

Thomas Philipott  
Villare Cantianum  
London  
1659

\* <i> <sig a>

Villare Cantianum:  
OR  
KENT  
SURVEYED and ILLUSTRATED.

Being an exact DESCRIPTION of all the Parishes  
Burrroughs, Villages, and other respective Mannors  
Included in the County of KENT;  
And, the Original and Intermedial Possessors of them,  
even until these Times.

Drawn out of Charters, Escheat-Rolls, Fines, and other  
Publick Evidences; but especially out of Gentlemens  
Private Deeds and Muniments.

By THOMAS PHILIPOTT Esq;  
formerly of Clare-Hall in Cambridge.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

An Historical Catalogue of the High-Sheriffs of KENT:  
Collected by JOHN PHILIPOTT Esq;  
Father to the Authour.

LONDON,  
Printed by William Godbid, and are to be sold at his House  
over against the Anchor Inne in Little Brittain.  
M. DC. LIX.

\* <ii>

<blank>

<iii>

To the Nobility and Gentry of KENT.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have at last demolish'd  
those difficulties which in=  
tercepted this Work, in  
that progress it endeavoured  
to make, to offer it self up  
both to yours and the pub=  
lick view. Yet I do not  
deny, in a Peice made  
rugged with so many knots,  
several Mistakes and Omissions must (through Inad=  
vertency and Mis-information) have slip'd in; some  
of which had their first extraction from the Presse,  
and some their birth from my Pen: All which I have  
collected into a Table of Addenda, which is imme=  
diately subsequent to the Preface, whither the Rea=  
der may retire to disperse all scruples.

Secondly, I have not added any Numerical Al=  
phabet, to direct the Reader, since the Book is so  
Alphabetically digested, that the Work is a Dire=  
ctory Beam or Ray to it self: To which I have an=  
nex'd, as an Appendage, a particular Description of  
all the circumambient Kentish Islands.

Thirdly, I have not so tyed my self up to those

severer Discourses which I have extracted from either publick or private Record, but that I have embroider'd this Peice with Discourses of a softer com-

<iv>

plexion; as at Bilsington, I have unfolded the Causes of the Depravation of the ancient Clergy, both in Doctrine and Manners; at Birling I have discovered the nature of that Tenure, Antiquity call'd Tenure per Baroniam; at Ewell I have unravell'd the first Institution of the Knights Templers, and the probable causes of their total extirpation; at Newington Lucies I have discours'd largely of Vrne Enterment; at Rodmersham, no less of the Institution of the Knights Hospitallers; at Werth I have treated of the Antiquity of Seals; at Wymings Would, of the Ancient Dignity of the Pileus; and have at several other places enterlac'd this Work with collateral Discourses of the same tincture.

Whatsoever this Peice may appear in the whole Frame and Bulk of it, I do assure you it was not born without your Influence, it is ready to die at your Command, and cannot live but by your Acceptance. But I know you have both Art and Candor; and as I cannot but hope, but that a merciful Interpretation will be emergent from the first, so I cannot doubt but the last will give so noble an Allay to your Justice, that if it cannot totally absolve, yet it may at least excuse

(My Lords and Gentlemen)

The humblest of your  
Servants

THOMAS PHILIPOTT.

<v>

A Table of ADDENDA or OMISSIONS.

