few years previous to the demolition of the house. Tradition relates that the White Horse Inn, in Fenn Street, was once the head-quarters of Oliver Cromwell, but this is corroborated by no historical evidence. The story, perhaps, originated in the circumstance that portraits of the usurper, Ireton, Bradshaw, and other regicides, were preserved there till about the middle of the last century.³¹

There was formerly a fraternity in this hamlet called "The Guild of St. Mary de West Town ultra pontem." In 1479, Robert Atkyn gave 12*s.* to this guild, which in the thirty-seventh of Henry VIII. was entirely dissolved for ever. In 1481, Simon Bacton was the alderman.

A schedule of the jewels, ornaments, and other utensils delivered to the assembly on Wednesday next after the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, in 37 Hen. VIII., by William Dene, alderman of the said guild, and one of the comen council, which were appraised and sold, as follows, viz.

	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
A pair of calices weighing 14 oz. sold for	2	16	0
Item, three silver shoes, an ounce and half	0	4	11
Item, a damask apron, with sundry jewels fastened upon the same	2	2	0
Item, a George of silver gilt, and an arrow of silver upon a little velvet fillet	0	3	11
Item, an old damask apron	0	1	8
Item, two brass pots, three latten basons, 17 platters, 17 saucers, and 13 dishes	1	17	4
Item, a vestment of red worstead, 4 corporas cases, with a corporas cloth of linen	0	8	0
Item, nine silver spoons	1	13	4

³¹ MS. Randall.

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

Page xiii. The liberty of St. Edmund no longer returns a distinct grand jury. That privilege was abolished in the summer of 1839, on the removal of the assizes once a year to Ipswich.

BECCLES.

Besides the fine estate on the fen and common, the town of Beccles is possessed of 102A. OR. 1P. of land, let in 1846 for £250. This property has been held and managed by feoffees from a very ancient date, though no records are existing to show how and when the town first acquired it. The proceeds are annually applied for parochial purposes. An old feoffment book, commencing in 1636, and ending in 1757, containing the receipts and disbursements of the rents arising from this property, has been discovered in a lumber-room in the house of Thomas Farr, Esq., since the publication of the account of Beccles. The names of many families still residing in the town and its environs appear among the lists of feoffees, as those of Crowfoot, Elmy, Leman, Farr, and Rede, &c. Its pages contain some very curious notices illustrative of the manners and incidents of the times, especially those connected with the civil war in the reign of Charles I., when Beccles furnished soldiers for the expedition against the Scots in 1639.

	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1639. Item, given to Burton, by the consent of the Ffeoffees, at his going into Scotland to serve in the Towne Armes	2	10	0
Item, paid to Burton for three daies trayning before hee went into Scotland, the some of	0	3	0
Item, to Mr. Gosling for a suite of clothes for Burton when hee was to goe into Scotland, y ^e some of	0	18	7
Item, to William Warner for a capp for Burton at his going	0	2	8
Item, paid for a shirt for Burton before hee went into Scotland, for him to goe in	0	2	6
Item, paid for a payre of hose for him to goe into Scotland	0	2	8
Item, for two payre of shooes for him when he went awaie	0	5	4

	<i>£. s. d.</i>
Item, given to Burton's wyfe by y ^e consent of the ffeoffees, the some of	0 10 0
Item, paid to old Beane for scowring y ^e towne armes before they went into Scotland, y ^e some of	0 1 6

From the next entry it would appear that Burton had not sustained the honour of Beccles in the Scottish wars so successfully as was probably desired, for we find him returning sick, and deprived of his sword.

Item, given to Burton at his returne from Scotland, being sent a waie in y ^e Towne Armes, and comeing home sicke, and not able to worke, and for his sword hee bought, his owne being taken a waie, y ^e some of	<i>£. s. d.</i> 0 8 0
---	--------------------------

Notwithstanding this misadventure, Burton seems to have sustained some "apostolic blows and knocks" from his presbyterian opponents, as the next item proves.

