

Edward Hasted
The history and topographical survey of the
county of Kent, second edition, volume 5
Canterbury
1798

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THE
HISTORY
AND
TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY
OF THE
COUNTY OF KENT.

CONTAINING THE
ANTIEN AND PRESENT STATE OF IT,
CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL;
COLLECTED FROM PUBLIC RECORDS,
AND OTHER AUTHORITIES:
ILLUSTRATED WITH MAPS, VIEWS, ANTIQUITIES, &c.

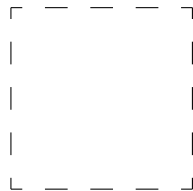
THE SECOND EDITION,
IMPROVED, CORRECTED, AND CONTINUED TO
THE PRESENT TIME.

By EDWARD HASTED, Esq. F. R. S. and S. A.
LATE OF CANTERBURY.

Ex his omnibus, longe sunt humanissimi qui Cantium incolunt.

*Fortes creantur fortibus et bonis,
Nec imbellem feroces progenerant.*

VOLUME V.

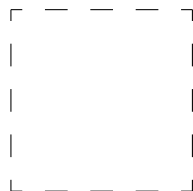


CANTERBURY:
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TO CHARLES SMALL PYBUS, Esq.

ONE OF THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS
OF HIS MAJESTY'S TREASURY,
AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE TOWN AND
PORT OF DOVER, &c. &c.

SIR,

YOUR partiality to a county, of which this is a History, has given me hopes, that the Dedication of this part of it to you will not be looked upon in an unacceptable light. The continued assistance and liberal encouragement which you have favored me with in the progress of my larger History, and the many other essential marks of friendship which you

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have honored me with, cannot but flatter me with those hopes. You are besides, Sir, materially connected with the county, by the important station which you have so long held in representing the town and port of Dover, to the universal satisfaction of your constituents, who, confident of your attachment to the best of kings, and the happy constitution of this country, (an attachment which you have persevered in with unabated constancy) have continued their approbation of your conduct by repeatedly choosing you, with the same fervent zeal, in two successive parliaments. Give me leave, Sir, to join in the deserved acknowledgment of your public merit, and at the same time to seize this opportunity of returning my thanks to you for the many favors which you have conferred on,

SIR,

Your most respectful,
and much obliged
humble servant,

EDWARD HASTED.

London,
May 12, 1798.

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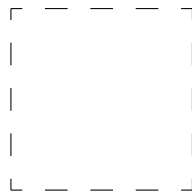
Any ERRORS or MISTAKES, in the former edition, or communications towards the improvement of these volumes, will, at any time, in future, be thankfully received, if directed to W. BRISTOW, PARADE, CANTERBURY.

DIRECTIONS TO THE BINDER.

1. To face title, ... Plate of SUTTON CASTLE, 8vo.
2. To face p. 1. ... Map of WROTHAM, &c. HUNDREDS.
3. To face p. 91. ... Ditto, TWYFORD DITTO.
4. To face p. 173. ... Ditto, LOWY OF TUNBRIDGE.
5. To face p. 255. ... Ditto, WACHLINGSTONE HUNDRED.

As the Maps belonging to this and the future Volumes are very unequal in number, they are here and will in future be delivered FOUR with each volume during the course of the publication; the Binder therefore is desired to place guards at p. 280 and 322, in this volume, for the Maps of Brenchley, &c. and Eyhorne Hundreds, which will be delivered in due course with the next volume.

<1>



THE HUNDRED OF WROTHAM.

WESTWARD from the hundred of Larkfield lies that of WROTHAM, usually pronounced Ruteham, called in Domesday, Broteham, and in the Textus Roffensis, WROTEHAM.

THIS HUNDRED CONTAINS WITHIN ITS BOUNDS THE PARISHES OF

1. STANSTED,
2. WROTHAM,
3. IGHTHAM, and
4. SHIPBORNE.

STANSTED

LIES the next parish north-westward from Trottesclive, on the summit of the chalk hill, on a stony

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soil, as its name implies, Stane signifying a stone,

and stede a place in the Saxon language.

THIS PARISH lies in a most unfrequented dreary country, upon very high ground, about a mile northward from the summit of the great ridge of chalk hills. From its high situation it lies very cold and bleak, being much exposed towards the north and north-east, where it has a beautiful and extended prospect. The soil of it is very poor, consisting either of chalk or a red stiff earth, both mixed with quantities of flint stones; in the western part there is some coppice wood. The church and village through which the road leads from Ash to Wrotham, is situated at the western part of it, not more than a mile from the twenty second mile stone on the high London road from Farningham to Wrotham and Maidstone. In the eastern part there are two hamlets, called Hodges-street and Farsee, in the latter of them is the seat of Mr. Wilson, which will be further mentioned hereafter. The road from Longfield through Hartley bottom leads through it to Trottesclive.

About Easter, in the year 1666, a pasture field in this parish, which is a considerable distance from the sea, or any branch of it, and a place, where there are no fish ponds, but a scarcity of water, was scattered all over with small fish, in quantity about a bushel, supposed to have been rained down from a cloud, there having been at that time a great tempest of thunder, hail, wind, &c. These fish were about the size of a man's little finger, some were like small whittings, others like sprats, and some smaller like smelts. Several of these fish were shewn publicly at Maidstone and Dartford.^{/a}

THE MANOR OF STANSTED, which is subordinate, and esteemed as a borough, belonging to that of Wrotham, in the reign of king Henry the III^d.

^{/a} See Philos. Transactions, vol. 20th, No. 243.

3

was in the possession of a family of the name of Gra-pinell, by a female coheir of which it went in marriage to William de Inge, who was one of the judges in the reign of king Edward II.

In the first year of which he procured free warren for this manor, and in the 9th year of it a fair, to be held there yearly on the feast of the Assumption of the blessed Virgin Mary. He died in the 15th year of that reign, upon which Joan his daughter married to Eudo, or Ivo, la Zouch,^{/b} son of William, lord Zouch, of Haringworth, became entitled to it, in whose descendants it continued down to Henry la Zouch, who died possessed of it in the 26th year of king Henry VI. Soon after which it appears to have passed to Sir William Colepeper, of Aylesford, whose eldest son Richard, of Oxenhoath, was afterwards knighted, and succeeded to this manor. He died in the 2^d year of king Richard III. anno 1484, leaving three daughters his coheirs; Margaret, married to William Cotton, of Oxenhoath; Joice, to Edmund lord Howard, and Elizabeth, to Henry Barham, of Teston.^{/c}

They, in the next reign of king Henry VII. joined in the sale of this manor to Thomas Leigh, of Sibton, in Lyminge, whose son John Leigh, esq. was of Ad=

dington, in Surry, and he died possessed of it in 1544. His grandson of the same name, in the 5th year of queen Elizabeth, devised it to Richard Blunt, alias Leigh, his natural son, for a long term of years, and died in 1576; the fee of it was afterwards alienated to Robert Byng, esq. of Wrotham, sheriff in the 34th year of queen Elizabeth, who died four years afterwards, anno 1595./d His great grandson, John Byng, esq. of

/b Philipott, p. 304. See Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 690.

/c MSS. pedigree of Colepeper. See Preston, in Aylesford.

/d There is a case concerning this manor reported in Croke Term Mich. 9th, Car. 1mi. Rot. 602. See likewise Coke's Reports, p. 235.

4

Wrotham, in the reign of king Charles II. passed it away, as well as the rest of his possessions at Wrotham, and elsewhere in this neighbourhood, to William James, esq. of Ightham, whose direct descendant, Richard James, esq. of Ightham, is the present proprietor of this manor.

THERE IS A MANOR in this parish called SORANKS, which in the reign of king Henry III. was held by Ralph de Sandwich, of the archbishop of Canterbury, as one quarter of a knight's fee, but in the next reign of king Edward the 1st, it was got into the possession of a family, who implanted their name on it, one of whom, Edmund Sorank held it in the reign of king Edward II./e as did Roger Sorank in the 20th year of king Edward III. This manor did not remain long in this name, for in the beginning of the reign of king Richard II. it was become the property of Thomas Mortimer, of Mortimer's, in Cliff, near Rochester, and he in the 20th year of that reign passed it away by sale to William Skrene, from which name it was alienated to Wood, in whose descendants it remained until the latter end of the reign of king Henry VII. when Thomas Wood passed it away to Robert Barefoot.

He died in the 1st year of king Edward the VIth, being then possessed of this manor, and one hundred and forty acres of arable, and wood in Stansted, held of the king, as of the manor of Otford, by knight's service. Thomas Barefoot was his son and heir, and he, with Catherine his wife, in the 2d and 3d year of king Philip and queen Mary, sold this manor to Henry Fanshaw, and Dorothy his wife, who in the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign alienated it to George Wiseman, and he passed it away to Launce, in whose descendants it continued till it was conveyed by sale to Mr. John Cox, who having purchased of Sir Roger Twisden, bart. an estate on the summit of the hill, on

/e Book of Aid, anno 20th, Edward IIIrd.

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the eastern side of this parish, built A SEAT for his residence on it, naming it FAIRSEAT, from the pleasantness of its prospect, the extensiveness of which has caused it commonly to be called Fairsee. Of this family there are several memorials in Stansted church; they bore for their arms, Sable, a chevron argent between three attires of a stag fixed to the scalp of the second. He died possessed both of this manor and seat in

1736, leaving by Hannah his wife, who survived him, John Cox, esq. who was of Fairseat. He left no issue, and was succeeded by his only sister Sarah, married to George Wilson, esq. who is jointly with her the present possessor of this manor and seat.

CHARITIES.

MRS. ALICE HANBURY, time unknown, gave by will for the benefit of the poor, the yearly sum of 40s. issuing out of the estate of John Burgh, in the parish of St. Andrew Undershaft, London, which has not been paid since the year 1772.

A PERSON UNKNOWN, gave to be distributed in bread to the poor of this parish in general, 15s. yearly, in land, and now of that annual produce.

STANSTED is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and being a peculiar of the archbishop of Canterbury, is in the deanry of Shoreham.

The church, which is dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary, is only a chapel to the church of Wrotham, from which it was separated by ordinance of parliament, passed in 1647, and made a distinct church of itself, but at the restoration in 1660, it returned to its former state, in which it continues at present. It anciently paid six-pence chrism rent to the mother church of the diocese.

This chapel is not valued separate from Wrotham in the king's books. The whole emoluments of it are received by the rector and vicar of Wrotham, as an appendage to his church of Wrotham, and he appoints a curate from time to time to officiate here.

6

- - -

WROTHAM.

SOUTHWARD from Stansted lies Wrotham, commonly pronounced Ruteham. In Domesday book it is written Broteham, and in the Textus Roffensis, WROTEHAM.

THE PARISH of Wrotham is of very large extent, being, though only between two and three miles in breadth, near five miles in length from north to south. It lies of course in various situations, and is of various soils. The village, or town of Wrotham, is situated at the foot of the great ridge of chalk hills, above the summit of which this parish extends northward. From this hill, called here Wrotham hill, which is here luxuriantly clothed with fine spreading beech trees, there is a most beautiful prospect southward over a variety of country, lying in the vale beneath, of vast extent, which is bounded by the sand hills at the southern extremity of it; the high road from London through Farningham to Maidstone leads through this town, which is a little more than twenty-four miles from London. At the entrance of it is the mansion of the rector, a handsome house, well suited to the income of it, and on the opposite side the road stands the church, and the small remains of the archiepiscopal palace, but yet sufficient to remind us of its having formerly been such. In the center of the town stand the market-place and public well, both repaired by the lord of the

manor; the market, which was on a Tuesday, has been disused for many years, but here is a fair held yearly on May 4, for horses, cattle, &c. Opposite the market-place is Wrotham place, the seat of Mr. Haddock, a further account of which will be given hereafter.

Hence the road divides, that to the right leads to Yaldham and Ightham, and to the left the London road

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to Maidstone continues south-eastward along a chalky soil, through the borough of Neupiker, where there is a handsome sashed house belonging to Mr. Tomlyn, and a spring, which supplies the rivulet which runs afterwards by Ford, situated at the western boundaries of the parish, next to Addington, and thence by Leyborne towards the Medway; about a mile from Neupiker, is Wrotham heath, a barren sandy soil, both red and black, but on which great quantities of peat is dug; here the road divides, the left leading by the Royal Oak to Maidstone, near which are the two hamlets of Great and Little Comp, and the woods of that name, and the right towards Ightham, the antient Roman camp on Oldberry hill, and over Seal chart to Sevenoke and Westerham. On the southern side of the road this parish extends over the hill to Hale borough and the hamlet of Plaxtool, where the soil, from a sand becomes a deep stiff clay, and though a fertile, yet an unpleasant miry country. The chapel and street of Plaxtool, together with the seat of Fairlawn, are situated at the southern boundaries of it, next to Shipborne and West Peckham. In Plaxtool-street is a good house, built by Thomas Dalyson, esq. who resided here till his father's death, when he removed to Hamptons, in West Peckham. He lies buried in Plaxtool chapel, and his eldest son, William Dalyson, esq. of Hamptons, now resides in it. Near the last hill above-mentioned, but still within the circuit of this borough, are two hamlets, called Plaxtool-street likewise, and Crouch, the latter of which was formerly the residence of the Millers, baronets, about half a mile eastward from which is the large tract of woodland, called the Herst or Compwoods; through the other runs a stream, which rises near Ightham, and having turned a paper mill at Basted passes through this borough towards West Peckham, Hadlow, and thence into the Medway.

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That part of this parish which lies southward below Comp-hill, and the hill above Fairlawn, is in the district called the Weald, though there have been several, who have contended, that all that part of Wrotham lying below the chalk hill is in the Weald of Kent, and as a proof of it, urge the non-payment of tithe for the wood in those parts of this parish. But the general received opinion is, that the Weald begins at the next sand hill above Fairlawn; wood being exempted from tithe can be no proof of its being in the Weald, as there are such large districts in this county plainly out of it, which claim and enjoy, as yet, a like privilege.

This parish ought antiently to have contributed to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge.

Besides the gentlemens' families mentioned hereafter who formerly resided in this parish, John Richers, a

justice of the peace, resided here in 1570, a period when that office was truly an honor to those who were intrusted with it. He was descended from an ancient family of Swanington-hall, in Norfolk.

William Bryan, esq. of this parish, son of John Bryan, of Kibworth, in Leicestershire, by Elianor, sister of Anthony Watson, bishop of Chichester, and at length heir to the bishop, resided here in the beginning of the reign of king James I. and bore for his arms, Or, three piles azure, a chief ermine.

A branch of the family of Polley, alias Polhill, once resided in this parish, of which was Sir Thomas Polley, who was living here in the reign of king James I. These were junior to those of Preston, in Shoreham, but elder to those of Chipsted and Otford, in this county. John Thomas, gent. was of Wrotham, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, whose grandson, William Thomas, gent. removed to Selling, in this county. They bore for their arms, Argent, a fess dancette, sable, between three Cornish choughs, proper./f

/f Vistn. co. Kent, 1619. Ped. Thomas.

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Thomas Shakerley, third son of Francis Shakerley, of Ditton, in this county, resided at Wrotham in the reign of king James I./g

In Blacksole field, in this parish, Sir Robert Southwell, sheriff of this county, and the lord Abergavenny, with about five hundred gentlemen and yeomen, routed the Isleys and their party, who were engaged in Sir Thomas Wyatt's rebellion, in the first year of queen Mary's reign; the rebels were pursued from hence near four miles to Hartley-wood, many of them were killed, and about sixty taken prisoners. Those who were slain in this rencounter were buried in the field of battle. Sir Henry Isley himself escaped and fled into Hampshire.

Some of our antiquarians, as Talbot, and after him Lambarde,/h have conjectured Wrotham to have been the station called in Antonine's itinerary Vagniacæ, but in this they have not been followed by any one else that I have seen.

There is great probability that the Roman military way passed by Ofham through this parish near the Comps, westward, towards Oldborough and Stone-street, as will be further mentioned hereafter.

About seventy years ago a considerable quantity of British silver coin was discovered in this parish by a mole's casting up the earth, and by digging afterwards, which were all seized by the lord of the manor of Wrotham.

Pentaphyllum, or creeping cinquefoil, mentioned by Dr. Plot in his history of Oxfordshire, as a rare plant, is said to grow plentifully on one side of Wrotham town.

WROTHAM was given to Christ-church, in Canterbury, by king Ethelstan, in the year 964, and continued part of the possessions of that church, when Lanfranc came

/g Vistn. co. Kent, 1619. Pedigree Shakerley.

/h Leland's Itin. vol. iii. p. 173. Burton's Anton. p. 178.

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to the see in the year 1070, being the 5th year of the Conqueror's reign.

On the division, which the archbishop soon afterwards made of the revenues of his church, between himself and his convent, Wrotham was allotted to the archbishop and his successors, and as such it is entered under the general title of his lands in the survey of Domesday, taken about the year 1080, as follows:

In Broteham hundred. The archbishop himself holds Broteham. It was taxed at eight sulings. The arable land is twenty carucates. In demesne there are three carucates, and seventy-six villeins, with eighteen borderers, having fourteen carucates. There is a church and ten servants, and three mills of fifteen shillings, and nine acres of meadow; wood, when fruitful (in acorns) sufficient for the pannage of five hundred hogs.

Of this manor, William Dispensator holds one suling, and there he has one carucate in demesne, and two villeins with half a carucate.

Of the same manor Goisfrid holds of the archbishop one suling, and there he has one carucate, and six villeins, with one borderer, having two carucates.

Of the manor itself, Farman holds one yoke and an half of the archbishop, and there he has three carucates, and six villeins with twelve cottagers having two carucates, there are ten servants.

In the whole value, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, this manor was worth fifteen pounds, and afterwards sixteen pounds. Now the demesne of the archbishop is valued at twenty-four pounds, and yet it pays thirty-five pounds. Of the knights eleven pounds.

What Richard of Tonebridge holds in his lowy is valued at fifteen pounds.

Walter, archbishop of Canterbury, in the 8th year of king Edward II. had a grant of a market weekly on a Thursday at his manor of Wrotham, and one fair on the feast of St. George yearly.

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In an antient taxation of the archbishop's revenues, this manor was valued at eighty five pounds.^{/i}

The archbishops had very antiently a palace here, in which they frequently resided till the time of archbishop Simon Islip, who came to the see in the 23d year of king Edward III. who having a desire to finish the palace at Maidstone, which John Ufford his predecessor had begun, and wanting materials for that purpose, pulled down the greatest part of this house, and transported the materials thither, in which situation, the manor, with the remains of it, continued till the reign of king Henry VIII. when Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, in the 29th year of it, conveyed it, as well as all his estates whatsoever in this parish, except the church of Wrotham, and its appendages, to that king, in exchange for other premises; at which time the scite and demesnes of it were let by the archbishop at the yearly rent of 5l. 6s. 8d. and there were paid to the archbishop (who reserved the royalty and rents of the manor to himself) from the farmers and tenants of it, of antient custom, annually, two hundred and sixty-four hens, valued at sixty-six shillings; 1159 eggs at 5s. 9d. and two geese at ten-pence,^{/k} which is

noted here to shew the small value of these articles at that time.

King Edward VI. in his 4th year, granted to Sir John Mason, the scite of this manor, and the park of Wrotham, to hold in capite by knight's service. And in his 6th year, he granted to him, and dame Eliza= beth his wife, by letters patent, the manor itself in fee, at the yearly rent of 4*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* of fee farm. Sir John Mason alienated it, with all its appurtenances, in the 3*d* and 4*th* year of king Philip and queen Mary, to Robert Byng, who resided at Wrotham, most probably at the palace, and bore for his arms, quarterly, Sable

/i Battely Somn. pt. 2*d.* Appendix, p. 30.

/k Deeds of Purchase, and Augtn. off. Inrolm.

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and argent in the first quarter, a lion rampant of the second, armed and langued, gules.*/l* About which time this park was disparked, at least it was so before Lam= barde wrote his Perambulation in 1570. It lay about half a mile south-east from Wrotham church, the lodge of it is still remaining. He died possessed of it in the 38*th* year of queen Elizabeth. George Byng, esq. his eldest son, by his first wife, succeeded him in this ma= nor, and was of Wrotham. He demised it in lease, for the term of ninety-nine years, to Sir Robert Da= rell, of Calehill, in trust for particular uses, and died possessed of the fee of it in 1616. His grandson, John Byng, esq. (whose eldest son, George, was created lord viscount Torrington, and was direct ancestor of the present lord viscount Torrington) succeeded him in his possessions here, which he, soon after the death of king Charles I. alienated to William James, esq. of lghtham-court, at which time he had likewise an as= signment of the remainder of the term granted to Sir Robert Darell, as above-mentioned. His great grand= son, William James, esq. died in 1780, and was suc= ceeded by his eldest son, Richard James, esq. of lght= ham, who is the present possessor of this manor, the re= mains of the palace and the estate belonging to them.

There is a court leet and court baron held for this manor, which is paramount over the whole hundred, at which, besides the constables of the upper, and lower half hundred of Wrotham, there are chosen six borsholders for the six villes or boroughs of Wrotham town, Stansted, Neupicar, Wingfield, Roughway, and Haleborough.

THE PALACE stood adjoining to the east side of the church yard, there are hardly any remains left of the house itself, though there is a large substantial stone building, once part of the offices belonging to the pa= lace, and in which I imagine the Byngs dwelt, whilst

/l Vistn. co. Kent, 1619. Pedigree Byng.

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in possession of this manor and estate, a gateway here having still their arms remaining carved in stone on it. In the field behind the ruins are marks of the garden, a bowling-green and terras round it, still plainly visible.

LITTLE WROTHAM is a district in the north-east part of this parish, next to Trottesclive, which in the

reign of the Conqueror, was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Baieux, and earl of Kent, the Conqueror's half brother, under the general title of whose lands, it is thus entered in the book of Domesday.

Ralf Fitz Turald holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Little Wrotham. It was taxed at one suling and an half. The arable land is In demesne there is one carucate and four villeins, with four borderers, having two carucates. There are two servants and two mills of four sulings, and two acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of five hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards it was worth forty shillings, now sixty shillings and fifty-four pence.

Richard de Tonebridge holds in his lowy what is worth thirteen shillings, and wood for the pannage of fifty hogs, and the king has in the same manor what is worth sixteen pence.

Goduin and Edwin held this land in the time of king Edward the Confessor, for two manors.

On the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, about the year 1084, this, among the rest of his possessions, became confiscated to the crown.

In the reign of king Henry I. Geoffry Talbot possessed the manor of Little Wrotham, the greatest part of which he gave to bishop Gundulph, and the church of St. Andrew, in Rochester, which gift was then confirmed by the king.

In the 20th year of king Edward III. the bishop of Rochester paid aid for half a knight's fee, which he held in Little Wrotham.

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The before-mentioned part of Little Wrotham, containing about one hundred and thirty acres of land, continues at this time part of the possessions of the bishop of Rochester, and is now in the tenure of Thomas Whitaker, esq. of Trottesclive, by lease from the bishop. The other part of it containing about twenty acres of land is at present the property of Mr. Tomlyn, gent. of Neupiker, in this parish, the tithes of both parts are claimed and taken by the heirs of Sir Richard Bettenson, bart. who pay from thence forty sheaves of corn, or as the rectors lease expresses it, forty shocks of wheat, yearly to the rector of Wrotham.

WROTHAM PLACE is an antient mansion, situated on the south side of the High-street of Wrotham town, which has been for many years the habitation of gentlemen. It was formerly called Nyssell's, from a family of that name, proprietors of it, one of whom, Thomas Nyssell, died possessed of it in 1498, and lies buried, with Alice his wife, in this church.

When this name became extinct here, or who succeeded them I have not found; but in the reign of king James the 1st. it was purchased by John Rayney, esq. of London, who seated himself at Wrotham-place. He was lineally descended from John Reignie, for so the name was written in old deeds, who held the manors of Edgeford, in Devonshire, and of Smithely-hall, in Yorkshire, in the reign of king Edward III. which John was a descendant of Sir John de Reignie, who appeared by the muniments of this family, to have

been possessed of lands in Cumberland, in the reign of king Henry III. whose descendant William Rayney, was of Yorkshire, and was ancestor of John Rayney, esq. of London, above-mentioned, who bore for his arms, Gules, two wings in lure ermine./m His son John Rayney succeeded him in this estate, where he resided,

/m Vistn. co. Kent, anno 1660, and MSS. pedigree of Rayney.

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and was made a knight at the coronation of Charles I. and in 1641 was created a baronet of Nova Scotia, and in 1615 served the office of sheriff of this county. His son, Sir John Rayney, bart. was born at Wrotham-place in 1660, and dying in 1705, was buried in this church, leaving three daughters his coheirs, so that the title became extinct. His heirs some few years after his death, conveyed this seat to Stephenson, who shortly after, about the year 1723, conveyed it to Captain Nicholas Haddock, son of Sir Richard Haddock, comptroller of the navy. Captain Haddock was afterwards promoted to the rank of admiral in the royal navy, and bore for his arms, Argent, a cross sable, in the first quarter, a fleur de lis of the second. He resided at Wrotham-place occasionally, till the time of his death, which happened in 1746. He was buried in a vault which he had built a few years before his death, (his father being buried there in a separate one) in the church-yard of Leigh, in Essex, in which parish he was born./n He left three sons, Nicholas, who became his heir; Richard, comptroller of the navy, whose widow Mary, one of the four daughters of Charles Compton, fourth son of George, earl of Northampton, re-married Arthur Scott, esq. and Charles, late of Canterbury, esq. and a daughter who died unmarried.

Nicholas Haddock, esq. the eldest son, succeeded his father in this seat, of which he died possessed in 1781, and was succeeded by his brother and heir-at-law, Charles Haddock, esq. who now resides here; he married Miss Medhurst, of Wrotham, by whom he has no issue.

YALDHAM is a district in this parish, situated somewhat less than a mile and an half westward from Wrotham church. The principal manor in it is called EAST, alias GREAT YALDHAM MANOR, and was formerly so called to distinguish it from the adjoining

/n See History of Essex, 8vo. vol. v. p. 187.

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manor of West, alias Little Yaldham, and likewise from the manor of Yaldham, alias St. Cleres, in the parish of Ightham. The original name of these manors was Ealdham, a name which denotes the antiquity of them, Eald in Saxon signifying old, and ham a dwelling.

These three manors were formerly owned by a family of the same name, one of whom, Sir Thomas de Aldham, was with Richard I. at the siege of Acon, in Palestine. His descendant, Sir Thomas de Aldham, possessed them in the reign of king Edward II. and dying without male issue, his three daughters became his coheirs, the eldest of whom married Newborough, of Dorsetshire; Margery married Martin Peckham;

and Isolda was the wife of John St. Clere, and on the division of their inheritance, Martin Peckham became entitled to that part of the estate, which lay in Wrotham, as John St. Clere did to that in Ightham, in right of their respective wives.

The first of this name of Peckham, that I have met with of any note, was John de Peckham, who attended king Richard the 1st to the siege of Acon, in Palestine, in the year 1191, from whom descended John Peckham, who held the manor of Peckham, in Hadlow, in the reign of king Edward I. his son was Martin Peckham, who married Margery, daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas de Aldham, and possessed the manors of East and West Yaldham, in this parish, in her right, the former of which he made his residence, where his posterity continued for many generations; and Weever says, (from Francis Thinne, Lancaster herald) that the two tombs near the door of this parish church, were those of this Martin Peckham, and Margery his wife. This family bore for their arms, Ermine a chief, quarterly or and gules, which coat remains in one of the windows of Barham church, and underneath, Jacobus Peccam, His grandson Reginald or Reynold Peckham, esq. was of Yaldham, where he resided in the

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latter end of king Edward the 3rd's reign, and then purchased the manor of Wingfield, in this parish. His son, James Peckham, esq. of Yaldham, was sheriff in the 1st and 12th years of king Richard II. He married Lora, the sole daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Morant, of Morant's-court, in Chevening, and widow of Sir Thomas Cawne, with whom he had, among other estates, the manor of Barsted, near Borough-green, in this parish.

His descendant James Peckham, esq. of Yaldham, was sheriff in the 12th year of king Edward IV. as was his son Reginald, or Reynold Peckham, esq. (as he is written on his grave-stone) in the 24th year of king Henry VII. and kept his shrievalty at Harrietsham, and on his father's death succeeded to these manors, and the mansion-house of Yaldham. He was esquire of the body to king Henry VIII. and dying in the 16th year of that king's reign, anno 1525, lies buried in this church, among others of his family, of which there are several gravestones remaining.

His grandson Reginald, or Reynold Peckham, of Yaldham, procured his lands to be disgavelled by the act of the 2d and 3d of king Edward VI. and died in the 1st and 2d year of king Philip and queen Mary, and as appears by the escheat rolls of that year, possessed of the manor of Aldham, alias Est Yaldham, with its appurtenances, held of the manor of Lullingstone-castle by knight's service, and the manor of Parva, alias West Aldham, and the manor of Downton's-court, of the duke of Northumberland, as of his manor of Otford, by knight's service, and he held at that time the lands called Goldsmith's, in this parish, and Stansted, near Compen wood, of the manor of St. John's, in Sutton. His descendant Reginald Peckham, esq. of Yaldham, left two daughters his coheirs, Dorothy, married to Thomas Chiffinch, esq. of Northfleet, by whom she had no issue, and Anne married to Bartlet, esq. of

Westminster.

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Reginald Peckham, esq. last mentioned, alienated the manors of East and West Yaldham, the mansion-house of it, Terry's lodge, with other premises in Wrotham, about the year 1713, to George St. Loe, esq. captain of the royal navy, and commissioner of Chatham-yard, who bore for his arms, Argent, on a bend sable, three annulets or, a martlet in chief as a difference. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Chiffinch, esq. of Northfleet, who survived him, and their son and heir about the year 1733, alienated this estate to Mr. Francis Austen, of Sevenoke, who immediately afterwards passed it away by sale to William Evelyn Glanville, esq. of St. Cleres, in Ightham, whose son and heir, William Glanville Evelyn, esq. of St. Cleres, is the present owner of it.

The Peckhams were the last gentlemen who resided at Yaldham, since which it has been used as a farm-house.

The courts for the manors of Yaldham have not been held for many years.

GOSFRID DE ROS gave his tithe of Ealdeham for ever to the monks of St. Andrew, in Rochester, for the good of his wife's soul, which land belonged to Wrotham, for which the monks were to celebrate his wife's anniversary yearly.

This portion of tithes, which arose from one hundred and forty acres of land in this parish, continued part of the possessions of the priory of Rochester till its dissolution in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. two years after which the king settled it, by his dotation charter, among other premises, on his new-founded dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom it now remains.

On the dissolution of deans and chapters after the death of king Charles I. this portion of tithes issuing

/o See the names of the fields in Reg. Roff. p. 117. and the confirmations of these tithes in Ibid. p. 46, 48, 410, 506.

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out of Yaldham manor, was surveyed in 1649, in order to be sold for the benefit of the state, when it appeared that it consisted of the whole tithe of Stonefield, Broadfield, Perryfield, Dunnfield, and Perthfield, all bounding within the precincts of this manor, and containing by estimation one hundred and forty-two acres, and was let by the dean and chapter of Rochester, anno 10th Charles I. for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of 6s. 8d. and two good capons; but that they were worth in improvements, over and above the rent, 7l. 13s. 4d. yearly./p

In 1770, the tenants of this portion of tithes were Nash Mason, esq. and Mrs. Margaret Wiffin, since married to Mr. Tomlyn, of Neupiker; the latter continues in possession of her part, but that of the former has been sold to William Glanville Evelyn. esq. the present tenant of it.