Courteous Reader,

I here represent to thy View those Mistakes and Omissions (I mean the most material ones) which I promised to rectifie in my Epistle; those which follow are to be pardoned by thy Charity, or at least supplied by thy Candor. And first, Page 7. Line 36. for Beanors read Beacons. p. 8. l. 9. add had. l. 10. for this r. these. l. 11 expunge to it. In the List of the Lieutenants of Dover Castle. p. 14. after Sir Henry Heyman add Col. Algernon Sidney. p. 18. l. 42. for in Hundredo r. in isto Hundredo. p. 20. l. 19. add of. l. 44 & 46. for Robert Waller r. Robert Walleran. p. 21. l. 5. for Smerdlin r. Swerdlin. p. 39. l. 44. for required r. repaired. In Tottington and Eccless at Alresford. p. 47. l. 27. for of his Heir r. by his Heir. l. 29. for Ancestors r. Successors. In Nevills Fleet at Ash. p. 51. l. 23. for Ark r. Ash. In Fleet at Ash. p. 53. l. 16. add whom. Following an old Pedigree of Poynings I have at Easthall in Aynsford. p. 45. at Tottington in Alresford. p. 47. Northcroy. p. 108. Horsmonden. 190. printed that Tho. de Poynings matched with Joan Sole Heir of Sir Richard de Rokeley; upon perusal of the Pipe-roll of the seventeenth of Edward the second, I find that this Sir Richard died and left two Daughters his Co-heirs, Agnes the eldest was wedded to Tho. de Poynings, and Joan the youngest was matched to Hugh de Pateshul. In Badelesmer. p. 56. l. 33. acknowledge r. acknowledgement. l. 37. his only Son r. his onely Brother. In Digges Court. p. 60. l. 7. an Appendage to it r. an Appendage to this Name. In the Description of Hartanger. p. 60. l. 31. this must all be added — passed it away to Richard Merywether, in whose Descendant Line the Title flowed with so even and undisordered a Chanel, that it is still wrapped up in this Name and Family. In Brabourne. p. 69. l. 26. following an old Glossary of Sidrach Petits, I have rendered 40 Ambras Brasii, forty Plates of Brass; upon a second Review, I find that Ambras in old Record is the contracted word for Amphoras and Brasium signifies Malt, so it must be rendered forty Measures of Malt. In my description of Brabourne I likewise have omitted the Mannor of Combe, of which I now give this Account: Combe was anciently the Habitation of Gentlemen of that Sirname of considerable repute in this Track; for Rich. de Cumbe, and Simon de Cumbe his Son, were assistants to Sir Jo. de Northwood when

he was Sheriff of Kent the twentieth of Edward the first: the last of this Name was Will. de Cumbe, who dying without Issue Male in the reign of Rich. the second, his Sole Inheritor brought it to be possess'd by her Husband John Scot of Scots Hall, from whom it is now devolved to Edward Scot Esquire. In Beausfield. p. 67. l. 1. for Henry the ninth r. Henry the eighth. l. 2. for Henry the fourth r. Edw. the third, and then add this — and then it came to be enjoyed by Malmains, and was resident in this Family, until Tho. Malmains dying without Issue Male his only Female Heir brought it to swell the Patrimony of John Monins Esquire. In my Description of Bircholt in Brabourne. p. 70. l. 3. and an old Arbor Radicalis r. and as it appears by an old Arbor Radicalis. In my Description of Bokingfold in Brenchley. p. 73. l. 46, & 47. for, but he being unfortunately attainted in the fourth year of the abovesaid Prince, as being one of the Partisans of the Duke of Somerset, r. but he being unfortunately attainted in the first year of Q. Mary, as being one of the Partisans of Jo. Dudley Duke of Northumberland, and the same Mistake is to be rectified in my Description of Bokenfold at Goudherst, where p. 173. l. 26 & 27. for John Seymour Duke of Somerset r. Jo. Dudley Duke of Northumberland, and then again l. 30. the fourth year of Edward the sixth r. the first year of Q. Mary. In Biddenden. p. 77. l. 28. for Sir Anthony Mayney Knight and Baronet, r. Sir Anthony Mayney Knight. In Bidborough. p. 78. l. 36. for conveyed it, r. conveyed the whole Mannor. At Wevering in Boxley. p. 90. l. 2. the twenty fourth of Q. Mary, r. the second of Q. Mary. In my Description of Dodingdale at Canterbury. p. 94. l. 13. John Bentham r. John Betenham. In my Description of the Dungeon at Canterbury, the same page l. 29. for par Cirocearum r. par Chirothecarum. In Chalk p. 96. l. 52. for, and that Prince afterwards devolved it to Sir George Brook r. and from that Prince it afterwards devolved by Grant to George Lord Brook. In Chilham p. 116. l. 12. to his Son Giles de Badelesmer r. to his Brother Giles de Badelesmer. In Dartford. p. 128. l. 19. for Edw. Darcy Esq; r. Sir Edward Darcy Knight. l. 20. Will. Gough r. Will. Gouge. In Horsemans place at Dartford, the same page l. 53. for