Item, paid to Matt. Caston for newe lyning the Towne Armes w ^{ch} came out of Scotland w th leather, and for skowring them	<i>£. s. d.</i> 0 10 0
---	---------------------------

From the same record we gather that Beccles paid £1. 15s. 7d. towards the ship-rate, raised in 1639. In 1649, John Elmy, an ancestor, in all probability, of the family of that name, lately extinct in the male line, at Beccles, received £2. 11s. 6d. for going to the siege of Colchester, then held, in favour of the King, by those gallant royalists, Sir Charles Lucas and Sir George Lisle. In the following year, 1650, the town participated in the benefit of democratic government by paying £2. 6s. as a quarter's rate towards maintaining the Parliamentary army.

There appears from the same authority to have been a market cross formerly at Beccles, for, in 1639, the feoffees paid a considerable sum towards its reparation.

	<i>£. s. d.</i>
Item, to John Bennington, y ^e mason, for worke done by him about y ^e Crosse, y ^e some of	0 13 0
Item, to him for bringing xxxxiij bushells of lyme from y ^e Stath to y ^e Crosse	0 0 9
For bringing thirteen hundred bricks from Barsham	
Item, to Goodman Barber, of Barsham, to mende y ^e Crosse, and for fetcheng two loads of sand and a load of lyme from y ^e Stath, y ^e some of	0 6 0
Item, paid to Mr. Suckling for y ^e bricks w ^{ch} was used about y ^e Crosse in repayring of it	1 2 3
Item, paid to Amos Carter, for lyme and other things received of him, the some of £1. 5s. 3d., as appeareth by his bill, w ^{ch} was used aboute mending the crosse, and the other towne houses	1 15 3

1688. May. P^d. Gisleam for ringing for his highnesse Prince George, when he
passed through this towne in returne from Denmarke

0 5 0

Upon the rebuilding of Beccles jail, about forty years since, the feoffees granted a lease of the site, which was part of their estate, for a term of nine hundred and ninety-nine years.

WESTON.

Page 98.—After passing from the Garneys, the manor of Weston became the estate of the Wards of Bixley, near Norwich. The court books commence in 1694. In 1704, Sir Edward Ward was lord. He married Barbara Gooch, who survived him, and was lady of this manor in 1721. Sir Edward had one son, Edward, who married a Miss Randall. He died, leaving two sons, Edward and Randall, and one daughter, Susanna, who were successively owners of the manor. Susanna Ward was heiress of Sir Randall Ward, who survived his brother Edward. About 1760 she married the Earl of Roseberry, and died in a year or two afterwards. The Earl then became, and continued, lord of the manor of Weston until about 1809, when he sold it to Thomas Farr, Esq., of Beccles.

FLIXTON.

Page 207, line 2.—For ‘Oxford’ read ‘Cambridge.’

GISLEHAM.

Page 245, line 20.—For ‘March’ read ‘January.’

Page 248, line 13.—For ‘within’ read ‘without.’

FRITTON.

Page 358.—Since the account of Fritton church has been printed, I have been favoured with the following note from the Rev. J. Cubitt, the Rector: “If not too late, I should feel obliged if you will insert under the head of Fritton, that the anomalous wooden pedestal and silver bowl for a font have been supplanted by a Norman font in stone, a copy of the one at Hartland, Devonshire, as detailed in the Oxford illustrations of baptismal fonts.”

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

PRINTED BY W. HUGHES,
KING'S HEAD COURT, GOUGH SQUARE.

M E M O R I A L S

OF THE

Antiquities

OF

THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK:

OR,

Historical, Genealogical, and Architectural Notices

OF

THE SEVERAL TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF THAT COUNTY.

BY

THE REV. ALFRED SUCKLING, LL.B.

RURAL DEAN, RECTOR OF BARSHAM, AND MEMBER OF THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

Quisquis hujusmodi operis sategerit, ei non tantum multum Tædii et Laboris devorandum, sed minime vulgaris conferenda in
 evolvendis Libris exercitatio. Frustra id aggrediuntur qui titulo tenus duntaxat sapiunt.—MAITTAIRE.