ABOUT a mile and a half eastward from Wrotham church, near Addington common, lies FORD, so called from the ford here over the brook, which rises at

Neupiker in this parish, and runs close by this house to Leybourn, and thence to the Medway. Ford was very antiently in the possession of the family of Clerke, very frequently written in old evidences le Clerke, who resided at this place, and bore for their arms, Argent on a bend engrailed azure, a cinquefoil pierced or.

John Clerke, esq. was of Ford, in the reigns of king Henry V. and VI. His son and heir John Clerke, was made second baron of the court of exchequer in the 39th year of king Henry VI. which dignity he seems to have held till the 20th year of Edward IV. anno 1479, in whose descendants, residents at Ford, it continued down to William Clerke, esq. of Ford, who was a brave and valiant gentleman, and in 1641 received the honor of knighthood, after which he manifested his loyalty to the king by raising and arming

/p Parliamentary Surveys, Lambeth library, vol xiv.

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a regiment at his own charge, at the head of which he was slain, together with Sir William Boteler, in the fight between the king's forces, and those of the parliament, under Sir William Waller, at Cropredy-bridge, on June 29, 1644./q

His widow held this estate afterwards, as part of her jointure, of which she continued possessed at the restoration in 1660, and her heirs alienated it to Mr. John Know, who resided at Ford, and dying possessed of it in 1723, was buried in this church, bearing for his arms, Argent on a bend engrailed gules, three trefoils, slipt of the first. He left an only daughter and heir Mary, who had married Philip, eldest son of Leonard Bartholomew, esq. of Oxenhoath, and dying in 1722, left two sons, Leonard Bartholomew, esq. of Oxenhoath, and John Know Bartholomew, who, by his grandfather's will, became his heir, and succeeded to this estate of Ford. He died without issue, and was succeeded in it by his brother Leonard Bartholomew, esq. of Oxenhoath, who likewise died without issue in 1757, and by his will bequeathed Ford, among the rest of his estates, to the second son, then unborn, of Sir Francis Geary, bart. admiral of the royal navy, who had married Mary, his half sister, which son was born soon after the above devise of this estate, being the present Sir William Geary, bart. M. P. for this county, who at present owns Ford, now only used as a farm-house, and the estate belonging to it./r

THE HAMLET OF BOROUGH-GREEN is situated about a mile southward from Wrotham church, on the high road leading from Maidstone to Sevenoke and Westersham, which here crosses the parish from the westward. Near this road is the manor of WINGFIELD, lying within the borough of that name, antiently belonged to the family of Quintin, in which it remained till Gil-

/q Clarendon's History of Rebellion, vol. ii. p. 386.

/r See Oxenhoath, in West Peckham.

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bert Quintin, and Joane his wife, in the 31st year of king Edward III. passed it away by fine to Reginald Peckham, gent. of Yaldham, in whose descendants it continued to James Peckham, esq. of Yaldham, who

in the beginning of king James the 1st.'s reign, alienated it to Nicholas Miller, esq. of Crouch, then called Horsnells Crouch, in this parish, who kept his shrievalty there in the 8th year of king Charles I. He died in 1640, and lies buried in this church, having at his death given both Wingfield and Crouch, to Nicholas Miller, his grandson, second son of his eldest surviving son, Sir Nicholas Miller, of Oxenhoath, who was of Crouch, gent. and died possessed of both Wingfield and Crouch in 1693, and was buried in this church, having had twelve children, five sons and seven daughters. These estates continued some years afterwards in this family, and till they were at length carried in marriage, by a female heir, to Mr. Munday, of Derbyshire, and he sold them in 1756 to Sarah, lady viscountess Falkland, who was daughter and heir of Thomas Inwen, esq. of Southwark, and first married Henry, earl of Suffolk, who died in 1745, by whom she had no issue; after which she married in 1752, Lucius Carey viscount Falkland, by whom she had one son and several daughters. She died possessed of both Wingfield and Crouch in 1776, and by her will devised these estates for life to her husband Lucius Carey, viscount Falkland, and the remainder in fee to Francis Motley Austen, esq. of Wilmington, who has since purchased lord Falkland's interest in them, and is now the present possessor of them.

There is no court held for the manor of Wingfield, and the mansion of Horsnells Crouch, situated in the hamlet of Crouch, is now converted into a farm-house.

ABOUT half a mile southward from Wrotham heath, in the road from thence to Mereworth walks, is a district in which there are TWO SMALL HAMLETS situated

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on the summit of the hill, called GREAT and LITTLE COMP, and more vulgarly Camps, no doubt from their having been once made use of as camps, and probably by the Romans, their military way running towards their camp at Oldberry, and to Stone-street, at a small distance only from these places.

Their name denotes their origin, Comp in Saxon signifying a camp or fortification.

The country hereabouts is wild and rough ground, covered with bushes and small scrubby trees, and near adjoining southward to them is the great tract of woodland called Comp and the Herst woods. There was formerly a chapel belonging to this district, the remains of which are still visible, being a chapel of ease to Leyborne, and built on a part of the glebe belonging to that rectory, on which account this land, though separated by two parishes intervening, is now esteemed as being within the bounds of Leyborne parish. In queen Elizabeth and king James the 1st.'s reign, Great Comp was the residence of Sir John Howell, descended out of Sussex, who bore for his arms, Argent, a lion with two bodies joined at the neck sable. This estate has been many years possessed by the family of Lambard, and is now the property of Multon Lambard, esq. of Sevenoke; here is another farm belonging to Mr. Tomlin. Lord Despencer owns a large tract of the woodland, as does Sir John Honeywood, Mrs.

Hughes, and several others, different parts of it.

In grubbing up a tree near this place, about sixty years ago, great numbers of small solid pieces of brass were found under the roots of it.

THE DISTRICT OF PLAXTOOL, situated in Halebo-rough, though now an appendage only to the parish of Wrotham, was made a distinct parish from it by ordinance of parliament, in 1647; in which state it re-

/s Vistn. co. Kent, anno 1619. Pedigree Howell.

/t Rushworth's Hist. Coll. vol. viii. p. 979.

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mained till the restoration in 1660, when it was again united to Wrotham, and continues so at this time.

In this district there is a manor called SORE, which antiently belonged to the family of Colepeper, of Preston, in Aylesford.

Walter Colepeper died possessed of it in the first year of king Edward III. and his descendants continued owners of it till Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Preston, alienated it about the end of the reign of queen Elizabeth, to Nicholas Miller, gent. of this parish, on whose death in 1621, it came to his son, Nicholas Miller, esq. of Crouch, sheriff in the 8th year of king Charles I. he died in 1640, leaving three sons and four daughters, of whom Nicholas, his eldest surviving son, succeeded to this estate. He was afterwards knighted, and was of Oxenhoath, in West Peckham. His grandson, Sir Borlase Miller, bart. died without issue in 1714, and was succeeded in this manor by his sister Elizabeth, then the wife of Leonard Bartholomew, esq. who in his wife's right became intitled to it. He afterwards resided at Oxenhoath, and left by her three sons, Philip, Leonard and Humphry.

Leonard, the second son, afterwards possessed this manor, and married Elizabeth, only daughter and heir of Edmund Watton, esq. of Addington, (remarried to Sir Roger Twisden, bart.) his son Leonard Bartholomew, esq. now of Addington-place, at length succeeded to this manor, of which, together with that of Badlesmere adjoining, he is the present possessor. — There is an antient and very remarkable chapel still remaining in the manor-house of Sore, which was probably made use of by the inhabitants of this district in general, before the present chapel of Plaxtool was erected.

At a small distance southward from Plaxtool-street, lies the seat of FAIRLAWN, the house of which is at the extremity of this parish, part of the stables belonging to it being in that of Shipborne. It was formerly

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accounted a manor, though now it has lost all remembrance of having been such.

It was antiently the estate of the family of Bavent, of whom it was afterwards held by the family of Colepeper. Walter Colepeper died possessed of it in the 1st year of king Edward III. holding it in frank fee of Roger de Bavent, in which name it continued till the latter end of king Henry IV. when it was alienated to Chowne, whose descendant, John Chowne, resided at Fairlawne, in the reign of king Henry VIII. and bore

for his arms, Sable, three attires of a stag in pale, argent. His descendants continued to reside here till Sir George Chowne, in order to confine his possessions within Sussex, alienated this seat, with the lands belonging to it, to Sir Henry Vane the elder, comptroller of the household to king Charles I. after which it continued the residence and estate of his descendants down to William, viscount Vane, who dying s. p. in 1789, by will gave this seat, among his other estates in this county, to David Papillon, esq. of Acrise, the present owner of it.

One wing of the mansion of Fairlawn was burnt down in 1739, and a new wing built in the room of it, which, before it was quite finished, was again destroyed by fire in 1742, and was again rebuilt by lord Vane.

THE CHAPEL OF PLAXTOOL stands at the west end of the village. It was without any fixed establishment for the maintenance of a minister, or for the repairs of the building itself; and the vicar of Wrotham not being obliged to find a curate, divine service was very seldom, or at least, very irregularly performed in it. To remedy which, Mr. Thomas Stanley, gent. of Hamptons, in 1638, conveyed to Sir Henry Vane, and four other feoffees, a house and two acres of land, valued at upwards of seven pounds per annum, for the use and support of the curate, upon condition that the

/u See more of the family of Vane under Shipborne.

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inhabitants of it should raise the sum of eight pounds annually for the like purpose; in default of which, or the service of the chapel ceasing, the bequest was to revert to the heirs of the donor.

In the year 1647, an ordinance of parliament passed, to divide this district from the parish of Wrotham, and by it a collection was directed to be made throughout this county towards erecting a parochial church here, and establishing a congregation proportionable to it. In consequence of which the present chapel was erected in 1648, which by an inscription at the east end of it, is said to have been built at the charge of the inhabitants of Hale and Roughway boroughs; but this ordinance being rendered of no effect at the restoration, Plaxtool became again united to Wrotham, and remains so at this time. After which the inhabitants refusing to comply with Mr. Stanley's terms of contributing towards the support of a minister, the vicar of Wrotham allowed a salary of twenty pounds towards it; but Mr. Dalison (whose ancestor had married Mr. Stanley's sole daughter and heir) insisting that as the addition was not made by the inhabitants, the proviso in his bequest was not complied with, and that it reverted to him as heir to the donor; a trial at law was had, when it being determined that the intent of the donor was fully answered, in the sum being given by any person whatsoever, a decree was made for the future payment of it.

This curacy has since been augmented with two hundred pounds from queen Anne's bounty. The curate of it enjoys Mr. Stanley's gift to it, besides a very handsome and adequate salary from the vicar of Wrotham, who appoints the curate from time to time. The

present curate is Mr. Thomas Dalison.

There was a house and land, worth about twelve pounds per annum, given by one of the Miller family, which continued to be enjoyed by the curate of Plaxtool, who resided at it till about the year 1750; when,

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upon some dispute with the vicar of Wrotham on the nominating a person to this curacy, it was withdrawn by Leonard Bartholomew, esq. of Oxenhoath, and has been with-held ever since.

CHARITIES.

EDWARD DODGES gave by will, to be distributed among the poor not receiving alms, payable out of land in this parish, vested in the churchwardens and overseers, the annual sum of 5l. and now of that annual produce.

DR. CHARLES LAYFIELD gave by will in 1710, the sum of 416l. 15s. 8d. in O. S. S. annuities, vested in the accountant-general of the court of chancery, the yearly interest of which, till a purchase could be made, and afterwards the rents and profits of the land purchased to be received by the churchwardens and overseers, to be applied by them in placing out apprentices one or more child or children of industrious poor of this parish, who do not receive alms, to be nominated by a general vestry, and the yearly surplus, or if any year no child should be placed out, the whole produce to be given to such industrious poor, in such proportions as should be there thought fit towards their support.

MR. SILAS CHITTENDEN gave by will in 1778, to the poor of the borough of Plaxtool the sum of 40s. yearly, to be given in bread, and 2s. yearly in books, to be paid from 70l. in the three per cent. consolidated annuities, and now of that annual produce.

A PERSON UNKNOWN gave a sack of wheat, to be distributed to the poor of that borough every Good Friday, to be paid out of Stonestyle-field, now vested in John Porter.

WROTHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and being a peculiar of the archbishop of Canterbury, is as such within the deanry of Shoreham.

The ecclesiastical jurisdiction of this parish extends over the district of the chapelry of Woodland, once a parish of itself, the civil jurisdiction of which is united to the parish of Kingsdown, though on the decay of the chapel, it was, in the 15th year of queen Elizabeth united, as to the ecclesiastical jurisdiction, to this parish, the rector and vicar of which have a right to possess all emoluments arising from it till another chapel is built.

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The ecclesiastical jurisdiction of this parish extends likewise over the adjoining parish of Stansted, which is accounted as a chapel to the church of Wrotham. It was made a distinct church of itself, by the ordinance of parliament before-mentioned, in 1647, in which state it remained till the restoration, when it became again united to the church of Wrotham, and continues so at this time.

The church, which is dedicated to St. George, is situated on the north side of the town, adjoining to the London road at the foot of the hill. It is a very handsome large building, consisting of three isles, a cross

isle, and a large chancel, which last was new-paved and otherwise much beautified some years ago, by the late rector, Dr. John Potter.

There seems to have been a rectory and vicarage belonging to this church very antiently, for in the 15th year of king Edward I. the former was valued at eighty marcs, and the latter at twenty marcs. However, the vicarage was not endowed till the middle of the reign of king Edward III. when Simon Islip, archbishop of Canterbury, at the request, and with the consent of William de Isleppe, then rector of this church, with the chapel of Stansted annexed, decreed, that there should be from that time in future one vicar, the collation of whom should belong to the archbishop and his successors, and he separated the portion, which the vicar should take in future from that of the rector, and he decreed, that the vicar's part so divided, with the permission of the rector, should be as follows: Imprimis, that he should have for the habitation of himself and his successors, a certain house lately assigned to the vicar, with the garden adjoining, as wholly and as freely as the vicar formerly held the same, and all manner of oblations in whatsoever things they should in any manner arise, in this church and chapel and elsewhere within the parish; and also the tithes of lambs, wool, chickens, pigs, geese, ducks, eggs, bees,

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honey, wax, cheese, milk, the produce of the dairy, flax, hemp, apples, pears, swans, and also of pigeons, merchandisings, fisheries, pasture without the parks of the archbishop, onions, garlic, and other small tithes and obventions whatsoever, in any shape arising within the bounds and limits of the parish of this church; and also of the silva cedua of faggots and fardels. And that the vicar should have the tithes of the four water mills situated within the parish of Wrotham, and also the tithe of hay growing at Hale, Roghey, and Wynfield, within this parish, and the small tithes of a place called Pellesholte, titheable to the church of Wrotham from antient time, and all trentals left within the parish of this church and chapel; and he taxed and estimated the above portion at the sum of twenty marcs, and decreed it should pay accordingly to the tenth, whenever the same should be levied

And he decreed that the vicar should undergo the following burthens, viz. that he should find one fit chaplain to celebrate in the chapel of Stansted, and to administer to the parishioners there all sacraments, and sacramentals whatsoever, and to exercise all cure of souls, and when he had leisure, and the other part of the parish of Wrotham should be in want of his ministry, beyond the usual service, that he should give his assistance, as the same should be enjoined to him and the vicar. Moreover, that the vicar should provide for his chaplain's celebrating at both places, bread and wine and lights, and should pay the procurations due to the dean of Shoreham at his visitations, and should bind and repair the books, and cause the vestments to be washed as often as need should require. But that the sacrist assigned by the parishioners, according to antient custom, should carefully keep them, as he should answer it at his peril. And he decreed, that the vi=

car of this church for the time being, should not take any thing whatsoever beyond the above portion, or undergo any other burthens than those before expressed.

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And he decreed, that the vicar and his chaplains, and their successors, should take an oath of obedience to the rector, that he would neither by himself, or by any other, publicly or privately, bring any damage or burthen to the rector or church, and that he should not knowingly ever usurp to himself, any thing of the rector's portion. And he further decreed, that as often as the vicarage should become vacant, the rector should take all and singular the tithes, and obventions whatsoever assigned as before mentioned, to the vicar of it, and arising during the time of such vacation, and that during the same, he should undergo and acknowledge all the before-mentioned burthens, and should cause, as well the said church, as the chapel of Stansted, to be served in divine services, saving to him the archbishop and his successors full liberty of correcting, amending and explaining his decree, and of adding to, or diminishing from the same, as often as need should require./w

Thomas Arundel, archbishop of Canterbury, in 1402, confirmed the above endowment, and being frequently requested by John Sondereshe, rector of this church, to inspect the said letters, how far he might with justice expound the decree, or endowment of this vicarage, which in several parts of it seemed doubtful and obscure, on account of the differences and disputes arising from thence, and the preventing those which might probably arise in future; the archbishop therefore having examined carefully into the premises, decreed, that that part of the endowment, where mention is made, that all small tithes, and obventions whatsoever, should belong to the vicar, ought to extend to the tithes, oblations and obventions therein expressed, and likewise to the tithes of trades and of calves, for the taking of which there had been no small contention, and that all occasion of dispute might be prevented between the rector and vicar, by reason of the

/w Regist. Islip, sans date circa an. 1364, f. 205.

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endowment, he decreed, that the vicar should yearly receive from the rector for the time being 13s. 4d. in money, and four cart loads of wood of the tithes of silva cedua of this parish, yearly to be taken, when it should most suit the vicar, nevertheless by the direction and delivery of the rector, or of his locum tenens.

And in recompence of which 13s. 4d. of the tithes of calves and of trades, and of the fire wood, the rector of this church for the time being should take entirely all manner of tithes of hay, and silva cedua of whatever sort or quality, the same might be, the decree of his predecessor in any wise notwithstanding, which he nevertheless decreed to remain in all other parts firm and valid, saving to himself and his successors, full power to correct, amend or explain the same, and either to add to or diminish it, as often as need, or reason required it./x

From this time the rectory became a sine cure, and

the vicar performed the whole service of the cure, though they both continued to receive institution and induction.

The rectory of Wrotham is valued in the king's books at 50l. 8s. 1¹/₂d. and the yearly tenths at 5l. 0s. 9³/₄d.

The vicarage is valued at 22l. 5s. 10d. and the yearly tenths at 19s. 10³/₄d.

An indenture was executed anno 6th Elizabeth, with the queen's consent, between the parson of Wrotham and George Bing, in which the latter conveyed in exchange a court lodge, and twenty-four acres of land to the former, and his successors in free alms, in lieu of the parsonage house, and twenty-four acres of glebe land.

The rectory of Wrotham continued a sine cure impropriate, under a lease from the archbishop, separate from the vicarage till the year 1715, when the lease expiring, archbishop Tenison having before refused to

/x In Libro Arundelli, pt. 1ma. folio 357.

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renew it, conferred this preferment on the vicar Mr. Thomas Curteis, since which both these preferments have been conferred on the same person who has a separate institution and induction, and conforms likewise in every particular to the act of uniformity for each.

The parsonage house is a handsome building on the opposite side of the road westward from the church. It was considerably improved of late years, first, by Mr. Curteis, and next by Dr. Potter, who was the principal benefactor to it, and expended a large sum of money upon this house and the offices belonging to it, during the time of his holding these preferments. The vicarage house is still remaining. It is a mean building situated in that part of Wrotham leading to Yaldham.

The extent of the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of this parish, with the chapel of Stansted, is very great, containing a space of six miles and an half long, of which Stansted is two miles, and three miles in width, besides the chapel of Woodland. There is an exceeding fine glebe to it, and the first value of the rectory and vicarage is, as I am informed, upwards of one thousand pounds per annum, of which the latter is computed at three hundred pounds.

CHURCH OF WROTHAM.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Archbishop of Canterbury. William de Isleppe, in 1350./y

Robert de Faryndon, in 1393./z

Roger Stratton, S. T. P./a

John Sondereshe, in 1402, obt.

May 12, 1426./b

William de Pyckenham, LL. D./c

Thomas Ward, in 1433./d

/y See the endowment above.

/z Reg. Roff. p. 468.

/a He lies buried in this church.

/b See the endowment above. He lies buried in this church. In 1418 the rector of Wrotham was imprisoned

in Newgate. Strype's Stow's Survey,
book i. p. 19.
/c Blomfield's History of Norfolk,
vol. ii. p. 471.
/d Harris's Hist. of Kent, p. 441.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

Archbishop of Canterbury. William Warham, Sept. 11,
1517, resig. about 1533./e
Andrew Peerson, about 1560,
obt. 1570./f
Robert Grafton, in 1572.
Charles Sonibanke, S. T. P. ob.
Oct. 12, 1638./g

RECTORS AND VICARS.

Thomas Curteis, A. M. 1715,
obt. 1747./h
John Potter, S. T. P. 1747, obt.
Sept. 1770./i
Hon. James Cornwallis, LL. D.
1771, vacated in 1781./k
George Stinton, S. T. P. October
1781, obt. 1783./l
Charles Tarrant, S. T. P. August
1783, obt. Feb. 23, 1791./m
Richard Levett, 1783, the pre=
sent rector and vicar./n

/e He was kinsman to archbishop
Warham, and was provost of Wing=
ham college, prebendary of St. Paul's,
and rector of Hayes, in Middlesex,
and archdeacon of Canterbury. Batte=
ley's Som. Cant. pt. 2d. p. 158.

/f Also rector of Brasted and Chi=
dingstone, and prebendary of Canter=
bury. Archbishop Parker's life, p. 510.

/g Canon of Windsor and rector of
Hazely, in Oxon. Wood's Ath. Fasti,
p. 177.

/h On the death of Philip Sandford,
the vicar, who died in October, 1715,
and lies buried in this church, he was
collated to the vicarage of it, of which
he was before the rector.

/i He was the eldest son of archbi=
shop Potter, and had been vicar of
Blackburn, in Lancashire; he was af=
terwards archdeacon of Oxford, vicar
of Lydd, and prebendary of Canter=
bury, which last he resigned on being
made dean of that church.

/k He is next brother to Charles,
marquis Cornwallis. He had been
rector of Ickham, and preb. of West=
minster, and afterwards rector of
Boughton Malherbe, all which he re=
signed, and was afterwards dean of
Canterbury, which he resigned, and
vacated Wrotham rectory and vicarage
on being in 1781, made bishop of

Litchfield.

/l At the same time a dispensation passed for his holding Alhallows, Barking vicarage, in London; at his death he was likewise chancellor of Lincoln, and prebendary of Peterborough.

/m He held likewise by dispensation, then passed the rectory of St. George's, Bloomsbury. He was afterwards dean of Peterborough.

/n He was rector of Berkswell, in Warwickshire.

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IGHTHAM.

WESTWARD from Wrotham lies IGHThAM, so corruptly called for Eighththam, which name it had from the eight boroughs or hams lying within the bounds of it, viz. Eighththam, Redwell, Ivyhatch, Borough-green, St. Cleres, the Moat, Beaulies, and Oldborough. In the Textus Roffensis it is spelt EHTEHAM.

THE PARISH of Ightham for the most part is in the vale between the chalk and the sand or quarry hills, tho' it reaches above the former northward. Near the chalk hill, and for some distance southward the same soil prevails, thence it is an unfertile deep sand, and at the boundaries towards Shipborne a deep clay and heavy tillage land; from hence, and its situation, however healthy it may be, it is by no means a pleasant or a profitable one. The parish is very narrow, little more than a mile in width, but from north to south it extends near five miles, from Kingsdown, above the hills, to Shipborne, its southern boundary. At the foot of the chalk hill and north-west boundary of this parish, is the mansion of St. Clere, and not far from it Yaldham; about a mile from which is Ightham-court, and at a little distance further southward is the church and village, situated on the high road from Maidstone to Sevenoke and Westerham, which here crosses this parish by the hamlet of Borough-green, and the manor of Oldborough, or Oldbery, as it is now called, with the hill of that name, belonging to Richard James, esq. of this parish, in this part, and by Ivy-hatch plain, there is much rough uninclosed waste ground, the soil a dreary barren sand, consisting in this and the adjoining parish, of several hundred acres, being in general covered with heath and furze, with some scrubby wood interspersed

/o Lamb. Per. p. 263. Philipott. p. 140.

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among them. At the southern extremity of the parish, next to Shipborne, and adjoining to the grounds of Fairlawn, is the seat of the Moat, lowly situated in a deep and miry soil. A fair is kept yearly in this parish, upon the Wednesday in Whitsun week, which is vulgarly called Coxcombe fair.

The Roman military way seems to have crossed this parish from Ofham, and Camps directing its course westward through it. The names of Oldborough, now

called Oldberry-hill, and Stone-street in it, are certain marks of its note in former times.

At Oldberry-hill there are the remains of a very considerable intrenchment, which is without doubt of Roman origin. It is situated on the top of the hill, and is now great part of it so overgrown with wood as to make it very difficult to trace the lines of it. It is of an oval form, and by a very accurate measurement, contains within its bounds the space of one hundred and thirty-seven acres. Just on the brow of the hill is an entrance into a cave, which has been long filled up by the sinking of the earth, so as to admit a passage but a very small way into it, but by antient tradition, it went much further in, under the hill.

The whole of it seems to have been antiently fortified according to the nature of the ground, that is, where it is less difficult of access by a much stronger vallum or bank, than where it is more so. In the middle of it there are two fine springs of water. The vast size of this area, which is larger even than that at Keston, in this county, takes away all probability of its having been a Roman station, the largest of which, as Dr. Horsley observes, that he knew of, not being near a tenth part of this in compass. It seems more like one of their camps, and might be one of their castra æstiva, or summer quarters, of which kind they had several in this county. An intrenchment of like form seems to have been at Oldbury hill, in Wiltshire, which the editor of Camden thought might possibly be Danish.

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There are remains of a Roman camp at Oldbury, in Gloucestershire, where the pass of the Romans over the Severn, mentioned by Antonine, is supposed to have been by Camden. And at Oldbury, near Manchester, in Warwickshire, are such like remains.

IGHTHAM was held in the reign of king Henry III. by Hamo de Crevequer, who died possessed of it in the 47th year of that reign, anno 1262, leaving Robert, his grandson, his heir. By his wife, Maud de Albrincis, or Averanches, he had also four daughters, Agnes, wife of John de Sandwich, Isolda, of Nicholas de Lenham; Elene, of Bertram de Criol; and Isabel, of Henry de Gaunt.

Robert de Crevequer left one son, William, who dying without issue, his inheritance devolved on the children of three of the daughters of Hamon de Crevequer, as above-mentioned, Agnes, Isolda, and Elene, and on the division of their inheritance, Ightham seems to have fallen to the share of Nicholas, son of Bertram de Criol, by his wife Elene, above-mentioned. He was a man greatly in the king's favour, and was constituted by him warden of the five ports, sheriff of Kent, and governor of Rochester-castle. By Joane his wife, daughter and sole heir of William de Aubervill, he had Nicholas de Criol, who had summons to parliament, and died in the 31st year of king Edward the 1st's reign, possessed of this manor, which his heirs alienated to William de Inge, who held it in the first year of king Edward II. and procured free-warren for his lands in Eyghtham, and in the 9th year of it, a market here, to be held on a Monday weekly, and one fair on the feast of the apostles, St. Peter and St.

Paul. In which last year he was constituted one of the justices of the common pleas./q He bore for his arms, Or, a chevron vert. On his death, in the 15th year of

/p Rot. Cart. anno 1 Edward II. No. 30.

/q Dugd. Orig. p. 44. Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 691.

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that reign, anno 1286, Joane, his daughter, married to Eudo, or Ivo la Zouch, the son of William, lord Zouch, of Harringworth, by Maud, daughter of John, lord Lovel, of Tichmarsh, became entitled to it.

His descendants continued in the possession of this manor till the reign of king Henry VII. when it was alienated to Sir Robert Read, serjeant at law, afterwards made chief justice of the common pleas,/r who died in the next reign of king Henry VIII. leaving by Margaret, one of the daughters and coheirs of John Alpheu, esq. of Chidingstone, one son, Edmund, one of the justices of the king's bench, who died before him in 1501, and also four daughters, who became his coheirs, and on the partition of their inheritance this manor was allotted to Sir Thomas Willoughby,/s in right of Bridget his wife, the eldest of them. He was in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. promoted to the office of chief justice of the common pleas, and in the 31st year of it, he, among others, procured his lands to be disgavelled by the act then passed for that purpose. He left Robert his son and heir, who alienated this manor to William James, third son of Roger James, of London, who was of Dutch parentage, and coming into England in the latter end of the reign of king Henry VIII. was first as being the descendant of Jacob Van Hastrecht, who was antiently seated at Cleve, near Utrecht, called after the Dutch fashion Roger Jacobs, and afterwards Roger James, alias Hastrecht. This Roger James, alias Hastrecht, had several sons and one daughter. Of the former, Roger, the eldest, was of Upminster, in Essex, whose descendants settled at Ryegate, in Surry. William, was of Ightham, as before mentioned; Richard had a son, who was of Creshell, in Essex; John was of Woodnesborough, in

/r Philipott, p. 140. See more of him under Chidingstone, vol. iii. of this history, p. 219.

/s See Chidingstone, Ibid.

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this county, and George was of Mallendine, in Cliff, near Rochester. William-James, the third son of Roger as before-mentioned, resided at Ightham-court, as did his son William James, esq. who was a man much trusted in the usurpation under Oliver Cromwell, as one of the committee members for the sequestration of the loyalists estates, during which time he was in five years thrice chosen knight of the shire for Kent. His son Demetrius was knighted, whose son William James held his shrievalty for this county here in 1732. He left by his wife, daughter of Demetrius James, esq. of Essex, two sons, Richard his heir, and Demetrius, late rector of this parish, and a daughter married to Mr. Hindman. He died in 1780, and was succeeded by his eldest son Richard James, esq. now of Ightham-court, and the present possessor of this manor.

He is colonel of the West-Kent regiment of militia, and is at present unmarried. The original coat of arms of this family of Haestrecht was, Argent, two bars cre= nelle, gules, in chief three pheons sable; which arms, without the pheons, are borne by the several branches of James, quartered with, Argent, a chevron between three fer de molins transverse, sable.

ST. CLERES, alias West Aldham, situated in the bo= rough of the latter name, is a manor and seat in the north-west part of this parish, adjoining to Kemsing, which was formerly called by the latter name only, and was possessed by a family of the same denomina= tion, who bore for their arms, Azure, a pile, or.

Sir Thomas de Aldham was owner of it in the reign of king Richard I. and was with that king at the siege of Acon, in Palestine. His descendant Sir Thomas de Aldham, possessed this manor of Aldham in the reign of king Edward II. and dying without male issue, his three daughters became his coheirs, the eldest of whom married Newborough, called in Latin de Novo Burgo, of Dorsetshire; Margery married Martin Peckham, and Isolda was the wife of John St. Clere, and on the

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division of their inheritance this manor fell to the share of John St. Clere, who possessed it in his wife's right./t

John de St. Clere, written in Latin deeds De Sancta Claro, died possessed of it in the beginning of king Ed= ward III. leaving Isolda his wife surviving, on whose death John St. Clere, their son, succeeded to this ma= nor, which from this family now gained the name of Aldham St. Cleres, and in process of time came to be called by the latter name only, and their descendants continued in possession of this manor till the beginning of the reign of king Henry VII. when it was alienated to Henry Lovel, who left two daughters his coheirs; Agnes, who married John Empson, cousin to Sir Ri= chard Empson, the grand projector; and Elizabeth, married to Anthony Windsor.