<vi>

30th year r. 38th year. l. 55, & 46. Twiston r. Twissleton. At Newhall in Dimchurch. p. 131. l. 52. one and twenty Lords r. four and twenty Lords. In Clavertie in Elham. p. 140. l. 24. for Sir Henry Hamon r. Sir Henry Heyman. In Eightham. p. 141. l. 11. for one of the Lords of Holland r. one of the Earls of Holland. In Farleigh p. 150. l. 25, and 26. for Thomas Floyd of Gore Court in Otham Esquire r. Mr. Robert Newton of London Grocer. In my Description of Blackheath. p. 163. l. 57. for John Tiler r. Wat. Tiler. In Egerton in Godmersham. p. 171. l. 7, and 8. for Joan his Sole Daughter r. Joan his Daughter and Co-heir, for indeed so she was; for Jo. Comin Earl of Badzenoth died and left two Daughters and Co-heirs, Joan was matched to David de Strabolgie, and Elizabeth was wedded to Richard Talbot. In my Description of Kingston by Barham. p. 205. l. 55. for to his Son and Heir Giles r. to his Brother and Heir Giles. At West-Halks in Kingsnoth. p. 208. l. 41. for his second Son r. his fourth Son. In my Description of Brising at Langley. pag. 212. l. 11. for Leven Buffkin r. Ralph Buffkin. In Apulton and Southwold at East-Langdon. p. 211. l. 5. for Edward the third r. Edward the second. In my Description of Leeds Castle p. 214. l. 8. for his Son r. his great Grandchild. In my Description of Goulds and Shepway at Maidston. p. 223. l. 8. for — to Sir Walter and Gervas Henley Esquire r. to Thomas Henley Esq; leaving out Sir Walter. In Sheals at Maidston. p. 223. l. 45. for Walter Henley Esquire r. Thomas Henley Esquire. In my Description of Parrocks and Ewell at West-Malling p. 232. l. 19. for the last of which r. the first of which. In Hogshaws at Milsted. p. 239. l. 11. for Sir Jo. Took r. Mr. Jo. Took. In Milton Septuans. p. 239. l. 34. for Sir Thomas Fogge r. Sir Francis Fogge, and then l. 38. for Sir Rob. Honywood r. Mr. Rob. Honywood. In my Description of St. Mary Crey at Orpington. p. 260. l. 39. (it came) is left out, and then l. 41. Richard the second is omitted. In Gore Court in Otham p. 263 l. 54. for — by purchase made the Inheritance of Thomas Floyd Esq; r. by purchase made the Demeasn of Nathaniel Powell Esquire, who not many years since conveyed it to Thomas Floyd Esquire. Since my writing this Book I find that Sir Walter and Thomas Henley his Brother purchased Land at Otham and Gore Court of Sir Henry Isley before his Attaint, that at Otham descended to the Successors of Thomas Henley, that at Gore Court devolved to Colepeper, who had married one of the Co-heirs of Sir Walter Henley. In Archers Court at River. p. 282. l. 53. this must be added — But part of Archers Court was by Banded or Brandred in the reign of Edward the fourth conveyed it to Sir George Browne of Bechworth Castle, whose Successor Sir Thomas Browne alienated it to Mr. Isaac Honywood, who dying without Issue bequeathed it to his Nephew Col. Henry Honywood Esquire now proprietary of it: the Mannor of Archers Court with the Demeasn annexed to it holds in grand Serjeantie with this Condition united (a strange one) that the present Owner or Owners should hold the Kings Head when he passes to Calais, and by the working of the Sea should be obliged to vomit. In Swanscampe. p. 307. l. 42, & 43. for the fourteenth of Richard the second r. the thirteenth of Richard the second, and then again the same page l. 45. this is omitted — who had before a considerable Interest in Swanscampe by Descent from his Ancestor Richard Tabot, who had married Elizabeth one of the two Co-heirs of Jo. Comin Earl of Badzenoth, and Joan his Wife, one of the Sisters and Co-heirs of Aymer de Valence Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Swanscampe. At West-Well. p. 355. l. 15, & 16. for — and so it rested in the Crown, until not many years since it was granted to Sir Nicholas Tufton of Hothfied: r. — and was exchanged with Thomas Arch-Bishop of Canterbury by the Crown in the twenty ninth