London:

JOHN WEALE,

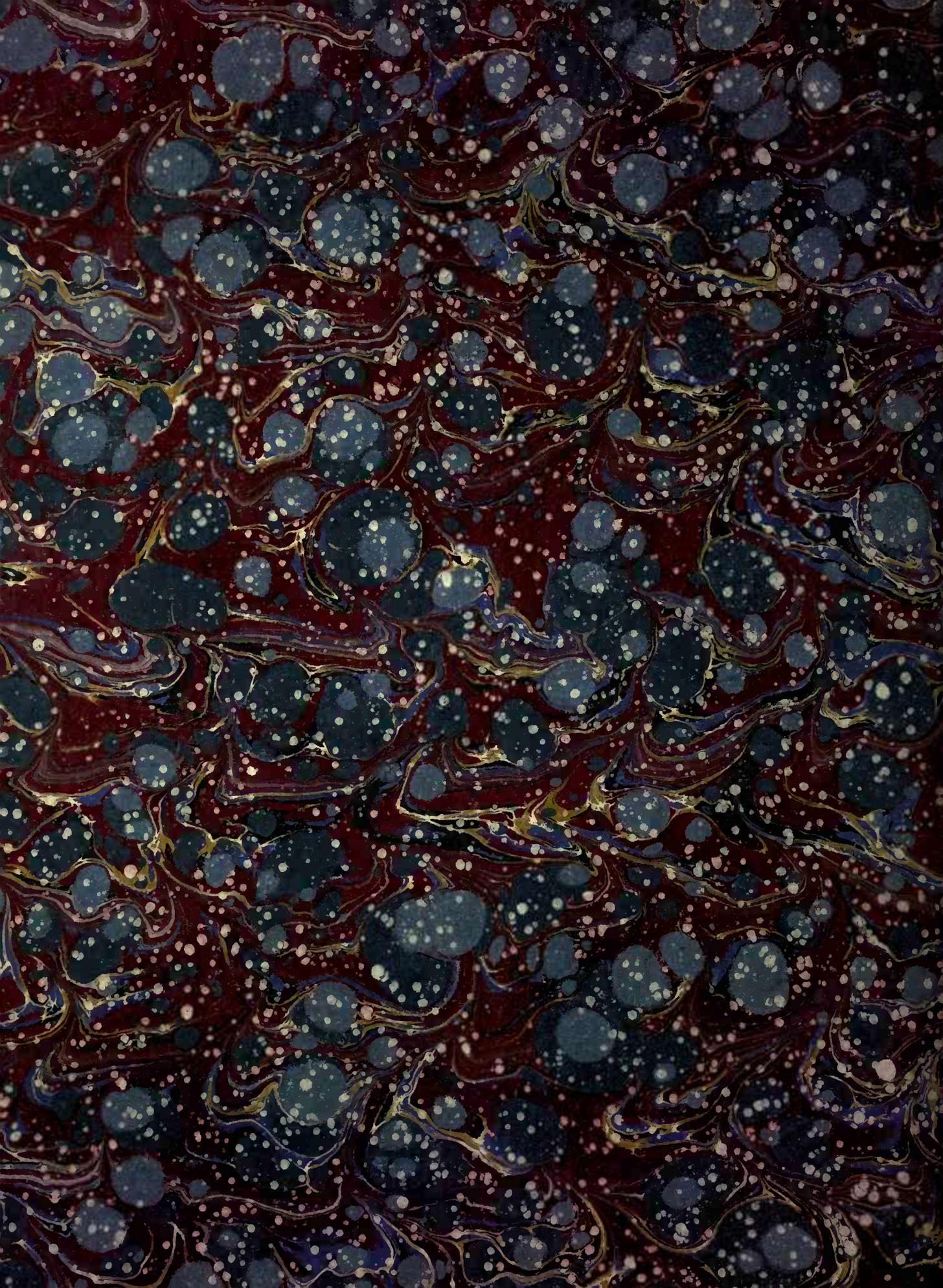
ARCHITECTURAL LIBRARY, 59, HIGH HOLBORN.

SOLD BY THE BOOKSELLERS AT YARMOUTH, IPSWICH, BECCLES, BURY, SUDBURY, THETFORD,
NORWICH, CAMBRIDGE, COLCHESTER, &c., &c.

M.DCCC.XLVI.







DA · Suckling, Alfred Inigo
670 The history and antiquities
S9S78 of the county of Suffolk
v.1

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE
CARDS OR SLIPS FROM THIS POCKET

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO LIBRARY