John Empson conveyed his moiety of it, in the 8th year of king Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Bulleyn, af= terwards created earl of Wiltshire and Ormond, and father of the lady Anne Bulleyn, wife to Henry VIII./u and Anthony Windsor, in the 10th year of that reign, passed his moiety away by sale to Richard Farmer, who that year purchased of Sir Thomas Bulleyn the other part, and so became possessed of the whole of this ma= nor of St. Cleres. In the 28th year of that reign, Ri= chard Farmer conveyed it to George Multon, esq. of Hadlow who removed hither. He bore for his arms, Or, three bars vert; being the same arms as those borne by Sir John Multon, lord Egremont, whose heir general married the lord Fitzwalter, excepting in the difference of the colours, the latter bearing it, Argent, three bars, gules. His grandson Robert Multon, esq. was of St. Cleres, and lies buried with his ancestors in this church. He alienated this manor and estate, in the reign of Charles I. to Sir John Sidley, knight and ba= ronet, a younger branch of those of Southfleet and

/t Philipott, p. 141, and 374

/u See Hever, vol. iii. of this history, p. 192.

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Aylesford, in this county, who erected here a mansion for his residence, which is now remaining. He was descended from William Sedley, esq. of Southfleet, who lived in the reign of king Edward VI. and left three sons, of whom John was ancestor of the Sedleys, of Southfleet and Aylesford; Robert was the second son, and Nicholas the third son, by Jane, daughter and coheir of Edward Isaac, esq. of Bekesborne, afterwards married to Sir Henry Palmer, left one son, Isaac Sidley, who was of Great Chart, created a baronet in 1621, and sheriff of this county in the 2d year of Charles I. whose son Sir John Sidley, knight and baronet, purchased St. Cleres, as above-mentioned. He left two sons, Isaac and John, who both succeeded to the title of baronet. The eldest son, Sir Isaac Sidley, bart. succeeded his father in this estate, and was of St. Cleres, as was his son, Sir Charles Sidley, bart. who dying without issue in 1702, was buried in Ightham church. By his will he devised this manor, with the seat and his estates in this parish, to his uncle John, who succeeded him in the title of baronet, for his life, with remainder to George Sedley, his eldest son, in tale male. But Sir Charles having been for some time before his death, and at the time of his making his will of weak understanding, and under undue influence, Sir John Sedley contested the validity of it, and it was set aside by the sentence in the prerogative court of Canterbury.

Soon after which Sir John, and his son George Sedley above-mentioned, entered into an agreement, by which Sir John Sedley waved his right as heir at law, and his further right to contest the will. In consequence of which an act of parliament was obtained for the settling in trustees the manor of West Aldham, alias St. Cleres, with its appurtenances, and the capital

/w Vistn. co. Kent, 1619, Ped. Sidley. Kimber's Baronetage, vol. iii. p. 1.

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messuage called St. Cleres, in Ightham, and other messuages and lands in Ightham, Wrotham, Kemsing, Seal, &c. that they might be sold for the purposes of the agreement, which the whole of them were soon afterwards to William Evelyn, esq. the fifth son of George Evelyn, esq. of Nutfield, in Surry, who afterwards resided here, and in 1723 was sheriff of this county.

He married first the daughter and heir of William Glanvill, esq. and in the 5th year of king George I. obtained an act of parliament to use the surname and arms of Glanvill only, the latter being Argent, a chief indented azure, pursuant to the will of William Glanvill, esq. above-mentioned. By her he had an only daughter Frances, married to the hon. Edward Boscawen, next brother to Hugh, viscount Falmouth, and admiral of the British fleet. His second wife was daughter of Jones Raymond, esq. who died in 1761, by whom he had William Glanvill Evelyn, esq. who on his father's decease in 1766, succeeded to St. Cleres and the rest of his estates in this county. In 1757 he kept his shrievalty at St. Cleres, where he resides at present, and is one of the representatives in parliament for Hythe, in this county.

He married about the year 1760, Susan, one of the two daughters and coheirs of Thomas Borrett, esq. of Shoreham, late prothonotary of the court of common pleas, by whom he had a son, William Evelyn, esq. who died in 1788 at Blandford-lodge, near Woodstock, by a fall from his horse, æt. 21, and unmarried; and a daughter Frances, afterwards his sole heir, married in 1782 to Alexander Hume, esq. of Hendley, in Surry, brother of Sir Abraham Hume, who in 1797 had the royal licence to take and use the name and arms of Evelyn only, and he now resides at St. Clere.

THE MOAT is another borough in this parish, in which is the manor and seat of that name, lying at the southern extremity of it next to Shipborne, which in the reign of king Henry II. was in the possession of

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Ivo de Haut, and his descendant, Sir Henry de Haut, died possessed of it in the 44th year of Edward III. as appears by the escheat roll of that year. His son, Sir Edmund de Haut, died in his life-time, so that his grandson, Nicholas Haut, became his heir, and succeeded him in the possession of this estate./x

He was sheriff in the 19th year of king Richard II. and kept his shrievalty at Wadenhall, in this county. He left two sons, William, who was of Bishopsborne; and Richard Haut, who succeeded him in this estate, and was sheriff in the 18th and 22d years of king Edward IV. keeping both his shrievalties at this seat of the moat; but having engaged, with several others of the gentry of this county, with the duke of Buckingham, in favor of the Earl of Richmond, he was beheaded at Pontefract, anno 1 Richard III. and afterwards attainted in the 3d year of that reign, and his estates confiscated./y Quickly after which, this manor and seat were granted by that king to Robert Brakenbury, lieutenant of the tower of London, and that year sheriff of this county. He kept possession of the Moat but a small time, for he lost his life with king Richard in the fatal battle of Bosworth, fought that year on August 22, and on the Earl of Richmond's attaining the crown was attainted by an act then passed for the purpose, and though his two daughters were restored in blood by another act four years afterwards, yet the Moat was immediately restored to the heirs of its former owner Richard Haut, whose attainder was likewise reversed, and in their descendants it remained till the latter end of the reign of king Henry VII. when it appears by an old court roll to have been in the possession of Sir Richard Clement, who kept his shrievalty at the Moat in the 23d year of king Henry VIII. and bore for his arms, A bend nebulee, in chief three fleurs de lis

/x Philipott, p. 142. and MSS. pedigree of Haut.

/y Rot. Pat. ejus an. Memb. 6. Philipott, p. 142.

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within a border, gobinated. He died without any legitimate issue, and was buried in the chancel of this church. Upon which his brother, John Clement, and his sister, married to Sir Edward Palmer, of Angmering, in Sussex, became his coheirs, but the former succeeded to the entire fee of this estate.

John Clement died without male issue, leaving an only daughter and heir Anne, who carried the Moat in marriage to Hugh Pakenham, and he, in the reign of king Edward VI. joining with Sir William Sydney, who had married Anne, his only daughter and heir, passed it away to Sir John Allen, who had been of the privy council to king Henry VIII. and lord mayor of London in the year 1526 and 1536. He was of the company of mercers, a man of liberal charity. He gave to the city of London a rich collar of gold, to be worn by the succeeding lord-mayors: also five hundred marcs as a stock for sea coal, and the rents of those lands which he had purchased of the king, to the poor of London for ever; and during his life he gave bountifully to the hospitals, prisons, &c. of that city. He built the mercers chapel in Cheapside, in which his body was buried, which was afterwards moved into the body of the hospital church of St. Thomas, of Acon, and the chapel made into shops by the mercer's company. He bore for his arms, In three roundlets, as many talbots passant, on a chief a lion passant guardant between two anchors./z

He left a son and heir Sir Christopher Allen, whose son and heir, Charles Allen, esq. succeeded his father in this estate, and resided at the Moat, which he afterwards sold at the latter end of the reign of queen Elizabeth to Sir William Selby, younger brother of Sir John Selby, of Branxton, in Northumberland. He resided here in the latter part of his life, and died greatly advanced in years in 1611, unmarried, and was buried in this church, bearing for his arms, Barry of

/z Strype's Stow's Survey, book iii. p. 38.

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twelve pieces, or and azure. He by his will gave this estate to his nephew, Sir William Selby, who resided here, and died likewise without issue, and by his will, for the sake of the name gave the Moat to Mr. George Selby, of London, who afterwards resided here, and was sheriff in the 24th year of king Charles I. and bore for his arms, Barry of eight pieces, or and sable. He died in 1667, leaving several sons and daughters. Of whom William Selby, esq. the eldest son, succeeded to this estate, and was of the Moat. He married Susan, daughter of Sir John Rainey, bart. of Wrotham, by whom he had several children, of whom John Selby, esq. the eldest son, was of the Moat, and by Mary his wife, one of the three daughters and co-heirs of Thomas Gifford, esq. left two sons, William, who succeeded him in this seat and estate at Ightham, and John Selby, esq. who was of Pennis, in Fawkham, and died unmarried.

William Selby resided at the Moat, of which he died possessed in 1773, leaving his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Burroughs, surviving, who afterwards possessed this seat and resided here. She died in 1788, and her only son, William Selby, esq. of Pennis, having deceased in 1777, and his only daughter and heir likewise, Elizabeth Borough Selby, by Elizabeth his wife, one of the daughters of John Weston, esq. of Cranbrook, under age, and unmarried in 1781. This seat, with her other estates in this county,

devolved to John Brown, esq. who has since taken the name of Selby, and now resides at the Moat, of which he is the present possessor.

The park, called Ightham park, has been already mentioned under the parish of Wrotham, to which the reader is referred.

It appears by the visitation of 1619, that there was a branch of the Suliards, of Brasted, then residing in this parish.

John Gull resided in this parish in the reign of king Henry VIII. and died here in 1547.

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CHARITIES.

HENRY PEARCE gave by will in 1545, to be distributed to the poor in bread yearly the annual sum of 6s. 8d. charged on land now vested in Cozens, and she gave besides to be distributed to the poor in bread at Easter yearly, 40l. now of the annual produce of 2l. and for the providing of books for poor children to learn the catechism, the sum of 10l. now of the annual produce of 10s.

HENRY FAIRBRASSE gave by will in 1601, to be distributed in like manner, the annual sum of 1l. to be paid out of land now vested in William Hacket.

WILLIAM JAMES, ESQ. gave by will in 1627, to be distributed in bread to the poor every Sunday, the annual sum of 2l. 12s. to be paid out of lands now vested in Rich. James, esq.

GEORGE PETLEY gave by will in 1705, to be distributed in like manner, every Sunday, 2s. the annual sum of 5l. 4s. to be paid out of land vested in William Evelyn, esq.

ELIZABETH JAMES, gave by will in 1720, for the education of poor children, the annual sum of 5l. to be paid out of land now vested in Elizabeth Solley.

IGHTHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and being a peculiar of the archbishop, is as such in the deanry of Shoreham.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter. Under an arch on the north side of it, there is a tomb of free stone, having on it a very antient figure at full length of a man in armour, ornamented with a rich belt, sword and dagger, his head resting on two cushions, and a lion at his feet, over his whole breast are his arms, viz. A lion rampant, ermine, double queued. This is by most supposed to be the tomb of Sir Thomas Cawne, who married Lora, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Morant. He was originally extracted from Staffordshire: he probably died without issue, and his widow remarried with James Peckham, esq. of Yaldham. His arms, impaling those of Morant, were in one of the chancel windows of this church.

The rectory is valued in the king's books at 15l. 16s. 8d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 11s. 8d. It is now of the yearly value of about 200l.

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The patronage of this rectory seems to have been always accounted an appendage to the manor of Ightham, as such it is now the property of Richard James, esq. of Ightham-court.

CHURCH OF IGHTHAM.

PATRONS,
Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Lords of the manor of Ightham. Richard Astall, A. M. ob. Aug
21, 1546./a

Henry Farbrace, A. M. obt.
Feb. 21, 1601./b

..... Hart, obt. 1628.

..... Grimes, in 1643./c

..... Alexander, ejected 1662./d

John Hickford, in 1690.

Ralph Leigh, 1744, obt. May
1760.

..... Halford, obt. 1763.

Samuel Dawason, A. M. inst.
1763, obt. 1769.

Temple Henry Croker, A. M. pre=
sented 1769, obt. 1773.

Demetrius James, 1773, obt.
Feb. 1781./e

Peter James, Feb. 1781, obt.
Sept. 1794./f

George Bithesea, A. M. Nov.
1791, the present rector.

/a He was also rector of Chevening,
and preb. of Wingham, and lies buried
in this church Weever, p. 327.

/b And vicar of Farningham, where
he lies buried.

/c See Rushworth, vol. vi. p. 277.

/d Ejected by the Bartholomew Act.
Cal. Life of Baxter, p. 286.

/e Second son of William James,
esq. late lord of the manor.

/f He was master of Greenwich
academy.

SHIPBORNE.

SOUTHWARD from Ightham lies SHIPBORNE,
called in the Textus Roffensis, SCRIBURNA.

THIS PARISH lies the greatest part of it below the
sand hills, and consequently in that part of this

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county called the Weald. The village is situated at
a small distance southward from the foot of the hill,
round Shipborne-green, having the church at the west
side of it; and about half a mile further westward,
near the boundary of the parish, is Budd's green.
On the rise of the hill is the mansion of Fairlawn, the
offices and great part of the grounds of which are
within this parish, where the soil is a clay, being a
heavy tillage land; in the southern part, at and about
the hill, it is a sand and rock stone; at the south-
east part of it there is much coppice wood, a deep and
miry country at all times, most of it being exceedingly
unpleasant either to live in or to travel through.

The fair continues to be held on the day of St.
Giles the abbot, being Sept. 1, yearly.

JOHN DE SAY seems in the reign of Henry III.
to have held in Siburne, of the earl of Gloucester,

one knight's fee, and the fifth part of one, /g which soon afterwards passed to Adam de Bavent, the principal possessions of whose family lay in Sussex and Surry.

Adam de Bavent, in the 12th year of Edward I. obtained a grant of free warren for his lands in Shipborne, and a market to be held weekly on a Monday, at his manor of Shipborne, and one fair yearly on the feast of St. Giles the abbot. In the 28th year of that reign, he was with the king at the siege of Carlaverock, in Scotland.

Hawis, widow of Sir Roger de Bavent, his descendant, in the 36th year of king Edward III. released to the prioress and convent of the priory of Dartford, then newly erected, all her right, in the manor of Shipborne, which that king by his patent of endowment, in his 46th year, confirmed to them, together with all knights fees, and other things belonging to it.

/g Book of Knights fees in the Exchequer.

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This manor continued part of the possessions of the priory of Dartford till the general dissolution of it in the reign of king Henry VIII. when it was surrendered into the king's hands, who in his 36th year granted to Sir Ralph Fane, and Anthony Tutsham, esq. the manor of Shipborne, late belonging to the monastery of Dartford, and the manor of Shipborne, alias Puttenden, lying on the east side of this parish, next to West Peckham, and late belonging to the monastery of Tunbridge, and the lands and chapel of Shipborne, with all their appurtenances, &c. to hold of the king in capite by knight's service; /h soon after which Anthony Tutsham released all his right and interest in them to Sir Ralf Fane.

He had been knighted at the siege of Bulleyn in 1544, and afterwards for his valour at the battle of Musselborough, in the 1st year of king Edward VI. made a knight banneret; but in the 6th year of that reign, having warmly espoused the interest of the duke of Somerset, he was accused of being an accomplice with him, and being found guilty was hanged on Tower-hill, that year. After his death, without issue, these manors, together with the lands and chapel of Shipborne, came into the possession of Henry Fane, great grandson of Henry Fane, of Hilden, in Tunbridge, who was grandfather of Sir Ralph Fane, above-mentioned.

Henry Fane, esq. was of Hadlow, and after the decease of his father was unwarily drawn into that insurrection raised by Sir Thomas Wyatt, in the 1st year of queen Mary, and being taken was committed to the Tower and attainted, but on consideration of his youth he had pardon, and was released from his imprisonment.

Next year being the 1st and 2d of Philip and Mary, he had a grant of these manors, and chapel of Ship-

/h Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 23. Philipott, p. 314.

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borne, from the queen, to hold to him and his heirs,

by the same services, by which they were held before his attainder. He died in 1582, the 25th year of queen Elizabeth, possessed at the time of his death, as appears by the inquisition then taken of these manors.

Henry Fane, his grandson, assumed the name of Vane, the antient one of his ancestors, which his posterity have continued to use ever since.

In the 17th year of king James I. he was knighted at Whitehall, from which time he acted a conspicuous part in the public affairs of this nation, and was chosen to sit in every succeeding parliament, both in that and the next reign. King Charles I. entrusted him much in different negociations with foreign princes, made him cofferer of his houshold, and of his privy council, and in 1632 one of the commissioners for executing the office of lord high admiral. He was afterwards much employed in commissions of the greatest weight, with others of the highest office and quality, and was made comptroller of the houshold, at which time he purchased of Sir George Chowne, THE MANSION OF FAIRLAWN, with the lands belonging to it, situated in the borough of Plaxtool, in Wrotham and this parish.^{/i} After which he was made treasurer of the king's houshold, and principal secretary of state, and empowered to hold those two offices together.

But not long after, on his appearing forward in the prosecution of the earl of Strafford, who had implacably offended him, by obtaining the title of baron Raby, which was Sir Henry's house, and an honor which he had hopes of acquiring himself, the king took such umbrage at it, that he removed him from all his places, and Sir Henry from that time concurred

^{/i} Philipott, p. 315. See a further account of it under Wrotham.

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in all the malicious designs of the king's enemies, and forgetting all former obligations, sacrificed every principle of honor and loyalty to his implacable thirst of revenge; but in the end, finding himself growing into the hatred and contempt of those who had made most use of him, as well as of his own son,^{/k} he retired to his seat of Raby-castle, in the bishopric of Durham, where he died in the latter end of the year 1654. He left several sons and daughters, of whom Henry became his heir, and George was of Long Melford, in Durham.^{/l}

Henry Vane, esq. succeeded his father in his estate, in Shipborne. He had been knighted at Whitehall in 1640, but from his education at Geneva had imbibed such a sharp prejudice and bitterness, as well against regal government as the hierarchy of the church, and this being heightened by the king's giving away the barony of Raby from his family, that following his inclination, he associated with the most discontented persons of that time, so that he became one of the most inveterate of the independent and republican faction. He had been made by the king joint treasurer of the navy, by the interest of the earl of Northumberland, during which he affected to be sa=

tisfied with government, and afterwards, when his real inclinations came to be more openly known, he was intrusted with the same office solely by the appointment of the parliament. On the restoration of king Charles II. being excepted out of the general pardon, he was committed to prison, where he was kept some time, and at length being brought to his trial, he was convicted of high treason, and receiving sentence of death, was executed on Tower-hill in 1662. Thomas Vane, esq. his eldest son, succeeded his father in his estates in this parish. He married

/k Clarendon's History, vol. ii. p. 163.

/l Collins's Peerage, vol. vi. p. 135.

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Frances, daughter of Sir Thomas Liddel, of Ravensworth, in Durham, and died without issue, on which his estates devolved to his brother Christopher Vane, esq. who was of Fairlawn, and was afterwards knighted by Charles II. In 1688, he was made by king James of his privy council, and in the 10th year of king William III. anno 1699, created lord Barnard, of Barnard castle, in the bishopric of Durham./m

He married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Gilbert Holles, earl of Clare, and sister and coheir of John, duke of Newcastle, by whom he left surviving two sons, Gilbert and William, and a daughter Grace. He died at his seat of Fairlawn, in 1723, and was buried in the new church of Shipborne, built by his own bounty. On which Gilbert, his eldest son, succeeded him in title, and in his estates in the north, and William, his second son, became possessed of his father's estates in Shipborne, Plaxtool, and elsewhere in this county.

The arms of the several branches of the Fanes, or Vanes, are three gauntlets, though differently borne. The earl of Westmoreland bears, Azure, three dexter gauntlets, with their backs affrontee, or; as did the lord viscount Fane, a descendant of the same branch. The earl of Darlington bears, Azure, three sinister gauntlets, with their backs affrontee, or. And lord viscount Vane bore, Azure, three sinister gauntlets, or, on a canton ermine, a pile sable, charged with a mullet of five points, argent.

William Vane, esq. the second son, was of Fairlawn, and was chosen to serve in parliament for Durham, in the year 1708, and in 1720 was created viscount Vane, and baron of Duncannon, of Tyrone, in Ireland. He died suddenly of an apoplexy at Fairlawn, May 20, 1734, having on the Friday before, the

/m See the Case of the Vanes, as heirs to the Duke of Newcastle, in Brown's Cases in Parliament, vol. v. p. 435.

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17th, been declared duly elected to serve in parliament for this county, and was buried in Shipborne church. Upon which, William Hollis Vane, his only surviving son, became his father's heir, and succeeded him in titles and estate. He married Frances, daughter of Francis Hawes, esq. one of the South Sea directors in 1720, and widow of lord William Hamilton, younger brother of James, duke of Hamilton,

by whom he had no issue, and dying in 1789, by his will gave these manors, his seat of Fairlawn, and the rectory of the chapel of Shipborne, among his other estates to David Papillon, esq. of Acrise, the present possessor of them.

BUDDS is a hamlet in this parish, lying about three quarters of a mile westward from Shipborne church, where a family of the name of Collins formerly dwelt. Henry Collins resided here in the reigns of king Henry VIII. king Edward VI. queen Mary, and queen Elizabeth, and dying in the 35th year of the latter, was buried in this church. His eldest son, Richard Collins, gent. was likewise of Budds. They bore for their arms, Vert, a griffin segreant, or, beaked argent, gorged with a coronet of the third. How long it continued afterwards in this name I have not found, but John Turner, gent. in the reign of king James I. resided at Budds, and bore for his arms, Argent and ermine, three fer de molins, or, a pale counterchanged in fess, on a chief, or, a lion passant guardant between two roses. It is now the property of George Children, esq. of Tunbridge.

CHARITIES.

FRANCIS COLLINS, by will in 1599, gave for the use of the poor the annual sum of 1l. charged on the house called the Bull inn, in Rochester, and 2l. likewise on lands in Gillingham, vested in Mr. Page.

N. B. This last pays the land tax, and the two bequests by journeys, expences, &c. reduces them to the annual produce of 2l. 7s. 6d.

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JOHN SWAN gave by will 10l. and his executors by deed in 1614, purchased with it an annuity of 10s. for the use of the poor, charged on lands in this parish, vested in the heirs of John Bellingham, lately deceased, and now of that annual produce.

STEPHEN FREMLYN, by will in 1717, gave by deed, for the use of the poor, the annual sum of 1l. to be paid out of lands and tenements in this parish, vested in Mr. William Collins, and now of that annual produce.

SHIPBORNE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling.

The church is dedicated to St. Giles, and is a neat fabric. It was entirely rebuilt from the ground by the bounty of Christopher, lord Barnard, in the beginning of this century.

It was antiently esteemed as a chapel to the church of Tunbridge, and paid six-pence chrim rent to the mother church of the diocese.

John, bishop of Rochester, in the 7th year of king Edward II. certified to the king's treasurer and barons of the exchequer, in obedience to the king's writ, directed to him for that purpose, that the prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem had within his diocese the appropriation of the church of Tonebregge, with the chapels of Schibourne and St. Thomas the Martyr, which was worth yearly thirty-four marcs, being part of the antient possessions of that hospital, and upon a like writ in the 20th year of Edward III.

Hamo, bishop of Rochester, certified to the king's treasurer, &c. a like return./n

The chapel of Shipborne belonged to that part of their revenues which was under the cognizance of their preceptory or commendary of Peckham, otherwise called the chantry magistrale in this neighbourhood, and it remained part of the possessions of the above-mentioned hospital till the time of its dissolution in

/n See more of this chapel under Tunbridge.

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the 32d year of king Henry VIII. when this order of knights was suppressed by an act then specially passed for that purpose, by which all their lands and revenues, &c. were given to the king and his heirs forever. After which the king, in his 36th year, granted to Sir Ralph Fane, and Anthony Tutsham, esq. among other premises in this parish, the lands and chapel of Shipborne, with their appurtenances, in fee, to hold in capite by knight's service./o Soon after which, Anthony Tutsham released all his interest in them to Sir Ralph Fane, in whose family they continued, as has been already fully related in the account of the manor of Shipborne, down to William Holles viscount Vane, who devised them by will to David Papillon, esq. the present owner of them.

This chapel is now esteemed as a curacy, and is not in charge in the king's books. It pays a fee-farm rent of eight shillings yearly to the crown.

CHAPEL OF SHIPBORNE.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. CURATES.

Family of Fane, alias Vane Bowles, in 1627./p

..... Scott, in 1680.

Theophilus Beck, 1690.

William Davis, in 1721, obt.

Jan. 29, 1747./q

Leonard Addison, M. A./r

John Francis, M. A./s

— Hemington./t

Henry Austen, M. A./u

— Knox./x

David Papillon, esq. Vicesimus Knox, the present curate./y

/o Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 23.

/p MSS. Twysden.

/q He was also vicar of Tunbridge, where he lies buried.

/r Afterwards rector of Saul and Cawston, and vicar of Saxthorpe, Norfolk.

/s Afterwards vicar of Soham, Cambridgeshire.

/t Afterwards vicar of Tunbridge.

/u Afterwards rector of West Wickham.

/x Master of Tunbridge school.

/y Master of Tunbridge school, and vicar of Hadlow, vice Wm. Fitzherbert, deceased.

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THE
HUNDRED OF LITTLEFIELD.

SOUTHWARD from Wrotham hundred lies the hundred of Littlefield, called in Domesday Littlefelle, and in some records, Leighfield.

This hundred takes its name from the smallness of its extent, for it contains within its bounds only the parish of

MEREWORTH,
AND PART OF THE PARISH OF
WEST PECKHAM.

And the churches of those parishes, and part of the parishes of HADLOW and EAST PECKHAM, the churches of which are in another hundred.

THIS HUNDRED, in the beginning of the reign of king Edward II. was in the possession of the crown, where it staid till that king, in his 15th year, granted it, by consent of parliament, among other estates of greater value, to Edmund, of Woodstock, his half-brother, whom he at the same time made Earl of Kent. After the death of whose two sons, Joane their sister became their heir, and her husband Sir Thomas Holand possessed this hundred in her right, who for her great beauty was called the fair maid of Kent, in whose right he was also earl of Kent. After his death she married Edward the black prince. She was succeeded in the possession of this hundred by Thomas Holand, earl of Kent, her son by her first husband, whose eldest son Thomas Holand, was afterwards created Duke of Surry, and continuing loyal

/r See Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 92, 94. Rot. Esch.

to the cause of king Richard II. lost his life in a tumult at Cirencester, in the 1st year of king Henry IV. and was next year attainted in parliament. He died without issue, and his brother Edmund, earl of Kent, before the end of that year obtained, by virtue of an old entail, this hundred, among other estates, of which his brother had died possessed, and leaving no issue, his four sisters became his coheirs, and on the partition of his estates, this hundred was allotted to Joane, his fourth sister, duchess of York, who appears by the escheat rolls to have died without issue in the 12th year of king Henry VI. possessed of it.

Upon the partition of her inheritance among her sisters, Margaret, first wife of John, earl of Somerset, and afterwards of Thomas, duke of Clarence, became entitled to it. She died in the 18th year of that reign, leaving John, earl of Somerset, her son by her first husband, her next heir.

How the hundred of Littlefield passed afterwards I have not found, but in the reign of king Henry VIII. it was part of the possessions of the crown, where it remained till king Edward VI. in the 4th year of his reign, granted it in fee to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, who was the next year created duke of Nor-

thumberland.

He, in the 7th year of that reign, sold it to the king, in exchange for other manors and lands.

This hundred seems to have remained in the crown till the 32d year of queen Elizabeth, who then granted the hundreds of Littlefield, alias Leighfield, and of Wachelston, alias Chadlington, to Sir Wm. Brooke, lord Cobham, whose son Henry, lord Cobham, in the first year of king James I. being accused with others of a conspiracy to kill the king, and subvert the government, was found guilty, and had judgment of death pronounced against him, though the sentence

Inrolments Augtn. office, anno 4 Edward VI.

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was afterwards, through the king's clemency superseded. Upon his attain, this among the rest of his estates, became forfeited to the crown, and was confirmed to it by the act passed in the 3d year of king James for that purpose, since which this hundred has continued among the possessions of the crown, where it remains at present.

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WEST, ALIAS LITTLE PECKHAM.

EASTWARD from Shipborne lies the parish of West, alias Little Peckham, called in Domesday, PECHEHAM, and in the Textus Roffensis, PECHAM.

It has the appellation of West Peckham, from its situation westward of Great, or East Peckham, and of Little, from its smallness in regard to that parish. They both probably had their name from their situation, peac signifying in Saxon, the peke, or summit of an hill, and ham, a village, or dwelling-place.

THE QUARRY STONE HILLS bound the northern side of this parish, consequently the whole of it is within the district of the Weald. The soil is in general a stiff clay, and in the lower or southern part of it where it is mostly pasture, it is very rich grazing land. The northern part adjoining to the hill is covered with those woods, commonly called the Herst woods, from which there are several fine springs of water, which extend over the eastern parts of this parish, where, near the boundary of it, next to Mereworth, is the village, with the church. The northern side of this parish is watered by the stream which flows hither from Plaxtool, and from hence into the Medway at Brandt-bridge, a little above Yaldham, having turned two corn-mills in its course within this parish. The seat of Hamptons, now almost in ruins, stands near the east side of this stream, in a wild gloomy

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situation, and at a small distance, that of Oxenhoath, an antient brick building, situated on a rise of ground, having a most extensive prospect over the Weald, and again to the hills north-eastward, the ground about it is finely wooded, and is the greatest part of it exceeding rich pasture.

There were antiently two parks in this parish, both of which were disparked at the time Lambarde wrote his Perambulation in 1570.

There is a fair held in this village yearly, on the 16th of June.

This parish, with others in this neighbourhood, was antiently bound to contribute to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge.

LITTLE PECKHAM before the conquest was in the possession of earl Leofwine, who as well as his brother, king Harold, lost their lives in the fatal battle of Hastings. After which William the Conqueror gave it to Odo, bishop of Baieux, his half-brother, whom he likewise made earl of Kent, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the survey of Domesday, taken about the year 1080.

Corbin holds Pecheham of the bishop (of Baieux). It was taxed at two sulings; the arable land is six carucates. In demesne there is one, and twelve villeins, having five carucates, and eight borderers, and five servants, and three acres of meadow, wood for the pannage of ten hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth twelve pounds, now eight pounds, and yet it yields twelve pounds. The king has of this manor three dens, where four villeins dwell, and are worth forty shillings. Earl Leuin held it.

On the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, about four years afterwards, this among the rest of his estates was confiscated to the crown.

In the reign of king John, the manor of West Peckham, then valued at fifteen pounds, was held in sergeantry, by a family of the name of Bendeville,

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by the service of bearing one of the king's goshawks, beyond sea, from the feast of St. Michael to that of the Purification, when the king demanded it, in lieu of all other services. Soon after which it came into the possession of a family who took their surname from it.

John de Peckham held it in the reign of king Henry III. and his descendant, John de Peckham, died possessed of it in the 21st year of king Edward I. holding it in capite, by the service above-mentioned. Soon after which it passed into the possession of Robert Scarlet, who died possessed of it in the 33d year of that reign, but in the next of king Edward II. Adam at Broke was possessed of it. He died in the 11th year of it, both of them holding it in capite by the service mentioned above. And it appears, that in the latter year it was accounted a manor, and that there were here a capital messuage, pidgeon-house, rents of assize, and one hundred and eighty-four acres of land and wood.

His widow, Dionisia at Broke, died possessed of it in the 5th year of king Edward III. after which this manor seems to have been separated into moieties.

John de Mereworth, of Mereworth, died in the 39th year of that reign, possessed of a moiety of the manor of West Peckham, which he held of the king in capite, by the service before mentioned. Since which it has passed through the same tract of ownership that the manor of Mereworth has; as may be more fully seen hereafter in the description of it, and it is now, as well as that manor, in the possession of

the right hon. Thomas Stapleton, lord le Despencer.

THE OTHER MOIETY of the manor of West Peckham, after the death of Dionisia at Broke, in the 5th year of king Edward III. came into the possession of

</t> Rot. Esch. ejus an. No. 35, p. servicium mutandi unum Osturcum per ann.