year of Henry the eighth, whose Predecessors had a large share in it long before, but was again reassumed by Q. Elizabeth in the Vacancy of that Sea, and afterwards it rested in the Crown until almost our Memory, and then it was granted away to Sir Nicholas Tufton of Hothfield Father to the right honourable Io. Earl of Thanet now proprietary of it. There are some other Mistakes in this Work as at Upbery in Gillingham. p. 168. it is printed that Sir Henry Cheney exchanged that Mannor with Q. Elizabeth, and she passed it away to Sir Edward Hobby; upon a second Review I find it was not exchanged, but conveyed by Sale in the sixteenth year of that Princess by Sir Henry Cheyney to Dr. Alexander Nowell Dean of Pauls. At Potts Court in Babchild, Bradherst, Queen Court in Ospringe, Mere Court in Reynham, Pitstock in Rodmersham, and the Island of Hartie, Samuel Thornhill r. Richard Thornhill, which Richard was Father to Mr. Samuel Thornhill, Grand Father to Sir Timothy Thornhill and Sir Io. Thornhill, and great grandfather to Col. Rich. Thornhill eldest Son of Sir Timothy, which Col. Richard is lately deceased, and Charles

<vii>

Thornhill Esquire, Son and Heir of Sir Iohn now surviving, whose great Grandfather Mr. Richard Thornhill, above mentioned, purchased Mere Court in the twelfth year of Queen Elizabeth, and Potts Court, Bradherst, Quene Court in Ospringe, Pitstock and Hartie, in the thirteenth year of that Princess, of Sir Hen. Cheyney, and made his Son Samuel joint purchaser with him. At Pencehurst what I have written concerning the Mannor of Pencehurst Halymote. p. 270. must be retracted and altered, and read thus. Pencehurst Halymote alias Otford Wild was anciently held in Lease by the Successive Lords of Pencehurst, of the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, as being a Limb of their Mannor of Otford, which Mannor being exchanged by Will. Warham Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, with Henry the eighth, this being a relative Appendage to it, was added likewise to the Revenue of the Crown, and was resident in the Royall Patrimony until these times, and then it was conveyed by the State to Col. Robert Gibbons.

<viii>

To his worthy Friend THO. PHILIPOTT Esq;  
Upon his Diligent Survey of the Mannors of  
KENT:  
Entituled, VILLARE CANTIANVM.

Thou hast approv'd, Friend, by thy worthy Pen  
The Saying of that learned Sage, that Men  
Are not born for themselves: Our Friends do claim  
In us a share; our Parents do the same:  
Our Countrey for a third comes in; nay, it  
Boasts than the rest a more inherent right.  
How as a Friend, and Childe, thy Duty thou  
Discharged hast, thy more Familiars know!  
This I affirm, that of his Countrey none  
Hath better merited than Hee alone.  
Lambert submit, and Weever too give place;  
Nay, thou great Cambden stand aside: Alas!  
You have but posted through our Countrey, and  
As if pursued, have fear'd to make a stand:  
Whereas amongst us He both born and bred,  
In every Hundred, Parish, House t' have led  
His whole Age seems: and 'mongst us to have liv'd  
Ere since from Records Rights could be deriv'd.  
Bold Briton then! when 'tis a Crime to be  
A Gentleman; and when an Enemie  
He's therefore thought, and in Arms to have been,  
In whose House Arms and Ancient Coats are seen:  
When Gules to him his Blood, Or his Estate  
To this hath cost; when a true Sable-Fate  
From Painted Sables to a Third hath sprung;  
Thou dar'st assert what others fear to own:  
Thou dar'st by thy more equal Pen unite  
(What pow'ful Wrong hath oft disjoyn'd) the Right  
Owner with his Possessions; to the Son  
His Fathers Titles, and Dominion  
With care transmitting; and the Heir dost tell  
How he his Clods derives: Couldst thou as well  
Instruct him how his Mannors to employ,

As thou dost how, and whence he doth enjoy  
The same; then Scorned letters would at last  
Above Profaning Ignorance be plac'd:  
Nor hadst thou travell'd at thine own expence  
So many Miles: but know thy recompense  
Is from thy self: whilst thou a Name dost give  
To Ancient Families, thine Own shall live.

JOH. BOIS of Hode Esq;

<ix> <sig A>

The Preface to the READER.