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Lionel, duke of Clarence, the king's third son, in right of his wife Elizabeth, sole daughter and heir of William de Burgh, earl of Ulster. She died in the 38th year of that reign, leaving by him an only daughter, Philippa, surviving her, who died in the 43d year of it, and the duke being then possessed of the moiety of this manor, which he held by the law of England, as of the inheritance of Elizabeth his late wife deceased, in capite by knight's service, Philippa, his daughter above-mentioned, then countess of March, was found to be his next heir. Upon which Edmund Mortimer, earl of March, her husband, had possession granted of it that year. Soon after which this moiety came into the possession of that branch of the family of Colepeper settled at Oxenhoath, in this parish, in which it remained till Sir John Colepeper, one of the judges of the common pleas, in the reign of king Henry IV. gave it to the knight's hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, in the 10th year of that reign, anno 1408.

They established a preceptory within this manor, which continued part of their possessions till the general dissolution of their hospital in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. when this order was suppressed by an act then specially passed for that purpose, and all their lands and revenues were given by it to the king and his heirs for ever. It was at that time stiled the Preceptory, or commandery of West Peckham, otherwise called the Chantry Magistrale. A preceptory or commandery, was a convenient mansion belonging to these knights, of which sort they had several on their different estates, in each of which they had a society of their brethren placed to take care of their lands and rents in that respective neighbourhood.

This manor of West Peckham, for so it was then stiled, together with the preceptory, was valued at the above dissolution at 63l. 6s. 8d. annual revenue, and sixty pounds clear income.

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King Henry VIII. in his 33d year, granted the fee of this manor, with its appurtenances to Sir Robert Southwell, of Mereworth, to hold in capite by knight's service, and he in the 35th year of that reign, alienated it to Sir Edmund Walsingham. In which name and family this manor continued till the latter end of the reign of king Charles I. when Sir Thomas Walsingham, of Scadbury, alienated it, with Yokes-place, and other estates in this neighbourhood, to his son in law, Mr. James Master, of Yokes, in the adjoining parish of Mereworth, Sir Tho. Walsingham having married the widow of Mr. Nathaniel Master, Mr. James Master's father; since which it has passed in like manner as that seat, into the possession

of the right hon. George Bing, viscount Torrington, the present possessor of it.

HAMPTONS is a seat in this parish, situated at the western extremity of it, which, as well as the borough of that name, is accounted within the hundred and manor of Great Hoo, near Rochester. In the reign of queen Elizabeth it was in the possession of John Stanley, gent. who resided here, being the son of W. Stanley, gent. of Wilmington, whose grandfather, John Stanley, gent. was of Wilmington, in Lancashire, and bore for his arms, Argent, on a bend, azure, three bucks heads caboshed, or, a chief gules. And it appears, by an antient pedigree of the family of Stanley, well drawn with the several bearings of arms, now in the hands of William Dalison, esq. that the Stanleys of this county were descended of the eldest branch of that family, being the direct descendants of William de Stanley, lord of Stanley, in Staffordshire, and of Stourton, in the 10th year of king Richard II. the elder brother to John de Stanley, lieutenant of Ireland, who by the daughter and heir of Latham, of Lancashire, was ancestor to the Stanleys, earls of

/u See Chesilhurst, vol. ii. of this history, p. 7.

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Derby, of the lords Montegle, and of those of Holte and Wever./w He died possessed of this seat in 1616, and his eldest son Thomas Stanley, esq. of Hamptons, dying in 1668, was buried in this church near his father. He left issue an only daughter and heir Frances, married to Maximilian Dalyson, esq. of Halling, who in her right became entitled to this seat, to which he removed on her father's death.

This family of Dalyson is of good account for its antiquity in this kingdom. William d'Alanzon, the first ancestor recorded of it, is said to have landed in this kingdom with William the Conqueror, whose direct descendant in the eighth generation, was of Laughton, in Lincolnshire, and first wrote himself Dalyson. His great grandson, William Dalyson, esq. of Laughton, was sheriff and escheator of Lincolnshire, and died in 1546, leaving two sons and three daughters; George Dalyson, the eldest son, was of Laughton, whose grandson, Sir Roger Dalyson, was lieutenant-general of the ordnance, and was created a baronet in 1611.

William Dalyson, the second son, represented the county of Lincoln in parliament in 1554, and was afterwards one of the judges of the king's bench, in the time of queen Mary, whose coat of arms, Gules, three crescents, or, a canton ermine, are still remaining in a window in Grays-inn chapel, and in another window is a like coat belonging to Charles Dalyson, anno 1660. He died in 1558, and was buried in Lincoln cathedral. He left four sons, of whom William, the eldest, will be mentioned hereafter, and Thomas was of Greetwell, in Lincolnshire, and was afterwards knighted. Lloyd in his memoirs says, Sir Thomas Dalyson, of Lancashire, lost his life for his loyalty at Nazeby, and 12,000l. in his estate, and that there were three colonels more of this name in the king's army, viz. Sir Charles Dalyson, Sir Robert Dalyson, and Sir William Dalyson,

/w See Visitation county of Kent, anno 1619. Pedig. Stanley.

who spent 130,000l. therein, being men of great command in their country, and bringing the strength thereof to the king's assistance.

William Dalyson, the eldest son, on his marriage with Silvester, daughter of Robert Dene, gent. of Halling, in this county, in 1573 settled in this county, and resided at the bishop's palace, in Halling, where he died in 1585, and was buried in Clerkenwell church. His widow afterwards married William Lambarde, gent. of Greenwich, our Kentish perambulator, and dying in 1587, was buried in Halling church, leaving issue by both her husbands.

Maximilian Dalyson, esq. the direct descendant of William Dalyson, by Silvester his wife, resided, in like manner as his ancestors had done at Halling, but having married Frances, only daughter and heir of Thomas Stanley, gent. of Hamptons, in this parish, as has been before related, on the death of her father, he removed thither, where he died in 1671, and was buried in this church, as was Frances his wife, who survived him, and died in 1684. They left two surviving sons, Thomas, of whom hereafter; and Charles, who was of Chatham, gent.

Thomas Dalyson, esq. the eldest son, of Hamptons, was twice married; first, to Susan, daughter of Sir Thomas Style, bart. of Watringbury; and secondly, to Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Twisden, bart. of Bradborne, by the latter of whom he had no issue. He died in 1636, leaving by his first wife a daughter Elizabeth, who married John Boys, esq. of Hode-court, in this county, and Tho. Dalyson, esq. who was of Plaxtool, where he resided during his father's life-time, and afterwards removed to Hamptons, where he died in 1741, and was buried in Plaxtool chapel, as were his several descendants.

He married first Jane, only daughter of Richard Etherington, gent. of Essex, by whom he left Mary, who died unmarried, and Jane, who married Sir Jeffery

Amherst, of Riverhead, afterwards created lord Amherst. His second wife was Isabella, second daughter of Peter Burrell, esq. of Beckenham, who surviving him, died in 1762. By her he had William, of whom further mention will be made hereafter. Frances Isabella married to William Daniel Master, esq. of Mereworth, and Thomas Dalison, clerk, A. M. Wm. Dalison, esq. the eldest son, is the present possessor of Hamptons, but resides at Plaxtool, and is as yet unmarried.

The family of Dalyson, of Hamptons, has a right to quarter the arms of Stanley, and with them the coats of Hooton, Houghton, Grosvenor and Harrington; and with those of Dalyson, the coats of Elkinton, Greenfield, Dighton and Blesby.

THE BOROUGH OF OXENHOATH in this parish, is within the hundred and manor of Hoo, near Rochester, at the court of which a borsholder is appointed for this borough yearly.

THE MANOR OF OXENHOATH, alias Toxenhoath, is held of the manor of Great Hoo, by the service of the

yearly payment of a pair of gilded spurs, but the payment of them has been forborne many years. It was in antient times part of the possessions of a branch of the family of Colepeper, or Culpeper, as they were called, and sometimes wrote themselves, in which it continued till it became part of the possessions of Sir John Colepeper, justice of common pleas, in the 7th year of king Henry IV. in the 10th year of which reign, he gave his manor of West Peckham to the knights hospitallers, as has been mentioned before. He resided at Oxenhoath, of which he died possessed in, or soon after, the 3d year of king Henry V. and was buried in this church with Katherine his wife, by whom he left Sir William Culpeper, of Oxenhoath, sheriff of this county in the 5th year of king Henry VI. whose son, Sir John Colepeper, likewise resided here. His son, Sir William Colepeper, was of Aylesford, and sheriff

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in the 5th year of king Henry VI. By his wife, daughter of Ferrers, of Groby, he had three sons; Sir Richard Colepeper, of Oxenhoath, William, of Preston-hall, in Aylesford; and Jeffrey.

Sir Richard Colepeper was sheriff in the 11th year of king Edward IV. and died possessed of Oxenhoath, in the 2d year of king Richard III. leaving by Isabella, daughter and coheir of Otwell Worceley, of Stamworth, three daughters, his coheirs, Margaret, married to William Cotton, third son of Sir Thomas Cotton, of Landwade, in Cambridgeshire; Joyce, to the lord Edmund Howard, younger son of Thomas, duke of Norfolk; and Elizabeth, to Henry Barham, of Teston. /x And on the division of their inheritance, this estate was allotted to William Cotton, in right of his wife Margaret. He resided here, bearing for his arms, Sable, a chevron between three griffins heads erased, argent. /y He was succeeded by his son, Sir Thomas Cotton, who alienated this manor to John Chowne, gent. of Fairlawne, and his great grandson, Sir George Chowne, of Fairlawne, intending to confine his possessions within Sussex, passed away this manor to Nicholas Miller, esq. of Horsnells Crouch, in Wrotham, sheriff of this county in the 8th year of king Charles I. who bore for his arms, Ermine, a fess gules, between three griffins heads erased, azure. He died in 1640, and was buried in Wrotham church, leaving by Jane his wife, daughter of John Polley, esq. of Preston, two surviving sons, Nicholas of Oxenhoath, and Mathew of Buckland, in Surry, and several daughters.

His eldest surviving son, Sir Nicholas Miller, resided at Oxenhoath, which he greatly augmented and beautified. He died in 1658, leaving four sons and four daughters surviving, of whom Humphry became his heir; and Nicholas, to whom his grandfather, Ni-

/x MSS. pedigrees of Colepeper, Lee, Cotton, &c.

/y Vistn. co. Kent, anno 1619, pedigree of Cotton.

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cholas Miller, bequeathed his family seat of Crouch, in Wrotham, and other estates. Humphry Miller, esq. the eldest son, succeeded his father in this manor and seat, where he resided, and in 1660, was created a

baronet, and in 1666 was sheriff of this county, and kept his shrievalty at Oxenhoath. He died in 1709, leaving a son and heir, Borlase, and a daughter, Elizabeth, who will be mentioned hereafter.

Sir Borlase Miller, bart. was of Oxenhoath, of which he died possessed in 1714, s. p. leaving his wife, Susanna, daughter of Thomas Medley, esq. of Sussex, surviving. On which this estate came by survivorship to Elizabeth his sister, before-mentioned, then the wife of Leonard Bartholomew, esq. of Rochester, who afterwards resided at Oxenhoath, who served the office of sheriff in 1713, and bore for his arms, Or, three goats heads erased, sable. He died in 1720, being buried with Elizabeth his wife in this church, and leaving three sons, Philip, Leonard, and Humphry; the eldest of whom, Philip Bartholomew, esq. possessed and resided at Oxenhoath. He first married the only daughter and heir of Mr. John Knowe, gent. of Ford, in Wrotham; by whom he had two sons, Leonard, and John-Knowe-Bartholomew, the latter of whom died before his brother, without issue. He married secondly Mary, younger daughter of Alexander Thomas, esq. of Lamberhurst, by whom he had a daughter Mary, married to Francis Geary, esq.

Philip Bartholomew died in 1730, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Leonard Bartholomew, esq. who was of Oxenhoath. He died without issue in 1757, and by will gave Oxenhoath, with his other estates in this county, to the second son, then unborn, of Francis Geary, esq. of Polesdon, in Surry, afterwards admiral of the royal navy, and created a baronet on August 10, 1782, by Mary, his half sister above-mentioned, in tail male, with remainder to the admi=

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ral's eldest son, in like tail, remainder to the family of Beaumont, in Yorkshire.

His second son before mentioned was afterwards born and christened William, and his eldest brother having died unmarried, became his father's heir, and succeeded on his death in 1796, to the title of baronet, being the present Sir William Geary, bart. who resides at Oxenhoath, of which he is the present possessor. He is M. P. for this county, and at present unmarried. The arms of Geary are, Gules, two bars argent, on each three mascles of the first, a canton ermine.

CHARITIES.

DAME MARY CHOWNE gave by will in 1619, to be distributed to the poor of this parish on Michaelmas day yearly, the sum of 40l. with which a house was bought, which is vested in trustees, and now of the annual produce of 40s.

THOMAS STANLEY, esq. gave by deed in 1637, to an aged married pair for life, or an antient widow, a house and land, vested in the churchwardens and overseers, and now of the annual produce of 1l. 10s.

THE REV. SAMUEL COOKE gave by will in 1637, to ten poor persons of this parish yearly, on Lady-day, a sum of money, vested in the minister of this parish, and now of the annual produce of 5l.

NICHOLAS JAMES and THOMAS DUNMOLL gave by their several wills in 1695, 1705, and 1708, the sums of 20s. each, to be paid out of lands in this parish, and to be distributed to

the poor on Christmas day, which sums are vested in the church= wardens and overseers, and now of the like annual produce.

MILDMAY, EARL OF WESTMORELAND, gave a field, con= taining two acres, to the inhabitants of this parish, for a sport= ing place and for a more commodious way to the church.

WEST OR LITTLE PECKHAM is within the ECCLE= SIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Malling.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Dunstan, is a small building, with a low pointed steeple.

King Edward I. in his 14th year, granted to the prior and convent of Ledis, in this county, the advow= son of the church of Parva Pecham, to hold in free, pure, and perpetual alms; and he granted that they

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should hold it appropriated to their own use, whenso= ever they would, without any hindrance of him, his heirs and successors./z

In the 21st of the above reign, a quo warranto was brought before the justices itinerant against the prior and convent, to enquire by what right they possessed this church, then valued at forty pounds per annum, and formerly in the king's gift; and on their pleading the above grant, the jury gave it for them.

In the reign of king Edward III. the valuation of this church was, forty acres of the endowment of it, twenty shillings hay; twenty shillings tithes of pannage and herbage; ten shillings tithes of geese, calves, pigs, and mills; with oblations and other small tithes be= longing to it.

Bishop Thomas de Brinton, by his instrument in 1387, the 11th year of king Richard II. granted li= cence to the prior and convent of Ledes to appropriate this church, then vacant and of their own patronage, to their own uses, saving a competent vicarage in it, the presentation of which should belong to them, which he ordained to consist of all small tithes, oblations, ob= vations, pannages, and all other things belonging to the altarage, except the tithes of hay itself of the parish wheresoever, excepting of twenty acres of meadow, then belonging to the earl of Gloucester, in the western part of the parish; the tithes of which twenty acres the vicar of the church for the time being, should take and have for ever. And that the vicars themselves should have the hall, with the chambers adjoining to it, and the garden, together with four acres of land, with the tithes arising from them, and two acres of wood of the demesne of the church, as they were bounded off; and also two shillings annual rent, which John, called le Kinge, of this parish, and his heirs, should pay to the vicars for ever, for land which he held of the fee

/z Rot. Cart. ejus an. N. 1. Reg. Roff. p. 514.

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of this church, together with the tithes arising from it; and that the vicars should take all tithes in the gardens of the whole parish, which were dug with the foot.

But that the prior and convent should, for their por= tion, sustain all burthens, as well ordinary and extra= ordinary, happening to the church, saving the right, dignity and custom of his church of Rochester, and of

all others.

The advowson and parsonage of West Peckham continued with the priory of Leeds till the time of its dissolution in the reign of king Henry VIII. when the same, together with all the lands and revenues of it, was surrendered into the king's hands, after which the king, by his dotation-charter, in his 33d year, settled this church of Peckham Parva, and the advowson of the vicarage, on his new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom they now remain.

On the intended dissolution of deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles I. the parsonage of Little Peckham was surveyed in 1649; when it appeared that it consisted of a barn, yard, &c. and twenty-five acres and an half of glebe land, of the improved rent of sixty pounds per annum; which premises were let anno 13 Charles I. to James, Elizabeth, and Duke Stonehouse, for the term of their lives, or the longest liver of them, by the dean and chapter of Rochester, at the yearly rent of six pounds. In which lease the advowson was excepted, and the lessess covenanted to repair the premises, and the chancel of the parish church./a

The present lessee of this parsonage, under the dean and chapter, is Sir William Geary, bart.

In the reign of queen Anne, the small tithes of this vicarage amounted to about twelve pounds per annum. It had then an augmentation of fourteen pounds per annum which had been given to it by the dean and

/a Parl. Surveys, Lambeth-library, vol. xiv.

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chapter of Rochester about the year 1690. There was likewise a small augmentation to it from John Warner, bishop of Rochester, of about ten pounds per annum, but not fixed to it.

The vicarage is now a discharged living, of the clear yearly certified value of forty-five pounds, the yearly tenths of which are 14s. 7d.

In 1732 it was augmented by the governors of queen Anne's bounty, and by the benefactions of one hundred pounds per annum, from the trustees of Sir William Langhorne, bart. being part of his legacy towards the augmentation of small livings, and of 100l. 17s. 6d. by Henry Burville, vicar of this parish, with which, and fifty pounds, added by George Richards, the succeeding vicar, a farm of fifteen pounds a year was purchased in this neighbourhood. The vicarage, which is a handsome sashed brick house, situated near the church, was built by the bounty of Philip Bartholomew, esq. of Oxenhoath.

CHURCH OF WEST PECKHAM.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Prior and convent of Leeds William Allen, resig. 1372./b
William Huberd, 1372./b

Dean and Chapter of Rochester Edward Drayner, A. B. in 1627,
obt. 1630./c

Samuel Cooke, A. B. in 1630,
obt. Aug 26, 1638./d

Bartholomew May, obt. June 21,

1709./e

Henry Burvill, A. M. ob. April
20, 1749./f

George Richards, A. M. 1749,
obt. Feb. 1783.

/b Willis's Buckingham, p. 354.

William Alleyn exchanged this vicarage with William Huberd, for that of Westbury, in Buckinghamshire.

/c MSS. Twysden.

/d He was also rector of Mereworth, where he lies buried.

/e He lies buried in this church.

/f He was a good benefactor to this vicarage, and lies buried in this church.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Dean and Chapter of Rochester Peter Wade, A. M. July 1783,
obt. Sept. 1783./g

Arnold Carter, A. M. 1783, re=
signed 1795./h

Richard Bathurst, A. M. 1795,
the present vicar./i

/g He had been before vicar of Boughton Monchelsea, which he resigned, and in 1783 a dispensation passed for his holding Cowling rectory with this vicarage.

/h He was minor canon of Rochester. He resigned this vicarage for that of St. Margaret's, Rochester.

/i He was minor canon of Rochester. He was before vicar of Alhallows, Hoo, which he resigned for this vicarage.

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MEREWORTH.

EASTWARD from West, or Little Peckham, lies Mereworth, usually called Merrud. In Domesday it is written Marourde, and in the Textus Roffensis, MÆRUURTHA, and MERANWYRTHE.

THE PARISH of Mereworth is within the district of the Weald, being situated southward of the quarry hills. It is exceedingly pleasant, as well from its natural situation, as from the buildings, avenues, and other ornamental improvements made throughout it by the late earl of Westmoreland, nor do those made at Yokes by the late Mr. Master contribute a little to the continued beauty of this scene. The turnpike road crosses this parish through the vale from Maidstone, towards Hadlow and Tunbridge, on each side of which is a fine avenue of oaks, with a low neatly cut quick hedge along the whole of it, which leaves an uninterrupted view over the house, park, and grounds of lord le Despencer, the church with its fine built spire, and the seat of Yokes, and beyond it an extensive country, along the valley to Tunbridge, making altogether a most beautiful and luxuriant prospect.

Mereworth house is situated in the park, which rises

finely wooded behind it, at a small distance from the

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high road, having a fine sheet of water in the front of it, being formed from a part of a stream which rises at a small distance above Yokes, and dividing itself into two branches, one of them runs in front of Mereworth house as above-mentioned, and from thence through Watringbury, towards the Medway at Bow-bridge; the other branch runs more southward to East Peckham, and thence into the Medway at a small distance above Twiford bridge.

Mereworth-house was built after a plan of Palladio, designed for a noble Vicentine gentleman, Paolo Almerico, an ecclesiastic and referendary to two popes, who built it in his own country about a quarter of a mile distance from the city of Venice, in a situation pleasant and delightful, and nearly like this; being watered in front with a river, and in the back encompassed with the most pleasant risings, which form a kind of theatre, and abound with large and stately groves of oak and other trees; from the top of these risings there are most beautiful views, some of which are limited, and others extend so as to be terminated only by the horizon. Mereworth-house is built in a moat, and has four fronts, having each a portico, but the two side ones are filled up; under the floor of the hall and best apartments, are rooms and conveniences for the servants. The hall, which is in the middle, forms a cupola, and receives its light from above, and is formed with a double case, between which the smoke is conveyed through the chimnies to the center of it at top. The wings are at a small distance from the house, and are elegantly designed. In the front of the house is an avenue, cut through the woods, three miles in length towards Wrotham-heath, and finished with incredible expence and labour by lord Westmoreland, for a communication with the London road there: throughout the whole, art and nature are so happily blended together, as to render it a most delightful situation.

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In the western part of this parish, on the high road is the village, where at Mereworth cross it turns short off to the southward towards Hadlow and Tunbridge, at a small distance further westward is the church and parsonage, the former is a conspicuous ornament to all the neighbouring country throughout the valley; hence the ground rises to Yokes, which is most pleasantly situated on the side of a hill, commanding a most delightful and extensive prospect over the Weald, and into Surry and Sussex.

Towards the north this parish rises up to the ridge of hills, called the Quarry-hills, (and there are now in them, though few in number, several of the Martin Cats, the same as those at Hudson's Bay) over which is the extensive tract of wood-land, called the Herst woods, in which so late as queen Elizabeth's reign, there were many wild swine, with which the whole Weald formerly abounded, by reason of the plenty of pannage from the acorns throughout it.

The soil of this parish is very fertile, being the quarry

stone thinly covered with a loam, throughout the northern part of it; but in the southern or lower parts, as well as in East Peckham adjoining, it is a fertile clay, being mostly pasture and exceeding rich grazing land, and the largest oxen perhaps at any place in this part of England are bred and fatted on them, the weight of some of them having been, as I have been informed, near three hundred stone.

The manors of Mereworth and Swanton, with others in this neighbourhood, were antiently bound to contribute towards the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge./l

THIS PLACE, at the time of taking the survey of Domesday, was part of the possessions of Hamo Vicecomes, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in that book.

In Littlefield hundred. Hamo holds Marourde. Norman held it of king Edward, and then, and now, it was

/k MSS. Twysden. /l Lamb. Peramb. p. 422.

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and is taxed at two sulings. The arable land is nine carucates. In demesne there are two, and twenty-eight villeins, with fifteen borderers, having ten carucates. There is a church and ten servants, and two mills of ten shillings, and two fisheries of two shillings. There are twenty acres of meadow, and as much wood as is sufficient for the pannage of sixty hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth twelve pounds, and afterwards ten pounds, now nineteen pounds.

This Hamo Vicecomes before-mentioned was Hamo de Crevequer, who was appointed Vicecomes, or sheriff of Kent, soon after his coming over hither with the Conqueror, which office he held till his death in the reign of king Henry I.

In the reign of king Henry II. Mereworth was in the possession of a family, which took their surname from it, and held it as two knights fees, of the earls of Clare, as of their honour of Clare.

Roger, son of Eustace de Mereworth, possessed it in the above reign, and then brought a quare impedit against the prior of Leeds, for the advowson of the church of Mereworth./m

William de Mereworth is recorded among those Kentish knights, who assisted king Richard at the siege of Acon, in Palestine, upon which account it is probable the cross-crosets were added to the paternal arms of this family.

Roger de Mereworth, in the 18th year of king Edward I. obtained the grant of a fair at his manor of Mereworth, to be held there on the feast day of St. Laurence, and likewise for free-warren in the same, and in Eldehay, &c.

John de Mereworth held this manor in the beginning of the reign of king Edward II. and in the 15th and 16th years of the next reign of king Edward III. he was sheriff, and resided at Mereworth-castle. His

/m Philipott, p. 236. Reg. Roff. p. 496.

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son, of the same name, died in the 44th year of it,

without issue, on which John de Malmains, of Malmains, in Pluckley, was found to be his heir; and he, in the 46th year of the same reign, alienated his interest in it to Nicholas, son of Sir John de Brembre, who bore for his arms, Argent, three annulets sable, on a canton of the second, a mullet of the first.

Nicholas de Brembre was a citizen and grocer of London, and was lord mayor in the 1st year of king Richard II. in the 5th year of which reign he was knighted for his good services against that rebel Wat Tyler, in the 6th parliament of it, he represented the city of London in it; but at length becoming obnoxious to the prevailing party of that time, he was attainted of high treason in the 10th year of that reign, and was afterwards beheaded, and his body buried in the Grey Friars church, now Christ church, in London. His estate being thus forfeited to the crown, king Richard, in his 13th year, granted this manor to John Hermenstorpe, who shortly afterwards passed it away to Richard Fitz Alan, earl of Arundel, lord treasurer and admiral of England, whose son, Thomas Fitz Alan, earl of Arundel, dying without issue in the 4th year of king Henry V. anno 1415, his four sisters became his coheirs, and on the division of their inheritance, the manor of Mereworth became the property of Joane, lady Abergavenny, the second sister, who had married William Beauchamp, lord Abergavenny, and she died possessed of it in the 13th year of king Henry VI. After which it appears to have been vested in Elizabeth, daughter and sole heir of her son, Richard Beauchamp, earl of Worcester, and lord Abergavenny, who afterwards married Edward Nevill, fourth son of Ralph, earl of Westmoreland, who had possession granted of the lands of his wife's inheritance,

/n Strype's Stow's Survey, book v. p. 114, 115.

/o Philipott, p. 236. Rot. Esch. an. 14 Henry VI.

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and was afterwards, in the 29th year of Henry VI. summoned to parliament by the title of lord Abergavenny. He survived her, and died in the 16th year of king Edward IV. being then possessed, as tenant by the curtesy of England, of the inheritance of Elizabeth his first wife before-mentioned, of the manor of Mereworth.

From him it descended to his great grandson, Henry Nevill, lord Abergavenny, who died in the 29th year of queen Elizabeth, when by inquisition he was found to die possessed, among other premises, of this manor with the advowson of the church of Mereworth, and the manor and farm of Oldhaie, alias Holehaie, in this parish, and that Mary, his daughter, was his sole heir, who had been married in the 17th year of that reign, to Sir Thomas Fane.

The family of Fane, alias Vane, are of antient Welsh extraction, and for many generations wrote themselves solely Vane. They were first seated in this county in the reign of king Henry VI. when Henry Vane became possessed of Hilden, in Tunbridge, and resided there. He left three sons, the eldest of whom, John, was of Tunbridge; Thomas left a son Humphry; and Henry, the third son, was

father of Sir Ralph Vane, who was attainted in the 4th year of king Edward VI.

John Vane, alias Fane, esq. of Tunbridge, the eldest son, had four sons; the eldest of whom Henry, was of Hadlow, but died s. p. Richard was ancestor of the Fanes, of Badsell, in Tudeley, the earls of Westmoreland, the viscounts Fane of Ireland, and the Fanes of Mereworth and Burston. Thomas, was of London, and John, the fourth son, was of Had=

/p Rot. Esch. ejus an. Philipott, p. 236. See more of the Nevills, under Birling, p. 477.

/q Coll. Peer. vol. iii. p. 173. Memorials in Mereworth, Hun= ton, and Tudely churches. MSS. pedigree of Fane.

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low, and was ancestor of the two Sir Henry Vanes, whose descendant is the present earl of Darlington, as were the late viscounts Vane, and the Fanes, late of Winchelsea, in Sussex.

John Fane, esq. the father, dying in 1488, anno 4 king Henry VII. was buried in Tunbridge church, whose son Richard, heir to his elder brother Henry, married Agnes, daughter and heir of Thomas Stidolfe, esq. of Badsell, where he afterwards resided, as did his son George Fane, and grandson of the same name, the latter of whom was sheriff, anno 4 and 5 of Philip and Mary, and died in 1571, leaving two sons of the name of Thomas, the eldest of whom will be mentioned hereafter, and the youngest was seated at Burston, in Hunton, where a further account may be seen of him.

Thomas Fane, the eldest son and heir, having engaged in the rebellion raised by Sir Thomas Wyatt, in the first year of queen Mary, was attainted, and a warrant issued for his execution, but the queen having compassion on his youth, pardoned him, and he was soon afterwards restored to his liberty and estate. He was twice married, first to Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Bedgbury, by whom he had no issue; and secondly, to lady Mary, sole daughter and heir of Henry Nevill, lord Abergavenny, by his wife Frances, daughter to Thomas Manners, earl of Rutland, and in her right possessed this manor of Mereworth, &c. as has been already mentioned.

Sir Thomas Fane, for he had been knighted the year before his last marriage, in the queen's presence, by the earl of Leicester, after this resided at times, both at Mereworth castle and at Badsell, of which latter place he wrote himself. He died in the 31st year of queen Elizabeth, and was buried at Tudely, whence his body was afterwards removed to Mereworth church. He left by the lady Mary, his wife, who survived him, Francis, his heir, and George,

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who succeeded to this manor and estate at Mereworth, after his mother's death, and who was made heir to his uncle, Sir Thomas Fane, of Burston.

Lady Mary Fane, on the death of her father, Henry, lord Abergavenny, had challenged the title of baroness of Bergavenny, against Edward Nevill, son of Sir Edward Nevill, a younger brother of George,

lord Bergavenny, father of Henry, lord Bergavenny, before-mentioned, on which Sir Edward Nevill, the castle of Bergavenny had been settled both by testament and act of parliament.

This claim was not determined until after Sir Thomas Fane's death, in the first year of king James I. when after great argument used on both sides, the title of baron of Bergavenny, was both by judgment of the house of peers, and order of the lords commissioners for the office of earl marshal, decreed for the heir male, and to give some satisfaction to the heir female, the king, by his letters patent dated as before-mentioned, granted and restored to her and her heirs, the dignity of baroness le Despencer, with the antient seat, place, and precedency of her ancestors.

The lady Mary, baroness le Despencer, survived her husband many years, and died at Mereworth-castle, in 1626, and was buried in Mereworth church, leaving her two sons, Francis and George, surviving. The eldest of whom Francis, in 1623, was created baron Burghersh, and earl of Westmoreland. He died in 1628, having had by Mary his wife, daughter and sole heir of Sir Anthony Mildmay, of Apethorp, in Northamptonshire, several sons and daughters, of the former, Mildmay was the eldest, who succeeded him in titles; Francis was afterwards knighted; and Henry was ancestor to the viscounts Fane.

Mildmay, the eldest son, earl of Westmoreland, dying in 1665, was buried at Apethorp. He left by his first wife Grace, daughter of Sir William Thorn-

/r See Harl. MSS. No. 1877-55. No. 6778-6, 7, 8, 9.

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hurst, one son Charles, who succeeded him in honors and estate, and by his second wife Mary, second daughter and coheir of Horace, lord Vere, of Tilbury, widow of Sir Roger Townsend, bart. of Rainham, in Norfolk, one son, Vere Fane.

Charles, earl of Westmoreland, was twice married, but dying without issue in 1691, was succeeded by his half-brother Sir Vere Fane, K. B. above-mentioned, who was M. P. for this county in 1678, and in 1692 joint lord-lieutenant with Henry, lord viscount Sidney. He died next year, leaving by Rachael his wife, only daughter and heir of John Bunce, esq. alderman of London, several sons and daughters, of the former, Vere, succeeded him in titles and estate, and died unmarried in 1699. Thomas, the second son, succeeded his brother as earl of Westmoreland, and died without issue; and John, the third son, succeeded his brother as earl of Westmoreland, and Mildmay, was the fourth son, both of whom will be further mentioned.

Of the daughters, Mary married Sir Francis Dashwood, bart. of London, father of the late lord le Despencer; Catherine married William Paul, esq. of Berkshire, whose only daughter and heir, Catherine, married Sir William Stapleton, bart. father of Sir Thomas Stapleton, bart. lately deceased, and Susan died unmarried.

But to return to George Fane, the second son of the lady Mary, baroness le Despencer, by her hus-

band, Sir Thomas Fane. He was knighted at the coronation of king James I. in the 18th year of which reign he was chosen M. P. for this county, and on his mother's death in 1626, he succeeded to the manor of Mereworth, with the castle, advowson, and other estates in this parish; and on the death of Sir Thomas Fane, of Burston, his uncle, in 1606, succeeded by his will to his seat at Burston, and the rest of his estates.

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Sir George Fane resided afterwards at Burston, where he died in 1640, being succeeded in this manor and estate by his eldest son, Thomas Fane, esq. of Burston, who was a colonel in the army. He died unmarried at Burston in 1692, and was buried near his father in Hunton church, leaving the manor and castle of Mereworth, with the advowson of this church, his seat at Burston, and all other his estates in this county, to Mildmay Fane, the youngest son of Vere, earl of Westmoreland, by Rachael, his wife, daughter of John Bunce, esq.

Mildmay Fane, esq. resided at Mereworth-castle, and in 1715 was chosen M. P. for this county. He died unmarried that year, and was succeeded in this manor and castle, as well as in his other estates, by Thomas, earl of Westmoreland, his eldest surviving brother, who was chief justice in eyre, south of Trent, and of the privy council to king George I. This earl intending to reside at Apethorp, in Northamptonshire, procured an act in the 5th year of that reign, to sell this manor, as well as all the rest of his Kentish estates, but changing his mind, no sale was made of any of them, and he afterwards resided at Mereworth castle, where he died s. p. in 1736, and was buried at Apethorp, so that his honours and estates descended to John, his younger and only surviving brother, who became the 7th earl of Westmoreland, and following a military life in his early youth, at length arrived at the rank of lieutenant general. On the death of his younger brother, Mildmay Fane, he was in 1715 chosen in his room M. P. for this county; and in 1733 was created a peer of Ireland, by the title of baron of Catherlough, and in 1737 he was appointed lord-lieutenant of Northamptonshire. He retired to Mereworth castle soon after the death of earl Thomas, which seat he rebuilt, as well as the church of Mereworth, in an elegant manner, and continued adding to the improvements and grandeur of this place till

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the time of his death, insomuch, that it may now be justly esteemed one of the greatest ornaments of this county.

The earl was high steward, and afterwards chancellor of the university of Oxford, in which last high and honorable office he was installed there, on July 3, 1759, with the greatest solemnity, and with a magnificence and splendor unknown at any former installation. He married Mary, only daughter and heir of the lord Henry Cavendish, but dying in 1762, s. p. he by his will devised this manor and seat, with the rest of his estates in this county, to his nephew Sir

Francis Dashwood, bart. son of Sir Francis Dashwood, bart. of West Peckham, by his sister the lady Mary, eldest daughter of Vere, earl of Westmoreland, and to the heirs of his body, with remainder to Sir Thomas Stapleton, bart. his great nephew, viz. son of Sir William Stapleton, bart. by Catherine, daughter and heir of William Paul, of Bromwich, in Oxfordshire, by his sister Catherine, younger daughter of the said Vere, earl of Westmoreland.

On the death of John, earl of Westmoreland, without issue, his Irish peerage became extinct, but the barony of le Despencer being a barony in fee to heirs general, was confirmed to Sir Francis Dashwood, bart. his sister's son; and the titles of baron Burgersh and earl of Westmoreland went to Thomas Fane, of Bristol, merchant, the next heir male descendant of Sir Francis Fane, second surviving son of Francis, first earl of Westmoreland. The earls of Westmoreland bore for their arms, Azure, three right hand gauntlets with their backs affrontee, or. And for their crest, Out of a ducal coronet or, a bull's head argent, pyed sable, armed or, and charged on the neck with a rose gules, barbed and seeded proper; being the ancient crest of Nevill.

Sir Francis Dashwood, bart. was descended from Samuel Dashwood, esq. of Rowney, near Taunton,

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who by his first wife had John, ancestor of the Dashwoods, of Essex and Suffolk; Francis, of whom hereafter; Richard and William, of Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire, who fined for alderman of London. By his second wife he had George, ancestor to the Dashwoods, of Oxford, baronets.

Francis Dashwood, the second son, was a Turkey merchant, and an alderman of London, who bore for his arms, Argent, on a fess double cotized gules, three griffins heads erased, or, granted to him in 1662, by Byshe, clarencieux. He died in 1683, leaving several children, the eldest of whom Samuel was knighted, and was lord-mayor of London in 1702, and was ancestor of the Dashwoods, of Well, in Lincolnshire; Francis the youngest was knighted and created a baronet in 1707, whose second wife was the lady Mary, eldest sister of John, earl of Westmoreland, who died in 1710, and lies buried in West Wycomb church, in Buckinghamshire, where an elegant monument is erected to her memory; by whom he had an only son, Francis, and a daughter, Rachael, married in 1738 to Sir Robert Austen, bart. of Bexley, in this county. Sir Francis Dashwood, bart. the son, was of West Wycomb, and on the decease of John, earl of Westmoreland, succeeded by his will to this manor and house of Mereworth, as well as the rest of his estates in this county, to whom the king on April 19, 1763, confirmed to him, in right of the lady Mary, his mother, the premier barony of Le Despencer, the same being a barony in fee descendible to the heirs general.

He married the daughter of Henry Gould, esq. of Iver, in Buckinghamshire, by whom he had no issue, and died in 1760, being a privy-counsellor and lord-lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, upon which this manor and seat, with the rest of his estates in this county, went, by

the will of John, earl of Westmoreland, as mentioned before, to Sir Thomas Stapleton, bart. of Grays, in Oxfordshire, (son of Sir Thomas Stapleton, the earl's

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great nephew who had deceased in 1781) who on the death of Rachael, sister of the late lord le Despencer, widow of Sir Robert Austen, bart. before mentioned, in 1788, s. p. succeeded to the title likewise of lord le Despencer, and he is the present proprietor of this elegant seat, now called Mereworth, or more commonly Merrud house, the manor and the advowson of this church.

He married Elizabeth, second daughter of S. Eliot, esq. of Antigua, by whom he has a son and daughter, He bears for his arms, Argent, a lion rampant gules, for Stapleton, quartered with the arms of Fane; and for his supporters, those of the earls of Westmoreland, the dexter a griffin, the sinister a bull, both collared and chained; crest, a Saracen's head.

YOKES-PLACE, formerly called Jotes-place, is a seat in this parish, the scite of which, in the reign of king Henry III. was in the possession of Fulco de Sharstede, who then held it as the third part of a knight's fee, of the earl of Gloucester, and his descendant, Simon de Sharsted died possessed of it in the 25th year of king Edward I. After which it became the property of the family of Leyborne; and in the reign of king Edward III. it was come into the possession of William de Clinton, earl of Huntingdon, in right of his wife, Juliana de Leyborne, the heiress of that family, and he, in the 20th year of that reign paid aid for it. His wife survived him, and again possessed this estate in her own right, and died possessed of it in the 41st year of that reign, without issue.

On her death, this estate, among the rest of her possessions, escheated to the crown for want of heirs. Soon after which, it seems to have come into the possession of a family, who implanted their name on it, and were written in several old dateless deeds, Jeotes,

</s> Book of Knights Fees in the Exchequer.

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and by contraction were called Jotes. But this name was extinct here before the end of the reign of king Richard II. when it appears to have been in the possession of Richard Fitzalan, earl of Arundel, from whom it descended in like manner, as Mereworth manor, to Joane his daughter, coheir to Thomas, earl of Arundel, her brother, who married William Beauchamp, lord Abergavenny, and their son, Richard, earl of Worcester, and lord Abergavenny, leaving an only daughter and heir, Elizabeth, she carried Jotes-place in marriage to Edward Nevill, fourth son of Ralph, earl of Westmoreland, who was summoned to parliament as lord Bergavenny, and died in the 16th year of king Edward IV. being then possessed, as tenant by the curtesy of England, in right of Elizabeth his wife, of this estate, as well as of Mereworth manor. His son Sir George Nevill, lord Bergavenny, died possessed of it in the 7th year of king Henry VII. anno 1491,

leaving several sons and daughters, of whom George, the eldest son, succeeded him as lord Abergavenny, in this estate, and in the manor of Mereworth; William was the second son; Edward was the third, whose descendants succeeded in process of time to the barony of Abergavenny, and Sir Thomas Nevill was the fourth son, to whom his father bequeathed Jotes-place, with the estate belonging to it./t He was of the privy-council to king Henry VIII. and secretary of state, and dying in 1542, was buried in Mereworth church. His only daughter and heir, Margaret, married Sir Robert Southwell, master of the rolls, &c. who in her right became possessed of Jotes place, where he resided./u But in the 35th year of king Henry VIII. anno 1543, he alienated it, with other estates in this parish and West Peckham, to Sir Edward Walsingham, of Scadbury, in this county, in whose descendants

/t Philipott, p. 237. Coll. Peer. vol. vi. p. 502.

/u See more of this family under Badlesmere.

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it continued till the latter end of the reign of king Charles I. when Sir Thomas Walsingham, of Scadbury, conveyed Yokes-place, as it came now to be called, with the other estates before-mentioned, to his son-in-law, Mr. James Master, son of Mr. Nathaniel Master, merchant, of London, whose widow he had married, being the second son of James Master, esq. of East Langdon. Mr. James Master resided here, where he died in 1689, and was buried in Mereworth church. He left three sons and two daughters, James his heir; Streyntsham, of Holton, in Oxfordshire, and Richard. The daughters were, Frances, who died without issue, and Martha, who married Lionel Daniel, esq. of Surry, by whom she had William, his heir, and a daughter Elizabeth, married to George, late lord viscount Torrington.

James Master, esq. the eldest son, resided at Yokes-place, and was sheriff in 1725. He died in 1728 unmarried, and gave by his will this seat, with the rest of his estates, to his youngest brother, Richard Master, who likewise resided at Yokes, where he died unmarried in 1767, and by his will devised it, with all his other possessions, to his nephew, William Daniel, esq. of Surry, son of his sister Martha, enjoining him to take the arms and surname of Master; accordingly he bore for his arms, Quarterly, first and fourth, Master; azure, a fess crenelle between three griffins heads erased or; second and third, Daniel, argent, a pale fusilly sable.

William Daniel Master, esq. resided at Yokes-place, where he kept his shrievalty in the year 1771, having almost rebuilt this seat, and laid out the adjoining grounds in a modern and elegant taste. He married Frances-Isabella, daughter of Thomas Dalyson, esq. of West Peckham. He died s. p. in 1792, and left Mrs. Master still surviving him.

SWANTON-COURT is a manor in this parish, the mansion of which, situated about half a mile westward

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from Yokes-place, is now only a mean cottage. In

the reign of king Henry III. Richard de Swanton held it, as half a knight's fee, of John de Belleacre, as he did of the earl of Gloucester. In the 10th year of king Edward III. it was become the property of Elizabeth, sole daughter and heir of Wm. de Burgh, earl of Ulster, who by her husband Lionel, duke of Clarence, left an only daughter, Philippa, whose husband, Edward Mortimer, earl of March, had possession granted to him of this manor, among other lands of her inheritance.

Soon after which, this manor came into the possession of that branch of the family of Colepeper, seated at Oxenhoath, in the adjoining parish of West Peckham; in which it remained till Sir John Colepeper, one of the justices of the common pleas, gave it, with other lands in this neighbourhood, in the 10th year of king Henry IV. anno 1408, to the knights hospitalers of St. John, of Jerusalem, who founded a preceptory on that part of these lands, which lay in West Peckham.

This manor continued part of their possessions till the general dissolution of their order in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. when it was suppressed by an act then especially passed for that purpose; and all the lands and revenues of it were given by it to the king and his heirs for ever. The next year the king granted the manor of Swanton to Sir Robert Southwell, who in the 35th year of that reign, alienated it to Sir Edmund Walsingham, in whose descendants it continued till the latter end of king Charles I.'s reign, when Sir Thomas Walsingham alienated it, with Yokes-place and other estates in this neighbourhood, to his son-in-law, Mr. James Master; since which it has descended, in like manner as Yokes, to William Daniel Master, esq. who died possessed of it s. p. in 1792, and by his will de-

/w Book of Knights Fees in the Exchequer.

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vised it to George Bing, lord viscount Torrington, the present possessor of it.

FOWKES is a manor in this parish, formerly esteemed as an appendage to the manor of Watringbury, under which a further account of it may be seen. It belonged to the abbey of St. Mary Grace, near the Tower, London, and after the dissolution in the reign of king Henry VIII. passed through several owners till the reign of king James I. when it was alienated to Oliver Style, esq. in whose descendants it has continued till this time, the present inheritance of it being vested in Sir Charles Style, bart. of Watringbury.

BARONS-PLACE is a capital messuage in Mereworth, which, with the estate belonging to it, was part of the possessions of Sir Nicholas Pelham, of Cattsfild-place, in Sussex, who alienated it to Christopher Vane, lord Barnard; after which it descended in like manner as Shipborne and Fairlawne, to William, viscount Vane, who dying in 1789, s. p. devised it by his will to David Papillon, esq. of Acrise, the present owner of it.

THE FAMILY OF BREWER resided in this parish for many generations, before they removed in the reign of king Henry VI. to Smith's hall, in West Farleigh; their seat here, being called from them, Brewer's-

place.

CHARITIES.

THE BARONESS, wife of Francis, lord Despencer, gave by will certain land, the yearly produce of it to be applied towards the purchasing of twenty gowns for twenty poor families yearly, vested in the present lord le Despencer, and now of the annual produce of 20l.

A PERSON UNKNOWN gave the sum of 10s. per annum for the use of the poor, vested in Sir William Twysden, bart. and now of that annual produce.

A PERSON UNKNOWN gave the like yearly sum for the same purpose, vested in Mr. Richard Sex.

A PERSON UNKNOWN gave certain wood land for the same use, vested in the present lord le Despencer, and now of the annual produce of 15s.

A PERSON UNKNOWN gave certain land for the like use, vested in the churchwardens and overseers, and of the annual produce of 3l. 10s.

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MEREWORTH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Malling.

The church was dedicated to St. Laurence. It was an antient building, and formerly stood where the west wing of Mereworth-house, made use of for the stables, now stands. It was pulled down by John, late earl of Westmoreland, when he rebuilt that house, and in lieu of it he erected, about half a mile westward from the old one, in the center of the village, the present church, a most elegant building, with a beautiful spire steeple, and a handsome portico in the front of it, with pillars of the Corinthian order. The whole of it is composed of different sorts of stone; and the east window is handsomely glazed with painted glass, collected by him for this purpose.

In the reign of king Henry II. the advowson of this church was the property of Roger de Mereworth, between whom and the prior and convent of Ledes, in this county, there had been much dispute, concerning the patronage of it: at length both parties submitted their interest to Gilbert, bishop of Rochester, who decreed, that the advowson of it should remain to Roger de Mereworth; and he further granted, with his consent, and that of Martin then parson of it, to the prior and convent, the sum of forty shillings, in the name of a perpetual benefice, and not in the name of a pension, in perpetual alms, to be received yearly for ever, from the parson of it.

The prior and the convent of Ledes afterwards, anno 12 Henry VII. released to Hugh Walker, rector of this church, their right and claim to this pension, and all their right and claim in the rectory, by reason of it, or by any other means whatsoever.

In the reign of king Henry VI. the rector and parson of this church petitioned the bishop of Rochester,

See the confirmations of it in Reg. Roff. p. 211, 217.

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chester, to change the day of the feast of the dedication of it, which being solemnized yearly on the 4th day of

June, and the moveable feasts of Pentecost, viz. of the sacred Trinity, or Corpus Christi, very often happening on it; the divine service used on the feasts of dedications could not in some years be celebrated, but was of necessity deferred to another day, that these solemnities of religion and of the fair might not happen together. Upon which the bishop, in 1439, transferred the feast to the Monday next after the exaltation of the Holy Cross, enjoining all and singular the rectors, and their curates, as well as the parishioners from time to time to observe it accordingly as such. And to encourage the parishioners and others to resort to it on that day, he granted to such as did, forty days remission of their sins.

Soon after the above-mentioned dispute between Roger de Mereworth and the prior and convent of Ledes, the church of Mereworth appears to have been given to the priory of Black Canons, at Tunbridge.^{/y} And it remained with the above-mentioned priory till its dissolution in the 16th year of king Henry VIII. a bull having been obtained from the pope, with the king's leave, for that purpose. After which the king, in his 17th year, granted that priory, with others then suppressed for the like purpose, together with all their manors, lands, and possessions, to cardinal Wolsey, for the better endowment of his college, called Cardinal college, in Oxford. But four years afterwards, the cardinal being cast in a *præmunire*, all the estates of that college, which for want of time had not been firmly settled on it, became forfeited to the crown.^{/z} After which, the king granted the patronage of the church of Mereworth, to Sir George Nevill, lord Abergavenny, whose descendant Henry, lord Abergavenny,

^{/y} See the pope's confirmation of it in Reg. Roff. p. 668.

^{/z} See Lesnes abbey in Erith, vol. ii. of this history, p. 252.

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died possessed of it in the 29th year of queen Elizabeth, leaving an only daughter and heir Mary, married to Sir Thomas Fane, who in her right possessed it. Since which it has continued in the same owners, that the manor of Mereworth has, and is as such now in the patronage of the right hon. Thomas, lord Le Despencer.

It is valued in the king's books at 14l. 2s. 6d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 8s. 3d.

It appears by a valuation of this church, and a terrier of the lands belonging to it, subscribed by the rector, churchwardens, and inhabitants, in 1634, that there belonged to it, a parsonage-house, with a barn, &c. a field called Parsonage field, a close, and a garden, two orchards, four fields called Summerfours, Ashfield, the Coney-yearth, and Millfield, and the herbage of the church-yard, containing in the whole about thirty acres, that the house and some of the land where James Gostlinge then dwelt, paid to the rector for lord's rent twelve-pence per annum; that the houses and land where Thomas Stone and Henry Filtness then dwelt, paid two-pence per annum; that there was paid to the rector the tithe of all corn, and all other grain, as woud, would, &c. and all hay, tithe of all coppice woods and hops, and all other predial tithes usually paid, as wool,

and lambs, and all predials, &c. in the memory of man; that all tithes of a parcel of land called Old-hay, some four or five miles from the church, but yet within the parish, containing three hundred acres, more or less; and the tithe of a meadow plot lying towards the lower side of Hadlow, yet in Mereworth, containing by estimation twelve acres, more or less, commonly called the Wish, belonged to this church.

The parsonage-house lately stood at a small distance north-eastward from Mereworth-house; but obstructing the view from the front of it, the late lord le Despencer obtained a faculty to pull the whole of it down, and to build a new one of equal dimensions, and add to

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it a glebe of equal quantity to that of the scite and appurtenances of the old parsonage, in exchange. Accordingly the old parsonage was pulled down in 1779, and a new one erected on a piece of land allotted for the purpose about a quarter of a mile westward from the church, for the residence of the rector of Mereworth and his successors.

CHURCH OF MEREWORTH.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Roger de Mereworth Martin, in the reign of king
Henry II./a

Prior of Tunbridge William Smythe, in 1486.

Hugh Walker, 1496./b

The lady Mary Fane Samuel Cooke, A. B. 1596, obt.

Aug. 26, 1638./c

Trustees of Mildmay Fane, esq. Stephen Lion, instit. Sept. 7,
1702.

John, earl of Westmoreland John Davis, M. A. 1748, obt.
1776./d

Francis, lord le Despencer Robert Style, 1776, the present
rector./e

/a Reg. Roff. p. 496.

/b Ibid. p. 497.

/c He lies buried in this church.

/d And vicar of West Farleigh.

/e Formerly vicar of Town Malling,
which he exchanged for Watringbury,
which vicarage he holds with this
rectory.

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THE

HUNDRED OF TWYFORD.

SOUTHWARD from the hundred of Littlefield lies that of Twyford, written in the book of Domesday, Tuiferde, and so called from the two fords which were formerly over the two streams of the Medway, just above Yalding in this hundred.

THIS HUNDRED contains within its bounds the parishes of

1. NETTLESTED,
2. WATRINGBURY,

3. TESTON, and
4. WEST FARLEIGH;

And part of the parishes of

5. EAST PECKHAM,
6. YALDING, and
7. HUNTON.

And all the churches of those parishes.

It likewise contains part of the parishes of BRENCHLEY, CAPEL, MARDEN, PEMBURY, and TUDELEY, the churches of which are in other hundreds.

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EAST PECKHAM.

SOUTHWARD from Mereworth lies the parish of East or Great Peckham, written in Domesday, PECHHAM, and in the Textus Roffensis, PECHAM. It has the appellation of East Peckham from its situation eastward from West or Little Peckham, and of Great, from its large extent in comparison of that parish.

They both had their name of Peckham probably from their situation; peac signifying in Saxon the peke or summit of an hill, and ham, a village or dwelling-place.

THIS PARISH is situated within the district of the Weald, in a country, which though for the most part

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too deep and miry to be pleasant, is yet exceedingly fertile as to its products, in corn, hops, and cattle, and is full of fine oak timber, with the trees of which it abounds. It joins northward up to Mereworth, and lord Despencer's park, whence it descends southward for upwards of two miles to Brandt, formerly called Stidal's bridge, and Sladis bridge, and the river Medway, which flows along the southern boundaries of it, besides which it is watered by a small stream, which rises near Yokes, in West Peckham, and runs through this parish into the river. The high road from Maidstone through Mereworth, towards Hadlow and Tunbridge, runs along the western boundary of this parish, as that from Watringbury through Nettlested to Brandt bridge, and across the Medway towards Cranbrook, does along the eastern boundary of it. In that part of this parish next to Mereworth, is the village and church of East Peckham, and on the rise of a hill the antient and respectable looking mansion of Roydon-hall, the grounds of which are bounded on each side by coppice woods; hence the ground descends to a more wet and deeper country, being a stiff clayey soil, mostly grazing land, exceedingly rich and fertile, on which are bred and fatted some of the largest beasts of any in these parts. On the roads leading to Brandt-bridge in this part of East Peckham are several hamlets, as those of Chitley-cross, North-hatch, Hale-street, and others.

This parish was antiently bound with others in this neighbourhood to contribute to the repair of the 5th pier of Rochester bridge.

IN THE YEAR 961, queen Ediva, mother of king Edmund and king Eadred, gave to Christ-church, in

Canterbury, among other lands, this estate of Peckham, free from all secular service, excepting the tri-noda necessitas of repelling invasions, and the repair of castles and highways.

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Peckham remained part of the possessions of Christ-church at the consecration of archbishop Lanfranc, in the 4th year of the Conqueror's reign.

The revenues of this church were at that time enjoyed as one common stock by the archbishop and his convent; but archbishop Lanfranc, after the example of foreign churches, separated them into two parts; one of which he allotted for the maintenance of himself and his successors in the see of Canterbury, and the other for his monks, for their subsistence, cloathing, and other necessary uses.

In this partition, Peckham fell to the share of the monks, and it is accordingly thus entered in Domesday, under the title of Terra Monachorum Archiepi, i. e. the land of the monks of the archbishop.

The archbishop himself holds Pecheham. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was taxed at six sulings, and now for six sulings, and one yoke. The arable land is ten carucates. In demesne there are two, and sixteen villeins, with fourteen borderers, having four carucates and an half. There is a church, and ten servants, and one mill, and six acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of ten hogs.

Of the land of this manor, one of the archbishop's tenants holds half a suling, and was taxed with these six sulings in the time of king Edward the Confessor, although it could not belong to the manor, except in the scotting, because it was free land.

Richard de Tonebridge holds of the same manor two sulings and one yoke, and has there twenty-seven villeins, having seven carucates, and wood for the pannage of ten hogs, the whole value being four pounds. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, the manor was worth twelve pounds, when the archbishop received it eight pounds, and now what he has is worth eight pounds.

In the 10th year of king Edward II. the prior of Canterbury obtained free warren for his manor of Peckham among others. About which time it was

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valued at ten pounds. It continued part of the possessions of the priory of Christ-church till its dissolution in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. when it was surrendered up to the king, who that year granted this manor to Sir Thomas Wyatt, and his heirs male, to hold in capite by knight's service, and he in the 35th year of that reign conveyed it to George Multon; but there being no fine levied, or recovery had of it, the crown, on the attainder of his son, Sir Thomas Wyatt, for high treason in the 1st year of queen Mary, seized on it as part of his possessions.

The court-lodge and demesnes of this manor were afterwards granted away by the crown; but THE MANOR ITSELF continued part of the royal revenue at the death of king Charles I. in 1648; after which the powers, then in being, seized on the royal estates, and

passed an ordinance to vest them in trustees, to be surveyed and sold, to supply the necessities of the state; in pursuance of which, there was soon afterwards a survey taken of this manor, by which it appeared, that the quit-rents due from the freeholders in free socage tenure, the like due from the freeholders in the township of Marden, the rent of hens and eggs from the tenants in those townships, and the profits of courts, were worth altogether seventeen pounds and upwards. That there was a court leet and court baron held for the manor, and a heriot was due from the freeholders of the best living thing of such tenant, or in lieu thereof 3s. 4d. in money.

Soon after which this manor was sold to colonel Robert Gibbon, with whom it continued till the restoration of king Charles II. when it again became part of the revenues of the crown.

The grant of it has been many years in the family of the duke of Leeds, the present grantee of it being his grace Francis, duke of Leeds.

THE COURT-LODGE WITH THE DEMESNES of the manor of East Peckham was granted the next year after the

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attainder of Sir Thomas Wyatt, by letters patent, anno 1st and 2d of king Philip and queen Mary, to Sir John Baker, to hold in capite by knight's service,^f who passed his interest in them, in the 2d year of the reign of queen Elizabeth, to Anthony Weldon, esq. but the crown afterwards disputing his title to them, the queen, in her 10th year, granted them to William Dodington, and the next year, the attorney-general exhibited an information against the heirs of Weldon in the court of exchequer, on account of these premises, and judgment was had against him. After which a writ of error was brought, and divers other law proceedings had, by which, however, at last, Ralph, son of Anthony Weldon above-mentioned, established his title to them; and his son, Sir Anthony Weldon,^g in the latter end of the reign of king James I. passed them away by sale to George Whetenhall, esq. after whose death they came by descent into the possession of Thomas Whetenhall, esq. of Hextalls-court, in this parish, whose descendant, Henry Whetenhall, esq. alienated this estate to Sir William Twysden, bart. of Roydon-hall, whose descendant, Sir William Jarvis Twisden, bart. is the present possessor of it.

ROYDON-HALL, antiently called Fortune, is a seat here, which was of no great account till about the reign of king Henry VIII. when Thomas Roydon, son of Thomas, second son of Thomas Roydon, of Roydon-hall, in Suffolk, where this family had been seated many generations, and bore for their arms, Chequy, argent and gules, a cross azure, came into this county, and seated himself at Fortune, and erected this seat; on which he affixed his own name, and in the 31st year of that reign procured his lands in this county to be disgavelled, by the act passed that year for this purpose. He married Margaret, daughter of William Wheten-

^f Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. i. See Coke's Entries, p. 78.

^g See Swanscombe, vol. ii. of this history, p. 411.

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hall, esq. of this parish, by whom he had three sons and five daughters.

On the death of the sons without issue, his five daughters became his coheirs; the second of whom, Elizabeth, had this estate as part of her share, and intitled her husband, William Twysden, esq. of Chelmington, in this county, to the fee of it. She survived him, and afterwards remarried Cuthbert Vaughan, esq. and lastly Sir Thomas Golding. She left by her first husband, one son, Roger Twysden, and a daughter, Margaret, married to Richard Dering, esq. of Pluckley.

The family of Twysden, written in antient deeds, Twisenden, and in Latin, De Denna Fracta, were originally of the parish of Sandhurst, in this county, the place where they resided being called the Den, or borough of Twisden, at this time, and bore for their arms, Girony of four, argent and gules, a saltier between four cross-croslets, all counterchanged.

Adam de Twysden resided at Twysden borough, in the 21st year of king Edward I. and dying without issue, as well as his brother Gregory, John de Twysden, the youngest brother, became his heir. His descendant, Roger Twysden, in the reign of king Henry V. married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Thomas Chelmington, esq. of Chelmington, in Great Chart, who bore for his arms, Argent, three chevrons azure, nine cross-crosiets sable. At which seat his descendants, who lie buried in Great Chart church, afterwards resided, down to William Twysden, esq. who was of Chelmington, and married Elizabeth, second daughter and coheir of Thomas Roydon, and in her right became possessed of Roydon-hall, as above-mentioned, to which he removed soon afterwards. He procured his lands in this county to be disgavelled by the act of the 2d and 3d of king Edward VI. in which he is called William Twisenden, and was sheriff of this county in the 41st year of queen Elizabeth. He died in 1603,

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and was buried in this church, as was Anne his wife, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington, who died in 1592, by whom he had issue twelve children, of whom only six survived him.

William Twysden, esq. the eldest son, greatly improved Roydon-hall, and having been before knighted, was afterwards made a baronet on June 29, 1611. He was a man, who addicted his time mostly to study, being versed in different parts of learning, especially in the Hebrew and Latin languages, and collected many choice manuscripts and books, which he left to his eldest son. He died in 1628, and was buried in this church leaving by Anne his wife, eldest daughter of Sir Moile Finch, knight and baronet, several sons and daughters; of whom Sir Roger, the eldest son, was his successor in title and estates here; Sir Thomas, the second son, was on the restoration of king Charles II. made one of the justices of the king's bench, and being afterwards made a baronet, seated himself at Bradbourn, in East-Malling, the seat of his descendant, the present Sir John Papillon Twisden, bart. under which place an account has already been given of that branch; and Charles, the third son, was cre=

ated LL. D. and had given him, by his father's will, the seat of Chelmington before mentioned.

Sir Roger Twysden, knight and baronet, the eldest son, resided at Roydon-hall, round which he obtained licence from king Charles I. to inclose a park, and likewise a grant of a charter of free warren for the ground inclosed. He died in 1672, and was buried in this church, having suffered greatly for his loyalty during the great rebellion, being forced at last to compound for his estate for a large sum of money. He was a great encourager of learning, and a generous patron of learned men, being himself a master of our ancient Saxon and English history and laws, and left behind him the united character of the scholar and the gentleman. In whose descendants resident at Roydon-

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hall, who severally lie buried in East Peckham church, this seat with his other estates in this parish, came down to Sir William Twysden, bart. who resided at Roydon-hall, and married Jane, daughter of Francis Twysden, esq. youngest son of Sir Thomas Twysden, bart. of Bradbourn, by whom he had three sons; William, his heir and successor; Thomas, a colonel in the army; and Philip, late bishop of Raphoe; and three daughters. He died in 1751, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir William Twysden, bart. who at first followed a military life, but afterwards retired to Roydon hall, and married Jane, the daughter and heir of Mr. Jarvis. He died at Roydon-hall in 1767, leaving his lady surviving, and by her three sons, William-Jarvis, Heneage, and Thomas, and one daughter, Frances, who in 1783 married Archibald, late earl of Eglington. Sir William Jarvis Twysden, bart. the eldest son, married in 1786, the daughter of governor Wynch, and resides at Roydon-hall, of which he is the present owner.