Antiquity is the great Luminary of Time, which dispels those Clouds, that like a gloomy Skreen, interposing between the object and the understanding, cast it into Error and Misapprehension: And not onely of Time but of History too; History, that faithful Register of things past, That great Informer of the present, and certain Prophet of the Future; By it we may discover the Print which former Ages made, and treading that, know how to decline the crooked and Irregular Paths of Danger and Misfortune. Antiquity is like the lamp in Tullia's Urne, that representing to our view by Grains and by Scruples the Reliques and dust of our long-since expired Ancestors, which perhaps lay scatter'd in the Wilderness of their own Dispersion, erects a Monument to their Remembrance, so inaccessible to all the onsets and impressions of age and oblivion, that then onely it shall languis into Decay and dissolution when Nature her self, and Time, the moth of Nature, shall lye gasping in their own ruines, and the Universe it self shall confess its Ashes.

And certinly, amongst all those Trophies which antiquity hath fix'd upon the face of this Island, there is none more Copious, if we consider them for quantity; nor more Conspicuous, if we represent them in their quality, than those that it hath left scatter'd upon the Continent of Kent: and this must be obvious to the most easie Intellect, when it shall discover that in all the Eruptions of forain Invaders upon this Island, the first track of that Thorough-fair hath been laid in, or very near, this County, by which they have farther penetrated into the Bowels of this Nation. We will wave that fiction of Brute and a partie of Fugitives (originally) as the Legend insinuates of Trojan Extraction, and discarded from Italy for some Misdemeanor there acted) fixing here, as likewise that Series of the Kings Subsequent to him, being wholly obruded upon us by seduced and misguided Histories; the brain indeed of Jeffrey of Monmouth being both the Forge and the Anvill from whence those sparks brake forth at first, which made up that Ignis Fatuus after which the world so long hath wandered.

First then the Roman Eagles endeavoured to surprize and seise on the Dominion of this Island, though they were once or twice so rudely grip'd by the Britains neare Chilham in Kent, and some of their noblest Plumes torn from them, that they were forc'd to fly back into Gaule to new impe their Feathers but breaking in again with a recolected and multiplied strength, the Liberty of this Nation stoop'd, and became a prey to their victorious Tallons, And now it was ordered that all Pleas, Escripts, Decrees, Edicts, and other things of publique Cognisance should be issued out in the Roman Dialect, that so the roughness of the Britains, which their warlike inclinations had so long entitled them to, might not onely by degrees be fil'd off, but that likewise being suppld and softned by the Roman Culture, they might without any regret or resent=

<x>

ment support that load of slavery that sat so heavy on their shoulders, and so at last become wholly riveted and incorporated into the Roman Empire.

But that was onely in intention, for the accomplishment and perfection of it, was superseded by the Inroad of the Goths and Vandals into Italy, which like an Inundation in many signal conflicts had almost swept away the Imperial dignitie, and so torn the whole Bulk of the Roman Empire, that its very Spirit was ready to ebb out at those breaches. So that in fine, the Emperour was forced to re=

trive the Guards and Stationary Legions scattered o're this Island, with these like a new stock of spirits to improve and fortifie the Heart of the Roman Empire, which was ready to bleed out its life at those wounds that the hands of these Barbarous Nations had inflicted on it.

And now the spirits of the Britains (a stronger Butteress against the Eruptions of the Picts than the Wall erected by the Romans) being by the Engines of a long and habituated Servitude, cowed and broken into a degenerate Effeminacie, they lay open to all the Assaults and impressions of the insolent Invader; so that they were forced either to resign up themselves to the fury and inclemency of the Sea, or else offer themselves up to the Rage and Barbarity of a Savage enemy: And now, being devested of all protection at home, and all hope of supply from abroad, being forelaid and intercepted by the Invasion of the Goths on the Empire, they made their addresses to the Saxons, a Martial People then inhabiting that nether part of Germany, which is washed by the Rivers of Elve, Weaser, and Rhine, who instantly upon Covenant and assurance of a vast Guerdon to ballance their services, under the conduct of Hengist and Horsa, embarked for Britain and landed in the Isle of Thanet, and shortly after with such vigour and animosity repressed the insolencies of the Picts, that they shut them up within the Cloisters and Recesses of their own Mountains. But it might be said of them, as it was anciently of Religion; 'Religion brought forth Riches, and the Daughter devoured the Mother:' So these Saxons, from Assertors and Protectors of the Britains, became at last Invaders of them; for they representing to the other Saxons the healthfulness of the Air, and the temperateness of the British Clime, who were over-stocked and cloyed with excess of People, and were willing to evacuate that surcharge of Inhabitants into forain Colonies, they instantly attacked any advantage that might put them into Hostilitie with the Britains; and pretending that that Compact so solemnly stipulated and transacted between them and Hengist was infringed and violated, they poured themselves in like a Cataract upon this Island, so that the Britains to secure themselves from the fury of this Deluge, after many vigorous attempts to make it flow back again, shut up themselves within the Solitudes and Recesses of Wales and Cornwall, whilst on their ruines their adversaries erected and fixed their Saxon Heptarchie; which again, after many mutual encounters, wherein almost every Turfe of this Island was bespatter'd and bedewed with Blood, found a publique Tombe in the West-Saxon Monarchie.