THE MANOR OF ALBANS, alias Wimplingbury, now commonly called AUBORNE, as well as THE MANOR OF BLACKPITTS, alias Guildfords, both in this parish, were antiently the inheritance of a family named Pollard; for John, son of John Pollard, in the 34th year of king Edward I: demised them by sale to Alban de Wandsworth, who probably erected a mansion for his residence on the former of these manors, which from thence acquired the name of Albans. His grandson, William de Wandsworth, died possessed of them without issue, and by his last will gave them to his widow, Mabel Wandsworth, who was remarried to Richard Ryner; and they, in the 2d year of king Richard II. joined in the sale of these manors to John Mew, who that year likewise purchased of Joane Onley some interest, which she had in them, and which was purchased by one of her ancestors in the reign of Henry III. and in the 9th year of king Richard II. the said John Mew

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procured from Richard Goldsmith all the interest and claim he had in them. John Mew, about the latter end of king Henry IV. passed away these manors, with their appendages, to John Tutsham and Nicholas Remkin, of Eastmere, in this parish; the latter of whom leaving an only daughter Alice, she carried his

moiety of these manors, with other lands in this parish, in marriage to Thomas Rolfe, of Tunbridge, whose descendant, in the beginning of king Henry VI.'s reign, alienated his interest in them to Thomas Stidulfe, esq. of Badsell, who likewise purchased the other moiety of the heir of Tutsham, and then by deed, bearing date in the 4th year of king Edward IV. settled the entire fee of these manors on his two sons, Robert and Henry Stidulfe, in which deed there is mention made of their having been purchased of Rolfe and Tutsham.

Soon after which, Robert and Henry Stidulfe joined in the sale of the manor of Alban's, to John Fane, esq. of Tunbridge, who died in 1488 possessed of this manor of Albonys, and other lands in this parish, in whose descendants, of Hadlow, in this county, it continued down to Henry Fane, esq. of Hadlow, who alienated this manor in 1589 to Roger Twysden, esq. of Roydon hall, whose direct descendant, Sir William Twysden, bart. died possessed of it in 1767, and his eldest son, Sir William Jarvis Twysden, bart. of Roydon-hall, is the present possessor of the manor of Albans.

BUT THE MANOR OF BLACKPITTS, alias Guildfords, descended to Thomas Stidulfe, esq. of Badsell, only son and heir of Robert, and heir likewise of his uncle, Henry Stidulfe, possessors of this manor, as above-mentioned, who leaving an only daughter and heir, Agnes, she carried it in marriage to Richard Fane, esq. of Tudeley, from whom it descended in like manner as the manor of Mereworth, to John Fane, earl of Westmoreland, and since his death s. p. in 1762, according

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to the limitations in his will it is now at length come with his other estates in this county, into the possession of the right hon. Thomas, lord le Despencer.

EASTMERE is a manor in this parish, which antiently belonged to a family of the name of Remkin.

Christian, daughter of John Remkin, held it, as appears by an antient court roll, in the 34th year of king Edward III. and it continued in that name till Nicholas Remkin, of Eastmere, leaving an only daughter and heir, Alice, she carried it in marriage to Thomas Rolfe, of Tunbridge, and his son, John Rolfe, alienated it, in the 6th year of king Henry VI. to Richard Ruyton, who two years afterwards conveyed it by sale to William Hextall, of Hextalls-court, in this parish, and he dying without issue male, by Margaret, his daughter and heir, it was carried in marriage to William Whetenhall, esq. whose direct descendant, Henry Whetenhall, esq. passed it away by sale to Sir William Twysden, bart. of Roydon-hall, whose grandson, Sir William Jarvis Twysden, bart. of Roydon-hall, is the present possessor of it.

SPILSTED is a place here which was once accounted a manor, and was for several descents, as appears by the evidences of this estate, in the possession of the Twysdens, the inheritance of an antient family called Keyser. John Keyser died possessed of it in the 5th year of king Edward IV. and gave it by will to his son, John Keyser, who dying without male issue, on the partition of his estates, among his daughters and coheirs,

one of them married to Matthew Chetwind entitled her husband to the possession of Spilsted, and he, after some short interval, alienated it, in the 41st year of queen Elizabeth, to Roger Twysden, esq. of Roydon-hall, whose descendant, Sir William Jarvis Twysden, bart. of Roydon-hall, is the present owner of it.

/h See Tremain's Pleas of the Crown, Rot. 143.

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THERE was once a seat in this parish, venerable for its antiquity, which in old rolls was called HEXTALL'S-COURT, and was the mansion of gentlemen of that name, who were of no small account in these parts, as well as at Hougham, by Dover in this county, though they were originally seated at Hextall manor, in Staffordshire.

Richard Hextall resided here in the reign of king Richard II. and increased his possessions greatly by marriage with Anne, the daughter and coheir of Richard Grovehurst, of Horsemonden. He left two sons, William and Henry, the eldest of whom seems to have inherited this place; he died without issue male, leaving his two daughters his coheirs, of whom Jane, the eldest, married Sir John Bromley, but Margaret, the youngest, carried this seat in marriage to William Whetenhall, esq. commonly called Whetnall, son of William Whetenhall, citizen and alderman of London, who was descended from an antient family of that name, seated at Whetenhall, in Cheshire. He resided here at the latter end of king Henry VI.'s reign, and at his death left a son William, and Margaret his wife surviving, who soon afterwards was remarried to Henry Ferrers, esq. of Hambleton, in Rutlandshire, second son of Thomas Ferrers, of Tamworth-castle, in Warwickshire, by whom she had Sir Edward Ferrers, of Badlesley, in Warwickshire. He possessed this seat in his wife's right, and kept his shrievalty here in the 9th year of king Edward IV. as he did again in the 3d year of king Henry VII. at which time he was stiled of East Peckham, and bore for his arms, Gules, seven mascles or, a canton ermine. But on the death of his wife, Margaret, Hextalls-court reverted to her son, by her first husband, William Whetenhall, esq. alias Whetnall, who bore for his arms, Vert, a bend ermine, and in the 18th year of king Henry VIII. was sheriff of

/i See Newc. Rep. vol. ii. p. 547, 548, 612, 613.

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this county, and in the 31st year of it procured his lands in this county to be disgavelled by act of parliament; in whose descendants it continued till one of them, not many years since, alienated it to John Fane, earl of Westmoreland, Since whose death, s. p. in 1762, it is with Mereworth, and the rest of his estates in this county at length come, by the limitations in his will, into the possession of the right hon. Thomas, lord le Despencer, the present owner of it.

THE manor of East Farleigh extends into this parish, including within its bounds THE BOROUGH OF STOKENBURY, which lies in the lower part of it.

At the time of taking the survey of Domesday, this borough was of sufficient account to be thought worthy

of a place in it, being part of the possessions of the great bishop of Baieux, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in it:

Ralph Fitz Tuold holds of the bishop (of Baieux) half a suling in Estochingeberge. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, two freemen held it, and the like now, and it is valued at twenty shillings.

On the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, about four years after the taking the above survey, his possessions were all confiscated to the crown, whence this estate seems to have passed to the priory of Christ-church, in Canterbury, as an appendage to the manor of East Farleigh and East Peckham, which, as has been already mentioned, still claims over it, all the lands lying within this borough now paying quit-rent to it; and at the court-leet of that manor a borsholder is constantly chosen for the borough of Stokenbury.

The pound belonging to this borough stands within it, in the highway leading from Brandt-bridge towards East Peckham church.

There are no parochial charities.

This parish is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and being a pecu-

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liar of the archbishop of Canterbury, is as such within the deanry of Shoreham.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Michael, is a fair large building, with a square tower at the west end. It stands near the summit of the hill almost adjoining to the southern pales of Mereworth-park.

In the 15th year of king Edward I. the church of Peckham was valued at thirty-five marcs, and the vicarage of it at twelve marcs./k

In the reign of king Edward III. the taxation of East Peckham was one carucate of arable land, with a meadow of the endowment of the church, worth six pounds per annum, and two dove-houses of the rectory, of the endowment of the church, and worth two marcs, and the profit of the garden, of the like endowment, worth 2s. 5d./l

The church, with the advowson of the vicarage, was always appendant to the manor of East Peckham, and as such part of the possessions of the priory of Christ-church, in Canterbury, till the dissolution of that monastery in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. when it was surrendered into the king's hands, who granted the manor to Sir Thomas Wyatt, and he settled this church, with the advowson of the vicarage, by his donation charter, in his 33d year, on his new-erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, part of whose possessions they remain at this time.

This church is valued in the king's books at 23l. and the yearly tenths at 21. 6s.

The vicarage of it is valued at 14l. and the yearly tenths at 11. 0s. 8d.

It appears by the terrier of the lands belonging to the impropriate rectory, and vicarage of East Peckham at the visitation of archbishop Laud in 1634, that the glebe lands belonging to this parsonage in the park of Mildmay, earl of Westmoreland, which he had

from the church of Canterbury, were twenty acres, called Keamehatches; that there were to the parsonage house two gardens, one orchard, two yards, three barns, one stable, one pidgeon-house, one granary, eight acres of meadow, called Well-mead, alias Parsonage mead, one mead called the Vicarage-mead, containing three acres, and two other parcels of land, containing seven acres, called Quarrey-mead, and the Quarrey, and that the tenant of the parsonage was Stephen Arnold; that there was to the vicarage one house, with a little orchard, by estimation almost an acre, and a little garden plot, but that which was called the Vicarage-mead, the impropiator of the parsonage kept and used.

On the abolishing of deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles I. their lands were by the powers then in being, ordered to be sold, to supply the necessities of the state; previous to which a survey was made, in 1649, of this parsonage, by which it appeared, that there were here a house, outhouses, &c. one orchard, one garden, and one great yard, worth six pounds per annum, and the tithes and other profits eighty-eight pounds per annum; that the parsonage, with the house, glebe lands, tithes, profits, &c. was let by the dean and chapter of Canterbury, in 1638, to John Tucker, gent. of Egerton, excepting one parcel of land, called the Hatches, demised to Sir Francis Fane, late earl of Westmoreland, and the advowson of the vicarage, at the yearly rent of 23l. 6s. 8d. but were worth upon improvement, over and above the said sum, 85l. 14s. 3d. per annum; that the lessee was bound to repair the premises, and the chancel of the church, and likewise to pay twenty shillings for entertainment money./m And by another valuation, taken the next year, the vicarage was valued at twenty-four pounds yearly income./n

/m Lambeth Surveys, vol. xix. /n MSS. Twysden.

In the 19th year of the reign of king Charles II. anno 1667, in consequence of the king's letters of injunction, the dean and chapter of Canterbury augmented this vicarage with the yearly sum of forty pounds, the yearly income of it is now upwards of 270l. per annum.

The present lessee of the parsonage is Sir William Jarvis Twysden, bart.

CHURCH OF EAST PECKHAM.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Prior and convent of Christ-church William Banson.
Richard Etelesly, obt. May 20,
1426./o

VICARS.

Dean and Chapter of Canterbury. Francis Warrell, in 1634./p
William Polley, 1650./q
..... Grimes, about 1660./r

Valentine Chadwick, 1693, obt.
1717.

Francis Walwin, S. T. P. resig.
1756./s

Henry Hall, A.M. 1756, obt.
Oct. 31, 1763./t

John Davis, S. T. P. Nov.
1763, obt. Feb. 9, 1766./u

William Tatton, June 27, 1766,
resigned 1775./w

/o He lies buried in this church.

/p MSS. Twysden.

/q He was put in by the parliament.

MSS. Twysden.

/r He had been vicar of Hadlow,
from which he was sequestered. Wal=
ker's Suff. of Clergy, pt. ii. p. 252.

/s In 1752 a dispensation passed for
his holding this with St. Mary Bred=
man, in Canterbury. He afterwards
resigned this for Adisham. He was
prebendary of Canterbury.

/t And rector of Harbledown, by
dispensation, in 1756. He was like=
wise rector of the sinecure of Orping=
ton, and treasurer of the cathedral of
Wells.

/u He was preb. of Canterbury, and
rector of Hamsey, in Sussex. A
dispensation passed in 1764 for his
holding this vicarage with Hamsey.

/w Prebendary of Canterbury, and
rector of Rotherfield, in Sussex. In
1766 a dispensation passed for his hold=
ing this vicarage with Rotherfield.
He resigned this on being presented to
St. Dionis Backchurch, London.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

Dean and Chapter of Canterbury. George Berkeley, LL. D. 1775,
resigned Nov. 1788./x

John Lucas, D. D. Nov. 1786,
resigned 1789./y

Thomas Vyner, LL.D. 1789,
the present vicar./z

/x Son of the late bishop of Cloyne.
A prebendary of Canterbury. In 1775
a dispensation passed for his holding
this vicarage with that of Cookham,
in Berkshire. He resigned this vicarage
for St. Clement Danes, London; as
he afterwards did Cookham, on being
presented to the vicarage of Ticehurst,
in Sussex.

/y And prebendary of Canterbury.

/z And prebendary of Canterbury.

WATRINGBURY.

NORTH-EASTWARD from East or Great

Peckham lies Watringbury, called in Domesday, OTRINGEBERGE, and in the Textus Roffensis, WO=TRINGABERIA. It is supposed to have taken its name from its low and watry situation.

THE PARISH of Watringbury is almost square, about a mile and a quarter each way, and contains about eighty-three families.

So much of it as lies southward of the quarry hills, which cross the northern part of it, is within the district of the Weald, beyond which there are some copice woods adjoining to East-Malling heath. The soil is exceedingly fruitful for corn, fruit and hops, being a loam thinly covering the rock stone. The village, which stands on the high road from Maidstone towards Mereworth and Tunbridge, is both healthy and pleasant; in it is the vicarage, a neat genteel house, almost rebuilt by Mr. Charlton, a late vicar, since much improved, and the ground round it laid out in the modern taste by the Rev. Mr. Style, the present vicar, who for some time resided in it; and at the west end of it is Watringbury-place, a handsome brick mansion; at the east end of the village is Watringbury-cross, whence the road leads down to the river Medway, at the south

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east boundary of this parish. It is well watered by several springs of sweet clear water, which rise near the place house, and run into the stream which comes from Mereworth, and turning a mill, goes on south-eastward towards the Medway, which it joins near Bow-bridge.

There is a vill or borough in this parish, containing the west division of it, the hamlet of which is situated on the Maidstone road, adjoining to Mereworth parish, being called Pizein-well, from one Pizein, who owned the well here.

Lilly is another hamlet belonging to this parish, which lies about five miles to the south of it, and is surrounded by the parishes of Yalding, East Peckham, and Tudeley. It is a low wet place, containing but one house, which, with the greatest part of the land here, was in the possession of Mr. Henry Simmonds, who in 1764 alienated his interest in it to Alexander Courthorpe, esq. of Horsemonden, who died a few years ago, and by will gave this among his other estates to his nephew John Cole, esq. of Horsemonden, the present owner of it.

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

This dumb borsholder was made of wood, about three feet and half an inch long, with an iron ring at the

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

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

The market granted in king Edward Ild.'s time as above-mentioned, is reported by tradition to have continued to be held here in a place called Chart-garden, now a wood near Pizein well, in the south-west part of this parish, in which wood there are to be seen foundations of walls and houses, and in it and the neighbouring lands are several draw wells.

Watringbury, with other places in this neighbourhood, was bound antiently to contribute to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge./a

THIS PLACE, at the time of taking the survey of Domesday, in the reign of William the Conqueror, was part of the possessions of Odo, the great bishop of Baieux and earl of Kent, half-brother to that king; and it is accordingly entered, under the general title of his lands, in that survey as follows:

Ralph Fitz Turald holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Otringeberge. It was taxed at two sulings. The arable land is five carucates. In demesne there are two, and six villeins, with eight borderers, having three carucates. There is a church, and two mills of three shillings, and two acres of meadow, and a fishery of thirty eels; wood for the pannage of two hogs. In the time of king Ed=

/a Lambarde's Perambulation, p. 422.

ward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth forty shillings, now six pounds. Leveva held it of king Edward.

To this manor belong four houses in the city, paying three shillings.

Hugo de Braiboue holds of the bishop Otringeberge. It was taxed at two sulings. The arable land is four carucates. In demesne there is one, and nine villeins, with four borderers, having two carucates. There are three servants, and one mill of sixteen pence, and three acres of meadow; wood for the pannage of two hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth four pounds, now one hundred shillings. Godil held it of king Edward.

Leuric de Otringeberge, at the time above-mentioned, is recorded in the same survey, to have had the liberties of sac and soc for his lands within the lath of Aylesford.

In the reign of king Henry II. Richard de Otringe=berge appears to have held two knights' fees in Wa=tringbury of Walter de Meduana, who held the same

of the king in capite; which were held in like manner of king Henry I. by Jeffry Talbot./b

In the reign of king Henry III. this place continued in the possession of the same family, Gilbert de Wa=tringberi, who bore for his arms, Argent, six lioncels rampant, sable, held this estate as one knight's fee and an half, of Warine de Montchensie./c

Soon after which it came into the family of Ley=borne, of Leyborne-castle, in this neighbourhood. Henry de Leyborne held it in the reign of king Ed=ward II. in the 4th year of which he obtained for his manor of Wateringbury a market there on a Wednes=day, and one fair on the feast of St. John the Baptist, and free warren in the lands of it. He died without

/b Libr. Rubr. Scac. f. 84. Philipott, p 352.

/c Book of Knights fees in the Exchequer.

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issue, leaving his niece Juliana his heir, who was like=wise heir to her father Thomas de Leyborne, and like=wise to her grandfather William; and from the great=ness of her possessions in this county was called the In=fanta of Kent.

On her death in the 41st year of king Edward III. without issue by either of her husbands, this manor, with the appendant ones of Chart, in this parish, and of Fowkes, in Mereworth, escheated to the crown for want of heirs; for it appears by the inquisition taken in the 43d year of the above reign, that there was then no one who could make claim to her estates, either by direct, or even collateral alliance./d

After which the king, by his charter, in the 50th year of his reign, granted these manors, among other premises, to feoffees, for the endowment of his newly-founded Cistertian abbey, called St. Mary Graces, near the Tower of London, and king Richard II. by his let=ters patent, in his 22d year, granted them to that ab=bey, in pure and perpetual alms, for the performance of certain religious purposes therein mentioned; and he gave licence to the surviving feoffees to release these premises to the abbot and his successors for ever.

This manor, with its appendages above mentioned, remained part of the possessions of the above monas=tery till the dissolution of it in the 30th year of king Henry VIII. when they were surrendered into the king's hands, who in the 36th year of his reign granted them to Giles Bridges, citizen and baker of London, and Robert Harris, to hold in capite by knight's ser=vice. Notwithstanding which, Giles Bridges appears to have had the sole interest in them, and he that year passed these manors, with woods called Baldinge, Sel=wood, and Abbots-thorpe, to Sir Robert Southwell, of Mereworth, who two years afterwards had a confirma=tion of these manors. He quickly after alienated them

/d Philipott, p. 353. Rot. Esch. N. 57.

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to Sir Edward North, chancellor of the court of aug=mentation, and of the privy council, who in the 6th year of king Edward VI. passed them away by sale to Sir Martin Bowes, and he alienated them quickly af=terwards to Sir John Baker, of Sisinghurst, who died

in the 5th and 6th year of Philip and Mary, and was succeeded in them by his eldest son, Sir Richard Baker, who in the 1st year of queen Elizabeth had possession granted of them, but his grandson John Baker, esq. in the 17th year of that reign, alienated them to Nevill de la Hay, son of Hugh de la Hay, by Anne, daughter and coheir of Thomas Roydon, of East Peckham, whose son, George de la Hay, in the latter end of that reign, conveyed the manor of Chart to Roger Twysden, esq. of East Peckham, whose descendant, Sir William Jarvis Twysden, bart. of Roydon-hall, is the present possessor of it.

BUT THE MANOR of Watringbury, with that of Foulkes, was conveyed by George de la Hay to Mr. Wilkinson, of Lenham, who bore for his arms, Gules, a fess vair between three unicorns passant or; which coat was confirmed to Richard Wilkinson, of this place, one of the clerks in chancery, by William Camden, clarencieux, in 1605. He alienated them to Oliver Style, esq. second son of Sir Humphry Style, of Langley, in Beckenham./e

He served the office of sheriff of London, and on purchasing this manor retired to the mansion of it, called Watringbury-place, where he died in 1622, bearing for his arms, as did his several descendants, Sable, a fess or, fretted of the field, between three fleurs de lis, and within a bordure of the second.

He was succeeded in this estate by Thomas, his only surviving child, who resided here, and was created a baronet on April 21, 1627, being the third year of king Charles I.

/e See vol. i. of this history, p. 542.

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His grandson, Sir Thomas Style, bart. of Watringbury-place, married first Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Armine, bart. of Osgodby, in Lincolnshire, by whom he had Oliver, his only surviving son, and four daughters, of whom Mary was married to Sir Felix Wild, bart. of Malling, and Susan to Thomas Dalyson, esq. of Hamptons. By his second wife, Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Twisden, bart. of Bradborne, he had a son Thomas, who survived him; and Margaret, married to Robert Viner, esq.

Sir Thomas Style died in 1702, in his 78th year, and was buried in this church. He was succeeded by his only surviving son, by his first marriage, Sir Oliver Style, bart. who died without issue the same year, and lies buried under a handsome monument, in the south part of this church-yard./f On which the title and estate descended to his half-brother Thomas, above-mentioned, who in 1707 pulled down the mansion of Watringbury-place, a very antient building, moated round, and erected the present seat more to the westward of the other, in which he kept his shrievalty in the 8th year of queen Anne, anno 1710, and resided to the time of his death in 1768. He lies buried in this church, as does Elizabeth his wife, eldest daughter of Sir Charles Hotham, bart. by whom he had four sons, Thomas who died in 1741, and lies buried at Ormskirk, in Lancashire; Charles, who

succeeded him in title and estate: Robert, now vicar of this parish, and rector of Mereworth, who married Priscilla, daughter of the Rev. John Davis, late rector of Mereworth; and William, late a major-general, who married Catherine, sister and coheir of John Long Bateman, esq. of Ireland; and also two daughters, Elizabeth and Charlotte, who both died un-

/f Kimber's Baronetage, vol. i. p. 268, and monumental inscriptions in this church.

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married, the latter at Canons, in this parish in 1795. Sir Charles Style, bart. of Watringbury-place, married Miss Isabella Wingfield, sister to the lord viscount Powerscourt, and dying in London in 1774, was buried in this church, leaving one son and one daughter, the former is the present Sir Charles Style, bart. of Watringbury-place, who married in 1795 the eldest daughter of James Whatman, esq. of Vinters, in Boxley, and he is the present possessor of the manors of Watringbury and Fowkes.

WESTBERY is a manor in this parish, which in the reign of king Henry III. was held by Peter Fitz Robert, of Simon Fitz Adam, as the twentieth part of one knight's fee; after which it came into the possession of a family, who took their surname from it./g Robert de Westbery was owner of it in the reign of king Edward II. and his descendant, Thomas de Westbery, paid aid for it in the 20th year of king Edward III.

The last of this name, who owned this place, was John de Westbery, who in the beginning of the reign of king Henry VI. dying without issue, gave it by will to Agnes Ellis, his niece, and she in the 23d year of that reign, alienated it to Richard Fishborne, who in the 33d year of it conveyed it by sale to Sir Thomas Browne, of Beechworth-castle, treasurer of the household, and privy-counsellor to king Henry VI. whose descendant Sir Thomas Browne, of the same place, in the 25th year of queen Elizabeth, passed it away by sale to Roger Twysden, esq. of East Peckham,/h whose descendant Sir Wm. Jarvis Twysden, bart. of Roydon-hall, is the present possessor of it.

CANONS-COURT is a manor here, which acquired that name from its being part of the possessions of the prior and canons of Leeds.

/g Book of Knights Fees in the Exchequer.

/h Philipott, p. 353. See more of the Brownes under Lenham.

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This place, in the reign of king Henry III. was in the tenure of Gilbert de Watringbury, who then held it as one 4th part of a knight's fee, of Simon Fitz Adam, and gave it in pure and perpetual alms to that priory; which gift was confirmed by Bartholomew, his son.

It continued part of the possessions of the priory of Leeds till the dissolution of it, in the reign of king Henry VIII. when it was, together with all its revenues, surrendered into the king's hands, who by his dotation charter, under his great seal, in his 33d year, settled it on his new-erected dean and chapter of Ro-

chester, where the inheritance of it still remains.

Mr. Robert Scoles was lessee of this manor, as well as the parsonage, in 1649, and resided here, and his son, Jasper Scoles, esq. died lessee of both. Since which the family of Style have been for many years tenants to the dean and chapter for both. Sir Charles Style, bart. is the present lessee.

There is a court baron held for this manor.

THE CODDS were an antient family in this parish, and had their seat in it, called PELICANS, to which belonged a large tract of land. William Codd, esq. died possessed of it in the reign of king William and queen Mary, and was buried in this church, leaving by Deborah his wife an only son and heir, James Codd, esq. who resided at Pelicans, and died whilst sheriff in 1708, and was buried here, bearing for his arms, Argent a fess embattled sable, between six pellets. He died without issue and intestate; so that his estate became divided among several claimants; one of whom, Thomas Kirby, gent. enjoyed the family seat, as part of the share which fell to his lot, and his heirs conveyed it to Sir Thomas Style, bart. in whose great grandson, Sir Charles Style, bart. of this parish, the present inheritance is now vested.

WARDENS is an estate in this parish, which was the antient seat of the Woods, who bore for their arms,

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Argent, on a fess ragule azure, three fleurs de lis or; which coat was confirmed, or assigned by patent, by Segar to Henry Wood, of London and Watringbury, and to Robert Wood, his brother, the last of this name who resided in it, alienated it, about 1674, to Sir Thomas Style, bart. whose son of the same name, conveyed it to William Burleston, clerk, rector of Warehorne, in whose family it remained till about thirty years ago, when it was sold to Mr. John Whitaker, gent. of Barming, whose nephew, Thomas Whitaker, esq. of Trottesclive, is the present owner of it.

CHARITIES.

HENRY WOOD, citizen and haberdasher of London, a native of this parish, gave, in the year 1630, 40s. per annum to the poor of it for ever; and 8s. per annum for a sermon to be preached yearly on the Sunday next after Candlemas-day in the afternoon; when the distribution of the money is to be made.

OLIVER STYLE, ESQ. in 1632, gave the weekly sum of 1s. to be distributed in bread in the church, every Sunday, to six poor persons for ever.

THE LADY of Sir Thomas Style, bart. in 1737, gave the silver flaggon and plate, for the altar.

MRS. CHARLTON, relict of the late Mr. George Charlton, the vicar, was a benefactor to this church, by giving the pulpit-cloth and cushion, and other things to it, at different times.

There has been A SCHOOL in this parish at times for teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic, for near 100 years; but as there is neither house nor salary for the master, the number of scholars is very uncertain.

WATRINGBURY is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JU=

RISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling.

The church, which is dedicated to St. John Baptist, stands at the west end of the village. It is an antient gothic building, with a high spire steeple, in which hang three bells, it was repaired at a great expence in 1745; the church is handsomely pewed and

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wainscotted. There are some remains of good painted glass in the windows, particularly of king Edward III. and his queen, and before the late great hail storm, there was in the south window the history of the decollation of St. John Baptist, pretty entire; but it was then part of it broke to pieces.

This church, which was antiently appendant to the manor of Canons-court, was given in the reign of king Henry II. by Hamo, son of Richard de Watringbury, lord of this parish, to the prior and canons of Leeds, and it was confirmed to it by Walter, then bishop of Rochester, who, on the resignation of Walter, then parson of it, admitted the prior, in the name of his convent, into the actual possession of it./i

It was some time after this appropriated to that priory; in which situation it continued till the dissolution of it in the reign of king Henry VIII. when it was, among the other possessions of the priory, surrendered up to the king, who by his dotation charter, in his 33d year, settled both the parsonage, and advowson of the vicarage, on his new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom they now remain. The lessee of the parsonage has always been the same as of Canon-court, the present lessee being Sir Charles Style, bart. but the dean and chapter retain the advowson in their own hands.

On the intended dissolution of deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles I. the possessions of the dean and chapter of Rochester, in this parish, were surveyed in 1649, by order of the state; when it appeared, that they consisted of the manor of Canon-court, together with the rectory or parsonage of Watringbury appendant to that manor, and certain woodlands there. That the parsonage consisted of all the tithes, and tithe-corn, annually coming, aris=

/i Reg. Roff. p. 313, 676. See the confirmations of this gift, lbid. p. 211.

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ing, and growing out of all the lands and fields within the precincts and extreme bounds of this parish, with all commodities and appurtenances belonging to them, which premises were valued at the annual sum of sixty pounds, and were let by the late dean and chapter, in the 15th year of the late king Charles, to Robert Scoles, for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of 13l. 6s. 8d. and six capons, valued at twelve shillings, which rent was apportioned, 5l. 6s. 8d. to the manor of Canon-court, the same being worth 36l. 2s. 7d. yearly, over and above the said rent; and the remainder of the rent, being 8l. 12s. was apportioned to the parsonage, which was worth yearly, over and above the same, 51l. 8s. That the lessee was

bound to repair the premises, and the chancel of the church, and that he was immediate tenant of these premises. That the advowson, or right of patronage to the vicarage, belonged to the lord of the above-mentioned manor, which vicarage was then worth 30l. per annum./k

The vicarage of Watringbury is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of forty-eight pounds, the yearly tenths of which are ten shillings.

Mr. George Charlton, vicar of this place, rebuilt the vicarage-house in 1731, at the expence of 400l. and having obtained 100l. of Sir William Langhorne's legacy, and 15l. 15s. from the dean and chapter of Rochester, he added the residue to make it the sum of 200l. and thereby entitled this vicarage to queen Anne's bounty of the further sum of 200l. with which it was augmented about the year 1732.

/k Parl. Surveys, Lambeth-libr. vol. xiv.

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CHURCH OF WATRINGBURY

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Family of Watringbury Walter, temp. Henry II. re=
signed./l

VICARS.

Prior and convent of Leeds Averell, in 1486./m
Dean and Chapter of Rochester. Ralph Calverly, obt. 1587.

Thomas Brand, obt. 1620.

Thomas Warrel, obt. 1652.

Benjamin Cutler, obt. 1693.

James Hunter, obt. Sept. 1729./n

George Charlton, A. M. instit.

Dec. 22, 1729. obt. 1734.

..... Hodges, obt. 1736.

John Butler, A. M. 1737, obt.

1747./o

John Upton, A. M. resigned

1752./p

Richard Husband, A. M. 1752,

resigned 1770./q

Robert Style, 1770, the present

vicar./r

/l Reg. Roff. p. 213.

/m Ibid. p. 166.

/n He lies buried in this church, as
does his successor.

/o Also vicar of Stockbury by dis=
pensation in 1737.

/p And prebendary of Rochester.

/q Minor canon of Rochester.

/r He exchanged Town Malling with
his predecessor for this vicarage, being
likewise rector of Mereworth by dis=
pensation. He was third son of the late
Sir Thomas Style.

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NETTLESTED.

SOUTHWARD from Watringbury lies Nettlested, called in Domesday, Nedested.