But scarce was the Basis of it established, whose Ciment was so much Blood and Tears; But God, who corrects the Ambitious by retaliation and chastises the insolencies of one Invader by casting another into Competition with him, put the Dane into Ballance with the Saxon, who like a whirlwind threw himself upon this Island so that all blooming Glories of the Saxon Greatness did wither and shrivell up, being suddenly nipt and blasted by this Northern tempest. I shall not discypher the long, many, and impetuous encounters between these two fierce Nations, with the effusion of Blood

<xi>

and the ruine and Depredation that discomplexioned every part of the Land; indeed, they are of so disordered a Memory, and then so blended and confounded in the Persons, Times, and Places, upon which the Scene of these deformed Tragedies is intricately fixt, that it would be (as one well observes) another war to the Reader to over-look them. In brief, after a signal combat personally commenced between Edmund Ironside and Canutus, in the Isle of Athelney, both armies on either shore, being Spectators, the Saxon Diadem was by reciprocally compact to be divided between them: which after the decease of Edmund Ironside at Oxford; which, whether it were Naturall or Artificiall, is yet a controversie, wholly invested the Temples of Canutus.

But alas! upon what a frail and incertain Pedestal is all humane greatness settled? For the lustre of this new erected Monarchy had no sooner displayed its beams in Canutus, but like an unthrifty Taper it began to glimmer in Harold, and absolutely expired in Hardiknute, who dying issueless, the current of Royalty ran back again into the chanel of the Saxon Blood, which flow'd in the veins of Edward Sirnamed the Confessor; who likewise deceasing without Issue, William Duke of Normandy upon a pretended Donation from the

last Edward entitles himself to the right and interest of the English Diadem.

- v But this certainly was invail'd, for no Testamentary collation can ravell or disorder succession, which with an indissolueble link is chain'd and fastned to the nearest of Blood, and of which the Nation is to take the sole and proper Cognisance:) And to assert his title (which was fixt on the point of his sword) he arrives in Sussex with a numerous Army, to check whose farther Progress in this Island, Harold advances likewise with a considerable Army (whose body had before evapourated its best and noblest Spirits at those wounds which
- c4 it before had received in a bloody encounter comenc'd with Harold Harsanger King of Norway:) And nere that place where afterwards was founded the Abby of Battell, puts his claim to the Scepter, likewise to the Decision and Umpirage of the Sword, and after a fierce dispute found the Tombe of his new purchas'd
- c4 Royalty in the carriage of this Field, upon whose ruines, William now a Con=

querour, climbs up the Ascent of the English Throne.

His first design (after he had scatter'd all those clouds of discontent that might have possibly have enwrapt the rays of acquired Majesty in some new umbrage,) was to take a Survey of each mans particular interest and Patrimony, which was inroll'd and recorded in a publique Register commonly called Doooms= day Book; upon pretence, that from a generall computation of the Revenue of the Nation, he might discern what strength might be collected to intercept the violent attempts of any forain Invader upon this Island. But indeed to make a strict inquisition into the Forfeitures of the Lands of those that had been in Hostility under the Ensignes of Harold against him, that with those he might not onely endear and gratifie his Partisans, but likewise by reinvesting the chiefest of his adversaries in those possessions which were by their Enmity escheated, oblige them to maintain his Title and Scepter. Yet it is observe= able, that he engag'd all those that had receiv'd any Lands or Demeasnes of him, either by any new concession or re-investiture to hold them in Escuage, that is by Knight Service, by which they were oblig'd whensoever either publique necessity or his Commands did exact it of them, to attend his Person, either actually or virtually, that is by Proxie with Horse and Armes; and by this art he had always a power in reserve to repress and scatter all Solleviations or sud= den Insurrections at home, and contradict all the Attempts and Animosities of Adversaries from abroad; that so he might become considerable to his enemies,