THIS PARISH lies on the western bank of the Medway, which is its eastern boundary, whence the ground rises up to the grounds of Roydon-hall, at the opposite side of it. It is within the district of the Weald. The situation is low, and rather of a gloomy aspect, from the number of spreading and lofty oaks,

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and elm trees interspersed throughout it; the soil a fertile clay, consisting much of it of rich grazing land like that already described in the adjoining parish of East Peckham, though it is equally fertile for the growth of corn and hops in the upper parts of it. The high road from Maidstone through Watringbury to Tunbridge, branches off from Watringbury, and leads through this parish, not far from the bank of the river; in the northern part of it is the church, and at some distance from it the remains of the antient Place house, by which it appears to have been built of stone, with handsome sized gothic windows; on a stone portal, in the west front is the date 1587, probably that of some large repair or addition made to it, as the other parts of the building carry with them marks of much greater antiquity. The grand entrance to the house from the river is yet standing. The form of the antient gardens with the ponds are yet remaining. The mansion appears to have been spacious and noble, equal to the respectable families who once resided in it, though now it is for the most part over-run with weeds and spontaneous shrubs, and bears with it every mark of that vicissitude and ruin which is the inevitable lot of the transitory labours of man, however his utmost endeavours may have been exerted to prevent it. It is now made use of as an oast to dry hops, and for a labourer to dwell in, the occupier of the manor farm living in a modern house between it and the church, hence the road leads through the village built at Nettlested-green, whence it divides, that to the left leading towards the river at Twyford-bridge, and the other straight forward through Hail-street to it at Brandt-bridge, both leading towards the southern parts of the Weald and Sussex. The groves of young oaks, elms, and other trees, planted along the borders of the river Medway, contribute greatly to the beauty of the scenery, which is considerably heightened by the rich gardens of hops, and the dif-

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ferent dwellings and cottages intervening at frequent spaces between them.

This parish, with others in this neighbourhood, was antiently bound to contribute to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge.

IN THE REIGN of William the Conqueror, this place was part of the possessions of the king's half-brother, Odo, bishop of Baieux and earl of Kent, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the survey of Domesday, taken about the year 1080.

Haimo holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Nedestede. It

was taxed at three sulings. The arable land is six carucates. In demesne there is one, and fourteen villeins, having five carucates. There is a church, and fourteen servants, and two mills of fourteen shillings, and a fishery of two shillings, and seven acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of thirty-five hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth eight pounds, afterwards six pounds, now eight pounds and five shillings. Norman held it of king Edward.

Of this manor the bishop has thirty shillings and two houses.

And again in another place, in the same record:

Adam holds of the bishop (of Baieux) one yoke in Pimpa. The arable land is . . . He has there half a carucate, with two servants, and four acres of meadow and half a fishery, untaxed; wood for the pannage of six hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth six shillings, and afterwards five shillings, now ten shillings, yet it pays fifteen shillings. Godric held it of king Edward.

By another entry in the same book it appears, that Rayner, or Rannulf de Columbels, who held the manor of West Farleigh under the bishop, as one suling, held likewise another part of this estate, for after the description of his holding that manor it thus continues.

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Of this suling Rayner (de Columbus) holds one yoke of the bishop in the manor of Pimpe, and he has there one carucate with nine servants, and three acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of four hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth twenty shillings, now forty shillings. Alnod Cilt held it of king Edward.

On the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, about four years after the taking of the above survey, all his estates became confiscated to the crown, and these mentioned above, which comprehended the manors of Nettlested, with those of Hylth and Pimpe, were afterwards held of the Clares, earls of Gloucester, as chief lords of the fee, by the eminent family of Pimpe, who took their name from the latter of them, making it the principal seat of their residence, though they had another seat afterwards in East Farleigh, in this neighbourhood, and a third at Alhallows, in the hundred of Hoo. They bore for their arms, Gules, two bars argent, a chief vair, as they now remain painted in the windows of this church.

Richard de Pimpe held these manors in the reigns of king Edward I. and II. and his descendant, Sir Philip de Pimpe, was a man of eminence and property in this county, as appears by his being one of those, who in the 11th year of king Edward III. were, in respect to their estates, assessed to furnish a guard for the defence of the sea coasts; towards which Sir Philip was ordered to provide two men at arms.

His widow Joane married John de Coloigne, who, together with her son, Sir Thomas de Pimpe, paid respective aid for their lands in Nettlested, and adjoining to it, in the 20th year of king Edward III.

that is to say,

"For the manor of Nettleston, the manor of Hylth and Hylth park, with other lands in Nettleston

/s See Alhallows in Hoo, vol. iii. of this history, p. 29.

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and Hylth, for the manor of Pimpe, in Nettleston, Crongebury, and Pimpe, all which were held of the earl of Gloucester, as chief lord of the fee.

William, son of Sir Thomas de Pimpe, possessed Nettleston, and kept his Shrievalty here in the 37th, 45th, and 49th years of king Edward III. in which year he died, and his son, Reginald de Pimpe, of Pimpe's-court, in East Farleigh, on his death, served that office the remainder of that year.

His descendants continued to reside at Pimpe's-court, in this parish, two of whom, Reginald and John Pimpe, unsuccessfully engaging, with others, in assisting Henry, duke of Buckingham, against king Richard III. were attainted, and their estates were declared forfeited to the crown. But on the death of king Richard, and the earl of Richmond's attaining the crown, they were restored in blood and estates. Reginald Pimpe died without male issue, leaving an only daughter and heir Anne, for whom an act had passed in the 1st year of that reign, and she married to Sir John Scott, of Scotts-hall, and John Pimpe, in the 2d year of king Henry VII. kept his shrievalty at Pimpe's-court, in East Farleigh. He died in the 11th year of that reign, anno 1495, being then possessed of the manor, with the advowson of the church of Nettleston, the manor of Hilthe, and also the manor of Pimpe, with its appurtenances, in this parish and Yalding, and certain other lands and tenements in Yalding, all held of the duchess of Buckingham. He left an only daughter and heir, Winifred, married to Sir John Rainsford, who in her right possessed this manor. He died s. p. 1st Elizabeth, leaving his wife surviving, who appears by the escheat rolls to have been a lunatic, and to have died possessed of these manors and estates in the 18th year of that reign; when Sir Thomas Scott, of Scotts-hall, (grandson of Sir John Scott above-mentioned) seems to have succeeded to them,

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as her next of kin, and his second son, Sir John Scott, possessed it afterwards, and resided at Nettleston, which by the date remaining on the ruins of it, he seems to have made great additions to. He was twice married, but left issue by neither of his wives, and these manors and their appurtenances, came on his death to his brother, Edward Scott, esq. of Scotts-hall, whose descendant, George Scott, esq. of Scotts-hall, alienated the manors of Nettleston, Health and Pimpe, with the mansion and advowson of the church of Nettleston, by authority of an act of parliament passed anno 10 and 11 William III. to Sir Philip Boteler, bart. of Teston, whose son, Sir Philip Boteler, bart. died possessed of them in 1772, having by his will devised one moiety of his estates to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Chart Sutton, and the other moiety to Elizabeth, viscountess dowager of Folke-

stone, and William Bouverie, earl of Radnor, both since deceased; and on a partition of his estates between them, the manors and estates of Nettledsted, with the appendant advowson, were among others, allotted to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, now of Teston, the present possessor of them.

THE MANOR OF LOMEWOOD, alias Laysers, formerly called Lomewood, alias Bromes, in this parish, was part of the possessions of the family of Clare, earls of Gloucester, and was settled by one of them on the priory of Black Canons, at Tunbridge, in this county.

This manor continued part of the revenues of the above priory till its dissolution in the 16th year of king Henry VIII. After which the king, in his 17th year, granted the above priory, with others then suppressed for the like purpose, together with all their manors, lands, and possessions, to Cardinal Wolsey, for the better endowment of his college, called Cardinal college, in Oxford.

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But four years afterwards, the cardinal being cast in a præmunire, all the possessions of the college, which through want of time had not been firmly settled on it, became forfeited to the crown, and the king, in his 27th year, granted this manor of Lomewood, alias Le Bromys, with all lands, &c. belonging to it in this parish, to Sir Edward Nevill, third son of George Nevill, lord Abergavenny, who, in consideration of a marriage to be had between his daughter Katherine, and George Roydon, son and heir apparent of Thomas Roydon, esq. of East Peckham, and of a certain sum paid to him, conveyed it, by the name of Cardinals lands, called Bromes, in Lomewood, to Thomas Roydon above-mentioned.

On the death of whose sons without issue, his five daughters became his coheirs; the second of whom, Elizabeth, as part of her share of the inheritance, entitled her husband, William Twysden, esq. of Chelmington, to this manor, then held in capite, and in his descendants it has continued down to Sir William Jarvis Twysden, bart. of Roydon-hall, in East Peckham, who is the present possessor of it.

CHARITIES.

JOHN THUNDER, about the year 1756, gave by will 5s. worth of bread, to be distributed yearly on Good Friday, to the poor of this parish for forty years, which term is now expired.

Nettledsted is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Malling.

The church, which stands at the east side of the village, is dedicated to St. Mary. It is a small but handsome building, with a low pointed tower or steeple. There are good remains of painted glass in it.

/t See Lesnes abbey in Erith, where a further account is given of the foundation and endowment of this college, v. ii. p. 252.

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The church of Nettledsted was always esteemed an

appendage to the manor, and as such is now in the patronage of Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Teston.

Edmund, bishop of Rochester, anno 1486, at the instance of John Pimpe, esq. lord of the manor, and patron of the church of Barmingjett, united that church to this of Nettleston; and decreed, that after such union the former should not be esteemed as a church, but as a chapel, dependent, united, and annexed to this church of Nettleston; the rector of which and his successors should for the future have and enjoy all profits, tithes, and emoluments, &c. belonging to the church of Barmingjett, and convert and freely dispose of the same to his and their own proper uses for ever. And he decreed, that the rector and his successors should in future pay yearly to the bishop of Rochester and his successors, twenty pence, and to the archdeacon twelve pence yearly, in lieu of such payments as belonged to them of antient custom from the church of Barmingjett, before the annexing and consolidating of the same./u

In which situation it continues at this time; the rector of Nettleston being presented, instituted and inducted to, the rectory of Nettleston, with the chapel of Barmingjett annexed.

It is valued in the king's books, with the chapel of Barmingjett annexed, at 12l. 10s. 10d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 5s. 1d.

The learned Sir Roger Twysden, who lived in the reigns of king James and Charles I. in his discourse on the Weald, says, that in the time of the lady Golding, who hired the tithes of this parish, Nettleston was held to be in the Weald, and she denied the tithe of wood accordingly; yet the rector of it affirmed then to Sir Roger, that all, who had wood

/u Reg. Roff. p. 162. See more of this under West Barming, alias Barmingjett.

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in the parish, paid tithe of it at that time to him, excepting himself.

The parsonage-house is a large antient well timbered building, having a court-yard before it, and an antient gateway, through which is the entrance to it from the high road.

CHURCH OF NETTLESTED, with the CHAPEL OF BARMINGJETT annexed.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Lords of the manor of Nettleston Thomas Hundbache, 1486./w

William Jemmat, about 1625./x

John Pattenden, A. M. about
1630./y

..... Deacon, ejected 1662./z

..... Ward.

Samuel Rhodes, A. M. obt.
1714.

Thomas Brewer, gent. obt. April
1, 1714./a

John Richards, A. M./b

Duncan Menzies, A. M. instit.
1761, obt. Sept. 27, 1781./c

James Ramsey, 1781, obt.

1789./d

John Kennedy, 1789, the present

rector./e

/w Reg. Roff. p. 162.

/x See Wood's Ath. Ox. vol. ii.

p. 607.

/y MSS. Twysden.

/z He was ejected by the Bartholomew Act.

/a He was the son of Thomas Brewer, esq of West Farleigh. He lies buried in this church, and on his gravestone is stiled the Rev. Thomas Brewer, gent.

/b Also vicar of Teston. He afterwards went distracted.

/c And vicar of Teston.

/d In 1782 a dispensation passed for his holding this rectory with Teston vicarage.

/e And vicar of Teston.

- - -

TESTON.

LIES the next parish eastward from Watringbury. It is vulgarly called Teeson. In the book of Domes-

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day it is written TESTAN, and in the Textus Roffensis, TERSTANA.

This parish is a borough, and has a court leet of itself, where the borsholder is chosen, and the inhabitants of it owe no service to the court leet holden for the hundred of Twyford; but a constable for that hundred may be chosen there out of this borough.

TESTON is beautifully situated on the side of a hill, declining southward towards the river Medway, which is its southern boundary opposite to West Farleigh. The soil is in general a fertile loam, covering the quarry rock, which at the same time that it is dry and healthy, is exceeding kindly for corn, fruit and hop plantations. The high road from Maidstone towards Watringbury and Tunbridge, leads along the lower part of this parish, between which and the river the neat kept grass lands, separated from the road by a handsome white railed fence, have a very pleasing effect. Hence the road branches off, to the right to Ofham and Town Malling, and to the left to Cocks heath, Yalding, and the Weald, across the river, over which there is here a lofty stone bridge of seven arches, which, notwithstanding its height, is frequently rendered impassable from the sudden overflowings of the river, which here at times frequently rises near eighteen feet above its usual surface, in the space of twenty-four hours, and as quickly falls again, unless it is again augmented by repeated rains. Teston park pales adjoin the northern side of the Maidstone road, hence the park rises to Teston-house, which being of white stucco, is a conspicuous object to the neighbouring country, and with the adjoining grounds, some years since, were greatly ornamented and laid out

in the modern taste by Mrs. Bouverie; at the back of the house the ground keeps rising, and the park which is well covered with fine large trees, as well as modern plantations of various sorts, extends to the woods, which are remarkably well filled with large oak

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trees, and to East-Malling heath, but in these parts it is a more wet and deeper soil, and less fertile than the more southern parts of this parish. From Teston house there is a most beautiful view, having in front the river Medway, the bridge, the cascades at Tutsham, and the lock below them, with the pretty village of West Farleigh, and its church, on the opposite hill. South-westward the prospect extends along the valley, where nature and art combine their powers to render the scene more delightful, having the river Medway meandering its silver stream through part of it, the elegant mansion and church of Mereworth beyond, and at the extremity the lofty woods on the range of hills, above the town of Tunbridge. The village, with the church and the vicarage, a neat modern built sashed house stand mostly within the western pales of the park, at no great distance from Teston house, close to the front of which the high Maidstone road passed, till not many years since the late Sir Philip Boteler procured it to be altered to its present situation, at a greater distance, where it now forms a kind of half circle midway, between the house and the river.

The western extremity of this parish is the boundary of the Weald, that is from the hill above Waringbury, across the river, towards the hill above Burston in Hunton, excluding Teston from its district.

Dr. Plott mentions his having discovered a piece of a Roman way, which seemed to have passed the Medway about Teston, and which he thought crossed Cocks-heath, and pointed towards Lenham, but I believe it was merely founded on his own conjecture.

Willow weed, or *lysamachia*, grows much on each side of the highway near Teston-bridge.

Tanacetum, or garden tansey, grows in great plenty in the meadows on the bank of the Medway, between Teston and Barming.

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TESTON was part of those vast possessions with which William the Conqueror enriched his half-brother, Odo, bishop of Baieux, whom he afterwards made earl of Kent, and it is accordingly thus entered in the survey of Domesday, under the general title of that prelate's lands:

Adeold held Testan of the bishop (of Baieux) and Robert now holds it to ferme. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is . . . In demesne there are two carucates and an half, and seven villeins, with three borderers having one carucate. There are twelve ser-vants, and one mill of three shillings, and eight acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of twenty hogs.

In the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth one hundred shillings, and afterwards sixty shil-

lings, now one hundred shillings. Edward held it of king Edward.

On the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, about four years after taking the above survey, this estate, among the rest of his possessions, became confiscated to the crown, whence it seems to have been granted by the Conqueror to Robert, son of Hamon de Crevequer; whose descendant, Hamon de Crevequer, died possessed of it in the 47th year of king Henry III. holding it in capite, as a member of the manor of Chatham, which was held of the king in capite by barony.^{/f} He left Robert, his grandson, his heir, who afterwards took part with the discontented barons against the king; upon which this manor was seized on, among the rest of his estates; and it seems to have remained in the hands of the crown till king Edward I. gave it to Eleanor his queen, who in the 18th year of that reign, made a donation of it, with other premises, to the priory of Christ-church, in Canterbury, in exchange for the port of Sandwich, which

^{/f} Rot. Esch. ejus an. N. 33. See more of the Crevequers, under Chatham, vol. iv. p. 205.

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gift king Edward I. confirmed that year.^{/g} King Edward II. by his charter, in his 10th year, granted to the prior of Christ-church, free warren in all the demesne lands which the priory possessed here in the time of his grandfather, or at any time since.

The manor of Teston continued part of the possessions of the priory of Christ-church till the dissolution of it in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. when it was, together with all its lands and revenues, surrendered up to the king, who that year granted this manor, among other premises, to Sir Thomas Wyatt, to hold in capite, whose son of the same name having raised a rebellion in the 1st year of queen Mary, was attainted, and his estates forfeited to the crown; and the queen next year granted this manor to Sir John Baker, her attorney general,^{/h} to hold in capite, and in his descendants it continued down to Sir John Baker, bart. of Sisinghurst, who after the death of Charles I. alienated it to Mr. Jasper Cleyton, of London, and he passed it away by sale in the reign of king Charles II. to Sir Oliver Boteler, bart. of Berham-court, in this parish, whose grandson, Sir Philip Boteler, bart. of the same place, died possessed of it in 1772, without issue, and by will devised one moiety of his estates to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Chart Sutton, and the other to Elizabeth, viscountess dowager Folkestone; and William Bouverie, earl of Radnor, both since deceased, and on a partition of his estates, this manor was, among others, allotted to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, now of Berham-court, alias Teston-house, in this parish, the present possessor of it.

TESTON-HOUSE, formerly known by the name of Berham-court, was once the mansion or residence of the family of Berham, usually called Barham, whose original name was Fitz Urse.

^{/g} Tan. Mon. p. 201. Rot. Cart. ejus an. No. 37.

^{/h} See more of the Wyatts, vol. 4, p. 339, 451.

Randal Fitz Urse was one of those four knights, (the other three were, William Tracy, Richard Britton, and Hugh Morvill) belonging to Henry II's household, men said by historians to have been eminent for their birth, who undertook to murder archbishop Thomas Becket, which they accomplished in the cathedral church of Canterbury, on December 30, anno 1170.^{/i}

After this Randal Fitz Urse fled into Ireland, and there altered his name to Mac-Mahon, which in the Irish tongue signifies as much as, the son of a bear; upon his flight Robert de Berham, his kinsman, entered on his estate in this parish, and from him it descended to John de Berham, who was by Henry, prior of Christ-church, created a public notary of the diocese of Canterbury, in the year 1309, an office at that time of much trust and eminence, which the prior was empowered to invest any person with, by a commission granted to him by Bassianus de Alliate, count palatine of Milan, who had received such power originally from the emperor. The family of Berham bore for their arms, Argent, three bears passant sable, muzzled or. There was a branch of this family settled at Wadhurst, in Sussex, of which was Nicholas Berham, sergeant at law; and another branch was of Boughton Monchelsea, in this county, of which was Robert Berham, who was comptroller of the pipe. Both of these bore the above coat of arms, with a fess gules, and on it a fleur de lis, between two martlets or.^{/k}

In the descendants of John de Berham above-mentioned, this seat continued down to Thomas Berham, esq. of Berham-court, who left one daughter and heir Anne, who carried this estate of Berham-court in marriage to Sir Oliver Boteler, of Sharnbrooke, in Bedfordshire, on which he removed hither, and

^{/i} Brompt. p. 1063. Hoveden, p. 521. R. de Diceto, p. 555.

^{/k} Vistn. co. Kent, 1619. Pedigree Berham.

was knighted by king James I. at Whitehall, in 1604. This family is descended from Thomas Pincerna, who lived in the reign of king John, and sealed with a covered cup, with this inscription, as appears by the old deeds of the family, encircling the seal, Sigillum Thomæ Pincernæ, probably from his being chief butler to that prince, whence his successors assumed the name of Butler or Boteler. His descendant was Robert le Boteler, called in a Latin deed without date, Robertus Pincerna, as is supposed, likewise from his office; and he left issue three sons, Robert, called in a Latin deed without date, Le Boteler; Thomas; and William, who was a priest. The descendants of Robert le Boteler, who afterwards wrote themselves Boteler only, settled first at Yatton, and afterwards at Droitwich, in Worcestershire, when they altered their name to Butteler, after which about king Henry VIIIth's reign, George Butteler, esq. removed his residence to Sharnbrooke, in Bedfordshire. His descendant, Oliver Butteler, esq. of Sharnbrooke, first changed the spelling of his name again to Boteler, and having married Anne, daughter and sole heir of Thomas Ber-

ham, esq. of Berham-place, removed hither as has been already mentioned. He bore for his arms, first, Boteler, argent on a chief sable, three cups or; secondly, Boteler again, Gules, a chevron between three cups, or, quartered with Wibbe, Froxmore, Bachecott, and Berham. He died in London, in 1632, and was buried at Teston, whose eldest son, Sir John Boteler, of Berham-court, dying without issue, was succeeded by his next surviving brother William, who during his eldest brother's life resided at Saltwood, and on his death became his heir, and removed to Berham-court. He was a man of exemplary loyalty, and firm in his attachment to his royal master king Charles I. by whom he was first knighted, and afterwards, in 1641, created a baronet, and became one of the gentlemen pensioners. In 1642 he joined with the neighbouring

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gentry in presenting a petition to the house of commons for a peace, which was delivered by captain Richard Lovelace, for which by order of the house, Sir William was imprisoned in the Fleet for seven weeks, whence he was released on giving 20,000*l.* bail.

He afterwards suffered greatly; his house of Berham-court being broken open, robbed and plundered of almost every thing valuable in it, and the rest destroyed, and he himself, with his son, forced to compound for his estate for 3011*l.* and upwards.

Sir William Boteler afterwards raised and armed a regiment, at his own expence, for the king's service, at the head of which he was slain, together with Sir John Clerke, of Ford, in this county, in the fight between the king's forces and those of the parliament, under Sir William Waller, at Cropredy bridge, in 1644./i

His only son and heir Sir Oliver, bart. was of Berham-court, and left a son Philip, and a daughter Joane, who married Christopher Rhodes, esq.

Sir Philip Boteler, bart. the son, resided at Berham-court, and married in 1690 Anne, daughter of Sir Edward Desbouverie, of Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire, by whom he had one son and heir, Sir Philip Boteler, bart. of Berham-court, which afterwards dropped that name, and acquired the name of Teston-house. He was a gentleman of a most amiable disposition and politeness of manners, whose benevolence and goodness of heart made him universally respected and beloved by all who knew him. He died at Teston in 1772, where he was buried. He married Elizabeth, only daughter and heir of Thomas Williams, esq. of Cabalva, in Radnorshire, by whom he had an only daughter Elizabeth, who died unmarried in his life-time, *æt.* 15. By his will he gave one moiety of all his estates, both

</i> Clarendon's Hist. of Rebellion, vol. ii. p. 386.

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real and personal, without any specific allotment, to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Chart Sutton, and the other moiety to Elizabeth, viscountess dowager Folkestone, and William Bouverie, earl of Radnor, since deceased. They by private agreement made a partition of these estates, in which Teston manor and advowson,

and the house, formerly called Berham-place, were, among others allotted to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Chart Sutton above-mentioned, who is the present possessor of Teston-house, with the park, gardens and lands belonging to it, which by her improvements has become a most elegant residence, and an ornament to the adjacent country.

Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie is descended from Laurence de Bouverie, or Des Bouveries, of an antient extraction in Flanders, who renouncing the Romish religion, came into England in 1567. His grandson, Edward Desbouverie, was knighted in 1684, and died at his seat at Cheshunt, in 1694, leaving by Anne his wife, daughter and coheir of Jacob de la Forterie, of London, several sons and daughters. Of whom William, the eldest son, was created a baronet in 1713, and was ancestor to the present earl of Radnor; and Christopher, the youngest son was knighted, and was of Chart Sutton, in this county, and left by Elizabeth his wife, daughter and heir of Ralph Freeman, esq. of Beechworth, in Surry, two sons; Freeman, who died s. p. in 1734, æt. 20, and John, heir to his brother, who died on his travels in Asia, s. p. in 1750, æt. 29, and two daughters; Anne, married to John Harvey, esq. of Beechworth, and Elizabeth, devisee of the moiety of Sir Philip Boteler's estates. Of Sir Edward Desbouverie's daughters, Anne married Sir Philip Boteler, bart. and was aunt to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie above-mentioned. Mrs. Bouverie bears for her arms, first, Bouverie, party per fess or and argent, an Imperial eagle sable; second, Bouverie again, gules, a bend vair quar-

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tered with Forterie, Frebody, Marsh, Laurence, and others./m

There are no parochial charities.

This parish is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Malling.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is a small, but neat building, with a square tower at the west end. In it are several monuments of the family of Boteler.

Robert de Crevequer, at the time of his founding the priory of Leeds, in 1119, gave to it all the churches of his estates, among which was this of Teston, with sixteen acres of land in the parish, together with all their customs, goods, liberties and privileges./n

Walter, bishop of Rochester, in the reign of king Stephen, appropriated this church, and Lamberhurst, to the above-mentioned priory, on the petition of Daniel de Crevequer; and he received the prior and canons into the parsonages, and instituted the canons parsons canonically in those churches.

After which a vicarage was endowed here by the prior and convent, with a reservation of twenty shillings yearly pension to themselves out of it; which pension, on the dissolution of the priory in the reign of king Henry VIII. came into the hands of the crown, and was soon afterwards granted by that king, by his dotation charter, in his 33d year, to his new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, who are now entitled to it.

But the parsonage, together with the advowson of the vicarage, remained in the hands of the crown in the reign of king Charles I. whence the same was

/m Pedigree of Desbouverie, in the possession of the earl of Radnor.

/n See the confirmations of it in Regist. of Leeds priory, Dugd. Mon. vol. ii. p. 110, &c. Reg. Roff. p. 211.

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granted to Sir William Boteler, bart. from whom it descended to Sir Philip Boteler, bart. who died possessed of it in 1772, since which it has passed by his will, in like manner as Teston manor and house, to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, the present possessor of the parsonage and advowson of the vicarage of Teston.

This vicarage is now a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of forty-seven pounds, the yearly tenths of which are thirteen shillings.

CHURCH OF TESTON.

PATONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Sir William Boteler, bart. Frost, in 1630./o
Oliver North, A. M. 1642, re=
signed 1663./p

Roger Bankes, in 1682.

Henry Cornwallis, in 1683.

John Richards, A. M./q

William Johnson, obt. 1761.

Duncan Menzies, A. M. instit.

1761, obt. Sept. 27, 1781./r

James Ramsey, obt. 1789./s

John Kennedy, 1789, the present
vicar.

/o He was no graduate.

/p He resigned this vicarage for that of Yalding, and dying in 1765, was buried in Yalding church.

/q And rector of Nettlested. He afterwards went distracted.

/r At the same time he was presented to the rectory of Nettlested.

/s Rector of Nettlested likewise by dispensation as is his successor. See his life in Encyclopædia Brit. drawn up by his nephew Mr. Walker.

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WEST FARLEIGH.

SOUTHWARD from Teston, on the opposite side of the river Medway, lies the parish of West Farleigh, so called to distinguish it from the adjoining one of East Farleigh.

It is called in Domesday, FERLAGA, and in the Textus Roffensis, FEARNLEGA, and most probably took

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its name from the passage over the river Medway at one, or both of these parishes, Fare in Saxon signifying a journey or passage, and lega, a place, i. e. the

place of the way or passage.

The borsholder of the borough of West Farleigh is chosen at the court leet of that manor, and does not owe service to the court leet of the hundred; nor do the inhabitants of that borough owe any service to that court; but at that court there may be chosen a constable of that hundred out of this borough.

Part of the parish of West Farleigh is held of the manor of Newington near Sittingborne, in free socage tenure, by certain freeholders, at different yearly rents.

THIS PARISH is pleasantly situated on the southern side of the Medway, on the side of a hill declining towards the river; its northern boundary, the meadows, on the bank of which, abounding with large and spreading oaks, as does the whole parish, contributing greatly to the grandeur and beauty of the scene. The soil of it is much the same as that of the adjoining parish of East Farleigh, and is equally fertile in corn, fruit, and hops, of which there are many plantations. The high road across the Medway over Teston bridge, ascends the hill through the village, in which is Smith's hall, a handsome well-built seat, and the vicarage, both of them having a fine view of the valley and river, Mereworth, and Teston-house and park, on the opposite hill. About a quarter of a mile eastward is the small hamlet of Farleigh-green, and at the lower edge of the hill, not far from the river the church and the court-lodge, Mr. Stephen Amhurst's, where there is a pretty steep descent of grass and meadow lands to the bank of the river, and the bridge across it to Barmjet. On the opposite side of the village, at no great distance, are the ruins of the mansion of Tutsham, which was pleasantly situated on a rise above the river, and enclosed with stately oaks, and its canals plentifully supplied by a small swiftly running brook, called the Ewell,

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from its rising near the manor of that name, in the eastern part of this parish, and which here falls into the Medway. The house was pulled down a few years ago, when the improvements were made at Teston-house, and the ruins left as an object in the prospect from it. From the village of Farleigh, the high road continues down to Yalding, and thence to the Weald and Sussex. Another road from the village, the ground still rising, leads to Cocks-heath, and the summit of the quarry-hill above Burston, where the district of the Weald begins. In the south east part of the parish there is much coppice wood.

IN THE WOODS in this neighbourhood there grows *Cyclamen Europæum*, sowbread, although Gerard says, he could not learn that this plant grew any where in England, and Mr. Raye and Mr. Hudson have entirely omitted it in their catalogue of British plants./t

Aristolochia Clematitis, climbing birthwort, grows in the woods between this place and Maidstone./u

THIS PLACE, soon after the conquest, was given by William the Conqueror to Odo, bishop of Baieux, his half-brother, under the general title of whose lands, it is thus entered in the survey of Domesday, taken in that king's reign:

Ranulf de Columbels holds of the bishop (of Baieux)

Ferlaga. It was taxed at one suling, The arable land is four carucates. Rannulf does not hold more than three yokes, and he has there in demesne one carucate, and ten villeins, with four cottagers, having three carucates. There is a church, and seven servants, and one mill of five shillings, and ten acres of meadow, Wood for the pannage of fifteen hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, and now it is worth seven pounds. Alnod held it of king Edward.

/t Johnson's Gerarde's Herbal, p. 845.

/u Hudson's Flora Anglica, vol. ii. p. 394.

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Of this suling, Rayner holds one yoke of the bishop in the manor of Pimpe, and he has there one carucate, with nine servants and three acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of four hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth twenty shillings, now forty shillings. Alnod Cilt held it of king Edward.

On the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, about the year 1084, this manor, with the rest of his possessions, became confiscated to the crown; whence it seems to have been granted by the Conqueror to Robert, son of Hamon de Crevequer, whose descendant, Robert de Crevequer afterwards held it as a member of the manor of Chatham. He took part with the rebellious barons against the king; upon which this manor was seized, among the rest of his estates; and through it appears that he was afterwards restored to the king's favor, yet he never regained possession of the manor of West Farleigh, which seems to have remained in the hands of the crown, till king Edward I. gave it to Eleanor his queen, who, in the 18th year of that reign, made a gift of it, with other premises, to the priory of Christ-church, in Canterbury, in exchange for the port of Sandwich./w

King Edward II. in his 10th year, granted to the prior of Christ-church, free-warren in all their demesne lands, which he possessed here in the time of his grandfather, or at any time since./x

This manor continued part of the possessions of the priory of Christ-church till its dissolution, in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. when it was surrendered into the king's hands, who that year granted this manor, among other premises, to Sir Thomas Wyatt, to hold in capite, but his son of the same name having raised

/w Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 22. Tan. Mon. p. 201.