<xii>

and usefull to his Friends. Thus have I compendiously wound up the severall Invasions made on this Island, in which Kent was so much concern'd. But there is another Invasion that I have not yet numbred, which hath been more ruinous and destructive to the noblest Families of this Island than any of those above recited: and that is the Riot and Excess, that like an Infectious Cloud, whose noysome wombe drops nothing but disease and Pestelence, hath lately broke in upon this Nation, and so withered the Root of the most ancient Gentry, that they have shrunk into their own ruines, and faln negelected and forgotten: Indeed our modern Luxury is like the Poyson of the Viper, it blasts invisibly, and distroys insensibly, and they that are softned with it are like a Tree, that feeds those wormes that must devoure it; or like Iron, that supplies that rust which will corode it. Indeed 'tis observable, that those Families have continued in their splendor longer whose seats and habitations have engag'd them to a remoter distance from the Verge and Sphere of the City, than those whose Revenue and Patrimonie hath confin'd upon a place infected with so much Debaucherie, and let loose into so great excess. Yet, 'tis remarkable that the cadets, or younger slips issued out from some of those stems, who by their own vitious exorbitancie have crumbled into an irreparable decay, by being inoculated upon other Families, have by this transplantation contracted newsap and verdure, and again sprouted out and flourish'd. For Families are like the River of Arethusa, they sometimes sink in one place or County, and again rise in another.

I shall now take the County of Kent under Survey or Prospect, and repre= sent to the pubique view, those several Antiquities which in my search I found to lie wrapt up either in common Records, or shut up in the private Muniments, Escripts, and Registers of particular Families; from whom I have endeavour'd to pluck off the veil that they may for the future stand as an Alpha=

bet to point out those Families that are yet in being, that are totally extinguish'd or that lye entomb'd in other Names and Extractions, which by Mariage have swallowed up the Heir generall: In the pursuit of which I confess I have not cloister'd my self up in the nice restraints of any precise or particular Method, because that flood, both of private and publique inteligence, which like a Torrent broke in upon me, swept away whatsoever my busie fancy had built upon the sands of any curious or Methodical invention; But 'tis here, as in some Rivers who though they wander in a crooked and irregular chanell, yet are they the same Streames still, as long as they hold correspondence with their first Fountain and original.

I shall remit all to the Justice and Candor of the Reader, with the first he may arraigne and censure, with the last absolve and excuse

Thomas Philipott.

<Philipott's book is an obstacle course for anybody trying to read it. Having only seen two copies, I cannot be sure; but it looks as if the book was issued in three different forms: the original issue, dated 1659 on the title page; a second issue, undated but probably only a little later, with nine replacement sheets; and a third issue with one replacement leaf, the recto of which is a new title page dated 1664. All copies contain a long list of errata, 'A table of addenda or omissions' (pages v–vii); most copies also contain some version of a further list of corrigenda, 'A second table to be inserted in this Book', which should probably be treated as a separate publication. Beyond all that, there is certainly some variation between copies, though I cannot determine the extent of it. This transcript is taken from a copy of the first issue (reel 1191:13, from Cambridge University Library), but I have added signs to alert the reader when the complicating factors come into play. In a few places, marked **v**, a correction was made by the compositor during the time that it took for this sheet to be printed off. In many places, marked **e**, some correction or addition is called for in the list of errata. In many places, marked **c4**, some correction or addition is called for in the four-page version of Philipott's 'Second table'. And then there are the pages, marked with a **\*** at the top, which were later completely reset, 36 for the second issue and one more for the third. Finally, it seems necessary to add a word of warning. This is not a good book. One could tolerate the painfully affected style if the substance were reliable – but it is often very thoroughly wrong. The corrections made by Philipott himself go to prove how hard he was trying to get things right; but they also go to prove how far he was from being in control of the facts. – C.F. August 2011.>