/x Register of Christ-church, charter 134.

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a rebellion in the 1st year of queen Mary, was attainted, and his estates were forfeited to the crown;/y and the queen, by her letters patent, in her second year, granted this manor to Sir John Baker, her attorney-general,/z to hold by the like service. In his descendants it continued down to Sir John Baker, bart. of Sisinghurst, who alienated it soon after the death of Charles I. to Mr. Robert Newton, grocer, of London, who conveyed it to Augustine Hodges, gent. and he sold it in the reign of king Charles II. to John Amhurst, esq. of

East Farleigh court-lodge, who by will in 1711 devised it to his brother, Nicholas Amhurst, gent. of West Barming, and his grandson, Stephen Amhurst, esq. is the present proprietor of it, and resides in the manor-house.

SMITH'S-HALL is a seat in this parish, to which the Brewers, a family who had resided at Brewer's place, in Mereworth, for many generations, removed in the reign of king Henry VI. and which afterwards branched off to Boxley and Ditton, both in this neighbourhood./a They bore for their arms, Gules, three bends wavy or, a canton vaire, argent and azure.

Of this family was Wm. de Brewer, who was lieutenant of Dover-castle under king John, as appears by the special præcipe directed to him from that king, to deliver this then important fortress to Hubert de Burgh, lord warden of the cinque ports./b

This seat continued the residence of this family to Thomas Brewer, esq. who died possessed of it in 1690, and was buried in this church, whose second wife Anne, was daughter of Richard Kilburne, esq. of Hawkhurst, the Kentish topographer, by whom he had several

/y See more of the Wyatts under Allington, vol. iv. p. 451.

/z See more of the Bakers, under Cranbrooke. See also East Farleigh, vol. iv. p. 375.

/a See MSS. in the British Museum, No. 2230.

/b Rot. 17, Joh. memb. 2, N. 102. Philipott, p. 150.

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children. His eldest son, John Brewer, esq. of Smith's hall, died in 1724, leaving by Jane his wife, an only daughter and heir, Jane, who was twice married; first to John Carney, esq. and secondly to John Shrimpton, esq. both of whom she survived, and again possessed this seat, where she resided in her own right. She died here s. p. in 1762, having by her will devised this seat, with the rest of her estates, to her kinsman John Davis, D. D. rector of Hamsey, in Sussex, whose mother was daughter of Thomas Brewer, esq. above-mentioned, by his second wife, daughter of Richard Kilburne, of Hawkhurst, and he died possessed of it in 1766, and was buried in Canterbury cathedral, of which church he was a prebendary. He left issue one son John and three daughters, of whom Elizabeth the eldest, married Henry Pratt, esq. late of Harbledown, Jane the second, died unmarried in 1768, and Anne, the youngest, married Robert Knipe, esq. of London. John Davis, esq. the son, was afterwards knighted, and married the second daughter of Dr. Tattersal, rector of Streatham, in Surry. He sold this seat in 1774 to William Perrin, esq. who resided at Smith's hall, where he kept his shrievalty for this county in 1776, bearing for his arms, Gules, three crescents argent, and he is the present owner, and at times resides in it.

THE MANOR OF TOTESHAM-HALL, usually called Tutsham, in this parish, was antiently the residence of a family, who assumed their surname from it.

John de Totesham was one of the recognitores magnæ assisæ, or judges of the great assize in the reign of king John, as appears by the pipe rolls of that reign, and bore for his arms, Gules, within a bordure a cross argent, between twelve billets of the last; as appears by

his seal appendant to a deed in the Dering library.

From him this manor and estate descended in a direct line to Anthony Totesham, esq. who about the latter end of the reign of king Henry VIII. alienated Totesham, with an appendage to it, called Henhurst, /c to

/c In Yelding, where see a further account of it.

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Thomas Chapman, gent. one of the grooms of the king's chamber, in whose name they staid till the middle of queen Elizabeth's reign, when they were sold to John Laurence, esq. captain of Tilbury fort, who by Anne, one of the two daughters and coheirs of Robert Gidding, esq. left a son and heir, Edward Laurence, esq. who was of Totesham-hall, and died in 1605. His heirs joined in the sale of this manor, to Augustine Skynner, esq. of Devonshire, the younger brother of Richard, of Columpton, in that county, of a family who bore for their arms, Ermine, three lozenges sable, in each a fleur de lis or. /d He, on this purchase, removed into Kent, and resided at Totesham-hall.

Augustine Skynner, his eldest son, resided likewise at Totesham-hall, where he died in 1672, without surviving issue, and was buried here. Sometime after his decease, his heirs alienated this manor and seat, with the manor of Ewell in this parish, and other estates in the adjoining parishes, to Edward Goulston, esq. who afterwards resided at Tutsham, and bore for his arms, Barry, nebulee of six argent and gules, over all a bend sable, charged with three plates. He died in 1720, s. p. and was buried in this church, having by his will given them after his wife's death to her nephew, Francis Goulston, son and heir apparent of Richard Goulston, esq. of Widdial, in Hertfordshire. This family, of Widdial, was descended from Thomas Goulston, of Wimondham, in Leicestershire, whose grandson John, son of William, was one of the prothonotaries of the common pleas in the reign of king James I.

James Goulston, esq. his eldest son, was of Widdial, and was father of Richard, and of Anne, the wife of Edward Goulston, of Tutsham, as above-mentioned. They bore the same coat of arms as those of this county.

/d See Visitation of the county of Kent, 1619. Pedigree of Skynner.

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She resided at Tutsham after the death of her husband, and dying in 1724, the property of these manors and estates became vested in Francis Goulston esq. before-mentioned, of Widdial, who on his marriage in 1722, had settled the reversion of them on Sarah his intended wife, and on their issue in tail male, with a power of revocation on his settling other estates, of as great value, in lieu of them. After which, in the 13th year of king George I. anno 1726, having contracted for the sale of them with Sir Philip Boteler, bart. and the expressions in the above settlement being doubtful and ambiguous, an act of parliament was procured to enforce them, and the fee of them was conveyed to Sir Philip Boteler, bart. He died in 1772, s. p. and by will bequeathed one moiety of his estates

to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Chart Sutton; and the other moiety to the viscountess dowager Folkestone, and William Bouverie, earl of Radnor, both since deceased; and on a partition of his estates, these above-mentioned were, among others, allotted to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, now of Teston, the present possessor of them.

CHARITIES.

MRS. ANNE GOULSTON, in 1724, gave by will certain lands, the produce to be distributed yearly to the poor not receiving alms, vested in the churchwardens and overseers, and now, excepting repairs, of the annual produce of 14l.

THE REV. OLIVER NORTH, vicar, gave by will in 1725, to be distributed in like manner, land vested in the vicar and parish officers. and now, excepting land-tax and repairs, of the annual produce of 8l.

WEST FARLEIGH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Malling.

The church, which stands near the court-lodge, consists of one isle, and has a low pointed steeple. It is dedicated to All Saints. In it are monuments for the Brewers, Skinners, and Goulstons, and in the south

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wall there is an antient tomb fixed in a recess, and over it an arch enrailed, having at each corner a coat of arms; that towards the east is obliterated, but the western one, a cross within a bordure enrailed, is still visible.

Robert de Crevequer, at the time of his founding the priory of Leeds in 1119, gave all the churches of his estates, among which was this of West Farleigh, with all their customs, goods, liberties, and privileges, to that priory./e

William Corboil, archbishop of Canterbury, in the reign of king Henry I. soon after the above-mentioned gift, granted that the canons there should possess this church, and should take the tithes of corn yearly, appropriated to them, and two parcels of land of the possessions of this church, (duas culturas de tenemento) of which, nevertheless, he decreed, that the vicar of it should take the tithes yearly, when they should be cultivated, saving, nevertheless, a third parcel, and all other appurtenances belonging to it, to the vicar serving in it, who should be presented by the prior of Leeds to the bishop, saving to him episcopal right in all things.

This church, together with the advowson of the vicarage, remained part of the possessions of the priory, till the dissolution of it in the reign of Henry VIII. when it was confirmed to that king and his heirs, among the other estates of the priory, by the general words of the act passed in the 31st year of that reign. After which the king, by his dotation charter, in his 33d year, settled both the parsonage, and advowson of the vicarage, on his new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom they now remain.

The lessee of the parsonage is Mr. John Savage; but the dean and chapter reserve the presentation of the vicarage to themselves.

The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 6l. 10s. 5d. and the yearly tenths at 13s. 0¹/₂d.

On the intended dissolution of deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles I. the possessions of the dean and chapter of Rochester in this parish, were surveyed in 1649, by order of the state; by which it appeared that this parsonage consisted of all the tithes, &c. with a house, barns, &c. and gardens containing one rood, of the improved rent of seventy-four pounds, and also another barn and premises belonging to it, containing three roods and three perches, of the improved rent of five pounds per annum. All which were let anno 11 Charles I. to Thomas and John Wood, by the late dean and chapter, at the rent of 10l. 11s. 4d. so there remained clear the rent of 68l. 8s. 8d. per annum; that the vicarage was excepted out of the lease, and was worth thirty-five pounds per annum, and that the lessee covenanted to repair the chancel, and to pay the accustomed pension of 3l. 6s. 8d. to the vicar.

CHURCH OF WEST FARLEIGH.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Dean and Chapter of Rochester William Allen, in 1597.

Robert Feild, A. M. about 1630./f

John Reve, 1636./g

Edmund Hills, 1640./h

Oliver North, 1720. obt. 1726./i

John Davis, A. M. presented

1726, obt. July 1776./k

Robert Fountain, A. M. Nov.

1776, resigned 1779./l

Francis Taynton, A. M. 1779,

obt. Nov. 14, 1794./m

Tho. Weeks Dalby, A. M. 1794,

the present vicar./n

/f MSS. Twysden.

/g Reg. Roff. p. 888.

/h Walker's Suff. of Clergy, p. 267.

/i Also vicar of East Farleigh. He was a good benefactor to this vicarage, by the improvements he made to the house and gardens.

/k And rector of Mereworth.

/l He exchanged this vicarage, for that of Frindsbury, with his successor.

/m Likewise rector of Trottesclive.

/n And vicar of Chippenham, in Wiltshire.

HUNTON.

SOUTHWARD from West Farleigh lies the parish of Hunton, called more frequently in antient deeds Huntington.

A small part of this parish, being of the antient demeasne of Aylesford, is in the hundred of Larkfield;

another small part is within the hundred of Maidstone, the residue being in the borough of Hunton, is in the hundred of Twyford, which borough claims a court leet of itself, where the borsholder is chosen, and the inhabitants of it owe no service to the court leet of the hundred, only at that court a constable for the hundred may be chosen out of this borough.

HUNTON lies on the side of the quarry hills, the summit of which above it is the northern boundary of this parish, as well as of the Weald, consequently this parish lying below it, is within that district. The soil of it about the hill partakes of the quarry or rag stone, thinly covered with a loam or red earth, below which it changes to a stiff clay. Upon the hill adjoining to Cocks-heath there is a range of coppice wood along it, below which, midway down the hill is the seat of Burston, having a fine view southward over the Weald; the right wing of it is built of brick, ornamented with stone, and seems to be of the time of queen Elizabeth, the rest of it is much more modern. The whole seems approaching to hasty ruin, being uninhabited, the house, where the farmer inhabits, being built adjoining to it. There was a park round this seat, inclosed about king James the 1st.'s reign, which has been disparted some years, and converted into a farm. At a little distance eastward is the parsonage, a good house much improved by the present bishop of London, who made it his summer residence whilst rector of this parish, it is now in like manner inhabited by the present rector,

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lord George Murray. Just below it is the seat called GENNINGS, formerly the property of one Snatt, who sold it to Sir Walter Roberts, bart. of Glassenbury, who rebuilt the house on his death in 1745; his only daughter and heir Jane, carried this seat in marriage to George, duke of St. Alban's. She died s. p. in 1778, having disposed of it by her will to Miss Davies, who after the duke's death possessed it, and sold it to the lady dowager Twysden, the present owner of it. At a small distance lower down is the church, and still further, about a quarter of a mile eastward the village, called Hunton-street, close to the passage over the river at Hunton Clappers, being a principal stream of the river Medway, which here directs its course along the southern boundary of this parish, being increased in its course here by several springs, which rise in the upper part of it, and join together the main river at the adjoining parish of Yalding. That part of this parish below the hill, from the nature of its deep clay soil, is very miry in wet weather, whilst, like the rest of the Weald, in hot and dry weather, it becomes a hard cakey or panny surface, which resists every impression; of course the opportunity for the tillage of it, whilst in an intermediate state, must not be neglected, lest the possibility of a season be lost. It is very kindly for wheat, of which it produces, especially when manured with marle or chalk, which is brought from the further ridge of hills, at nine or ten miles distance, very good crops, of near three seams an acre; the whole of it abounds with broad hedge rows, in which are numbers of fine spreading oaks of a large size, which though very profitable to the owner, are exceeding prejudicial to the

occupier and his crops of corn. To the sight this country is a beautiful prospect, but to the traveller and resident, it is in wet weather almost impassable, and in the drought of summer from the heat arising from the soil, the reflection of the sun beams, and the quantity of large buzzing flies which continually assault you from

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their haunts among the oak branches, it is most disagreeable and unpleasant to the extreme, the only exception being when you are stationary under the thick shade of a spreading oak.

In the year 1683 there was found, at the opening of a piece of ground to enlarge a pond, near Mr. Hatley's house in this parish, at six yards deep, a hard floor or stratum, composed of shells, or petrifications like them, crowded closely together, the interstices of which were filled up with marle. This layer was about an inch deep, and several yards over. These shells were of the sort called conchites, and resembled sea fish of the testaceous kind; most of them were turbinated or wreathed, the rest were of the bivalvular sort; none of them with their valves closed together, but single. This stratum, when exposed to the air and grown hard, appeared much like the coarse sort of marble, composed of such shell-like petrifications, with marle mixed betwixt them, as is dug up about Bethersden, Pluckley, &c. in the Weald of Kent, and about Petworth, in Sussex. Upon enquiry, no instance was known of the river Medway's having, in any floods, reached so far as this place./o

THE MANOR of Huntington, alias Hunton, was part of the antient possessions of Christ-church, in Canterbury, and was soon after the time of the Conqueror held of the archbishop of Canterbury by knight's service, by a family of the name of Lenham, who were afterwards proprietors of another manor in this parish, called Benstede.

The latter of these manors, at the time of taking the survey of Domesday, about the year 1080, was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Baieux and earl of Kent, the Conqueror's half-brother, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in it:

/o Philosophical Transactions, vol. xiv. No. 155, p. 463.

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Adehold held Benedestede of the bishop (of Baieux) and Robert held it to ferme. It was taxed at one yoke. The arable land is In demesne there is one carucate, with five servants, and one acre of meadow. Wood for the pannage of six hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards it was worth twenty shillings, now forty shillings. Godric held it of Alnod Cilt.

The above-mentioned manor, on the bishop's disgrace about four years afterwards, was seized on, among the rest of his possessions, and was granted to one of the family of Crevequer, of whom it was held by proprietors, who, in all likelihood, assumed their surname from it.

John de Benstede held this manor as one fourth part of a knight's fee, in the reign of king Henry III. of

the barony of Crevequer; /p at the latter end of which reign, he alienated it to Nicholas de Lenham, who at that time held likewise the manor of Hunton, for which, in the 41st year of it, he obtained a charter of free warren, a market on a Tuesday weekly, and a yearly fair to continue five days, viz. the vigil, the day of the assumption of our Lady, and three days afterwards.

In the above year there was a fine levied between Nicholas, prior of Christ-church, and Nicholas de Lenham, of an annual rent of six pounds of this manor of Huntington. /q

His descendant, William de Lenham, leaving an only daughter and heir Alianor; she carried both these manors in marriage to John de Gyfford, who paid aid for them in the 20th year of king Edward III. and died possessed of them in the 22d year of the above reign; soon after which they were sold by his heirs to William, second son of John de Clinton, who was afterwards knighted, and was a person of eminent worth.

/p Book of Knights fees in the Exchequer.

/q Register of Christ Church, cart. 2027.

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He married Juliana, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas de Leyborne, commonly stiled from her great possessions, the Infanta of Kent; which was in great measure the means of his future honor and preferments, of which he had many conferred on him; and standing still high in the king's favor, he was, in the 11th year of that reign, advanced to the title of earl of Huntington. /r He died anno 28 king Edward III. s. p. possessed of the manor of Huntington, alias Hunton, with Bensted; Sir John de Clinton, lord Clinton, son of John, his eldest brother, being found, by the inquisition to be his next heir, who paid relief in the 4th year of king Henry IV. at the marriage of Blanch, that prince's daughter, for this manor, with Bensted, and in the 6th year of it, he had possession granted of his part of the lands of William de Say, as heir to him by his grandmother Idonea; whereupon he bore the title of lord Clinton and Say, and was afterwards accordingly summoned to parliament. His son, John, lord Clinton, in the 27th year of king Henry VI. released to his kinsman, Sir James Fienes, then lord Say and Seal, and his heirs, the title of lord Say, which he claimed a right to, and the arms likewise, by reason of that title.

In his descendants this manor and estate continued down to Edward, lord Clinton, /s who in Henry VIIIth's reign, alienated them to Sir Thomas Wyatt, but his son, Sir Thomas Wyatt, having raised a rebellion against queen Mary, was attainted in the 1st year of her reign, by which all his estates became forfeited to the crown; and the queen, by her letters patent, in her 2d year, granted this manor, with Bensted, to Sir John Baker, her attorney-general, to hold in capite by knight's service. /t In whose descendants they continued down to

/r Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 530 et seq. Rot. Esch. ejus an.

/s See more of the family of Clintons under Folkestone.

/t Dalton's Reports, Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 1.

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Sir John Baker, bart. of Sisinghurst, who possessed them in the reign of king Charles II. he sold them to Mr. Clarke, of Boughton, who left the manor of Hunton by his last will to Mr. Thomas Turner, of this parish, for his life, remainder to his own brother, of whom Mr. Turner, having purchased the reversion of it, and dying s. p. gave it by will to his nephew Mr. Thomas Turner, of Hunton, who died possessed of it in 1776, leaving by his wife, daughter of Mr. Durrant, one son and four daughters; of whom Mary married the Rev. Thomas Verrier Alkin, late vicar of Lenham; Anne married the Rev. John Ward, rector and vicar of Yalding; and the other two are single, which son before-mentioned is the present Thomas Turner, who now owns and resides in it.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

But BENSTED, now called BENSTEDDLE, the scite of which at present consists only of a parcel of land, with a ruined house on it, passed by sale from Clarke to Bartholomew, in which name it descended down to Leonard Bartholomew, esq. of Oxenhoath, who died in 1757, s. p. since which it is at length by his will in like manner as that seat, become the property of Sir William Geary, bart. who owns besides a considerable estate in this parish.

At the south side of the chancel of this church, was once a tomb for one of the noble family of Clinton, possessors of this manor, whose seat, called the Court-ledge, near the church, has been long ruined; but the scite of it, as well as the moat which surrounded it, are still visible.

BURSTON is a manor in this parish, the name of which Kilburne says, was antiently Buston, alias Burricestune, alias Burregicestune; however that may be, it was antiently eminent for being the residence of a family, which took their surname of Burston from it.

John de Burston is mentioned in the dateless deeds, relating to this family, which, from the probable con-

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jecture of the hand writing are supposed to be of the time of king Henry III. at which time there was land about Wye and Crundall, in this county, which belonged to this family; for in the 45th year of the above reign, Sir Waretius de Valoignes, released to John de Burston his title to lands in those parishes. In his descendants Burston remained for many generations, and it appears, that they were esteemed among the antient gentry of this county; for Gervas Clifton, sheriff of Kent in the 29th year of king Henry VI. returned William Burston, then possessor of this manor, among those who had a right to bear the antient coat armour of their ancestors, their arms being Quarterly, argent and sable, on a bend gules, three griffins heads erased or.

In the reign of king Henry VIII. alderman Head, of London, resided here, and made additions to the house; but he seems to have possessed it only for a term of years; for the fee continued in the name of Burston, by one of whom it was alienated, in the beginning of the reign of queen Elizabeth, to Sir Thomas Fane, second son of George Fane, esq. of Badsell, in Tudeley, who was afterwards of Burston, knight, and was lieutenant of Dover-castle. He died without sur-

living issue in 1606.

By his will he gave this manor and seat, among the rest of his estates, to Sir George Fane, second son of Sir Thomas Fane, of Badsell, by his wife Mary, baroness le Despencer, who after the death of his uncle resided at Burston. In the 18th year of king James I. he was chosen to represent this county in parliament, and in the 21st year of it kept his shrievalty at Burston. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Thomas Fane, esq. who was of Burston, and taking to a military life, became a colonel in the army. He died unmarried here in 1692, and was buried with his ancestors in this church, having by his will given this manor and seat, among the rest of his estates, to Mildmay Fane, the 7th and youngest son of Vere Fane, earl of Westmoreland,

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then but two years old, intending by it, that this manor and that title, should never be possessed by the same person. He afterwards resided at Mereworth castle, and died unmarried in 1715, and was succeeded in this manor and seat, as well as the rest of his estates, by Thomas, earl of Westmoreland, his eldest surviving brother, who dying as well as his younger and only surviving brother John, earl of Westmoreland, s. p. the latter in 1762, this manor and seat, together with the rest of his estates in this county, are come by the limitations of his will in like manner as Mereworth, to the right hon. Thomas, lord le Despencer, the present owner of them.

There are no parochial charities.

HUNTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and being a peculiar of the archbishop, is as such in the deanry of Shoreham.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary. In it there is a monument and memorials of the family of Fane, of Burston, of alderman Head, mentioned before, and for one of the family of Clinton, and there was in Philipott's time, in one of the windows of it, the effigies of two of the lords Clinton, owners of this manor.

It is a rectory, valued in the king's books at 16l. 13s. 1½d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 13s. 3¾d.

His grace the archbishop is patron of this church.

CHURCH OF HUNTON.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

The Archbishop of Canterbury Theophilus Higgons, A. M. sequestered about 1643./u
..... Latham, ejected 1662./w
Thomas Yardley, 1680./x
Richard Burton, 1691./y

/u Walker's Suff. of Clergy, pt. ii.

p. 266. Wood's Ath. vol. ii. p. 240.

/w Ejected by the Bartholomew act.

/x Reg. Roff. p. 874.

Calamy's Life of Baxter, p. 286.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

The Archbishop of Canterbury George Fage, A. M. 1713, obt.
Sept. 8, 1728./y
Herbert Taylor, 1728, obt. Sept.
29, 1763./z
John Fowel, S. T. P. 1763,
resigned 1765./a
Beilby Porteus, S. T. P. 1765,
vacated 1788./b
Rt. Hon. Lord George Murray, the
present rector.

/y Also vicar of Marden and preb.
of Litchfield. Willis's Cath. vol. i.
p. 467. He lies buried in this church.

/z And vicar of Patricksborne, in
1753, by dispensation.

/a And sinecure rector of Eynsford,
in 1763. In 1764 rector of Chartham
likewise by dispensation, in 1765; he
resigned this vicarage for Bishopsborne
with Barham, which he now holds.

/b And prebendary of Peterborough,
and in 1767 presented to the rectory of
Lambeth, which he resigned in 1777,
on being consecrated bishop of Chester,
which he held with this rectory, in
commendam. Now bishop of London.

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YALDING.

NORTH-WESTWARD from Hunton lies Yald=
ing, antiently written Ealding, which signifies the an=
tient meadow or low ground.

Most of this parish is in the hundred of Twyford, and
the rest of it, viz. the borough of Rugmerhill, is in
the antient demesne of Aylesford. That part of this
parish, which holds of the manor of West Farleigh, is
in the borough of West Farleigh, and the borsholder
thereof ought to be chosen at the court leet there, and
so much thereof as is held of the manor of Hunton,
is in the borough of Hunton, and the borsholder thereof
is chosen at the court leet there; and the inhabitants
of neither of these boroughs owe service to the court
holden for the hundred of Twyford, within which
hundred they both are; but at that court a constable
for that hundred may be chosen out of either of these
boroughs.

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THIS PARISH lying southward of the quarry hills, is
within the district of the Weald. It is but narrow,
but extends full four miles in length from north to south,
the upper or northern part reaches up to the quarry
hill adjoining to West Farleigh, near which is Yalding
down, on which is a large kiln for the purpose of burn=
ing pit coal into coke, which is effected by laying the
coal under earth, and when set on fire quenching the
cinders; the method is used in making charcoal from
wood, the former particularly is much used in the oasts
for the drying of hops, so profitably encouraged in
this neighbourhood. Below it, near the river Med=
way, its western boundary in this part, opposite to Net=
tlested, stands the seat of Sir John Gregory Shaw, bart.

a retired, but not an ill chosen situation. It was for several generations the residence of the family of Kinward, which from the reign of king Henry VIII. was possessed of good estates in this parish and its neighbourhood, and bore for their arms, Azure, on a bend or, three roses gules, between three cross-crosetts, fitchee argent. Robert Kenward, esq. of Yalding, resided here, and dying in 1720, was buried with the rest of his family in this church; he left a son John, and several daughters, of whom the third, Martha, married the late Sir Gregory Page, bart. and died s. p. John Kenward, esq. the son, died in 1749, leaving by Alicia his wife, youngest daughter of Francis Brooke, esq. of Rochester, one daughter and heir Alicia, who carried this seat and a considerable estate in this neighbourhood to Sir John Shaw, bart. late of Eltham, whose eldest son, Sir John Gregory Shaw, bart. is the present owner of it, and resides here./c In this part of the parish the land is kindly both for corn and hops, of which there are several plantations, and round the down there are some rich grass lands, but further southward where the parish extends to Brenchley, Horsemonden, and Mar-

/c See Eltham, vol. i. of this history, p. 468.

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den, it is rather a forlorn country, the land lying very low, and the soil is exceeding wet and miry, and much of it very poor, and greatly subject to rushes, being a stiff unfertile clay; the hedge rows are broad and interspersed with quantities of large spreading oak trees.

The river Medway flows from Tunbridge along the west side of the upper part of this parish as mentioned before, there are across it here two bridges, Twyford and Brandt bridge, leading hither from Watringbury, Nettlested and East Peckham; a small stream, which comes from Marden, and is here called the Twist, flows through the lower part of this parish towards the west side of it, and joins the main river at Twyford bridge, which extends over both of them; another larger stream being a principal head of the Medway flowing from Style-bridge by Hunton clappers, separating these two parishes, joins the main river, about a quarter of a mile below Twyford bridge; on the conflux of these two larger streams the town of Yalding is situated, having a long narrow stone bridge of communication from one part of the town to the other, on the opposite bank of the Hunton stream. Leland who lived in king Henry the VIIIth.'s reign, calls it a praty townelet, to which however at present it has no pretensions. The church and court-lodge stand at the north end of the town. A fair is held in it on Whit-Monday, and on October 15, yearly. The high road over Teston bridge, and through West Farleigh, leads through the town, and thence southward along the hamlets of Denover and Collens-street to Marden; at a small distance from the former is the borough of Rugmarhill, esteemed to be within the antient demesne of Aylesford, belonging to Mrs. Milner.

Adjoining the town southward is Yalding lees, over which there is another high road, which leads from Twyford bridge, parallel with the other before-mentioned, along the hamlet of Lodingford, and thence

through the lower part of this parish towards Brenchley,

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near the boundaries of which in this parish is an estate, still called Oldlands, which appears in king Edward II's reign to have been part of the demesne lands of the manor of Yalding, for he then confirmed to the priory of Tunbridge a rent charge to be received out of the asserts of the old and new lands of the late Richard de Clare, in Dennemannesbrooke, which he had given to it on its foundation; lower down, close to the stream of the Twist, is the manor house of Bockingsold, the lands of which extend across the river into Brenchley and Horsemonden and other parishes.

A third high road over Brandt bridge passes along the western bounds of this parish, over Betsurn-green towards Lamberhurst and Sussex.

A new commission of sewers under the great seal, was not many years ago obtained to scour and cleanse that branch of the river Medway, or if I may so call it, the Yalding river from Goldwell in Great Chart, through Smarden, Hunton, and other intermediate parishes to its junction with the Rain river, at a place called Stick-mouth, a little below the town of Yalding.

The commissioners for the navigation of the river Medway, about twenty years ago, made a navigable cut or canal, from a place in the river called Hampsted, where they judiciously constructed a lock to a place in the river near Twyford bridge, where they erected a tumbling bay for the water, when at a certain height, to pass over. The contrivance of this cut from one bend or angle of the river to the other, is of the greatest utility to the navigation, by not only shortening the passage, but by buying up a convenient depth of water, which they could not have had along the lees, and other adjoining low lands on each side of that part of the river, which is avoided by it, or at least not without a very great expence.

At the river here the barges are loaded with timber, great guns, bullets, &c. for Chatham and Sheerness docks, London, and other parts, and bring back coals,

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and other commodities for the supply of the neighbouring country.

In 1757 a large eel was caught in the river here, which measured five feet nine inches in length, and eighteen inches in girth, and weighed upwards of forty pounds.

THE MANOR OF YALDING, or Ealding, as it was usually written, was, after the conquest, part of the possessions of the eminent family of Clare, who became afterwards earls of Gloucester and Hertford, the ancestor of whom, Richard Fitz Gilbert, came into England with William the Conqueror, and gave him great assistance in the memorable battle of Hastings, and in respect of his near alliance in blood to the king, he was advanced to great honor, and had large possessions bestowed upon him, both in Normandy and England; among the latter was this estate of Yalding, as appears from the survey of Domesday, taken in the 15th year of the Conqueror's reign, in which it is thus entered, under the title of Terra Richardi F. Gislebti:

Richard de Tonebridge holds Ealdinges, and Aldret held it of king Edward, and then and now it was taxed at two sulings. The arable land is sixteen carucates. There are two churches (viz. Yalding and Brenchley) and fifteen servants, and two mills of twenty-five shillings, and four fisheries of one thousand and seven hundred eels, all but twenty. There are five acres of pasture, and wood for the pannage of one hundred and fifty hogs.

In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth thirty pounds, now twenty pounds, on account of the lands lying waste to that amount.

The above-mentioned Richard Fitz Gilbert, at the latter end of the Conqueror's reign, was usually called Richard de Tonebridge, from his possessions and residence there, and his descendants took the name of Clare, for the like reason of their possessing that honor.

/d See a more ample account of them under Tunbridge.

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His descendant, Gilbert, son of Richard de Clare, earl of Gloucester and Hertford, owned it in the reign of king Henry III. and in the 21st year of Edward I. he claimed before the justices itinerant, and was allowed all the privileges of a manor.

Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester and Hertford, his son, by Joane, of Acres, king Edward I.'s daughter, succeeded to it, and dying in the 7th year of king Edward II. without surviving issue, his three sisters became his coheirs, and on the partition of their inheritance, this manor, among others in this county, was allotted to Margaret, the second sister, then wife of Hugh de Audley, junior, who in the 12th year of Edward II. obtained for his manor of Ealding, a market to be held here weekly, and a fair to continue three days yearly, viz. the vigil, the day of the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, and the day subsequent to it. He died in the 21st year of it, holding this manor, which he held for his life, by the law of England, of the king in capite. He left an only daughter and heir Margaret, then the wife of Ralph Stafford, who in her right became possessed of the manor of Yalding, and was a man greatly esteemed by king Edward III. who among other marks of his favor, in his 24th year, advanced him to the title of earl of Stafford.

After which it continued in his descendants down to his great grandson, Humphry Stafford, who was created duke of Buckingham anno 23 Henry VI. whose grandson Henry, duke of Buckingham, having put himself in arms against king Richard, in favor of Henry, earl of Richmond, and being deserted by his army, had concealed himself in the house of one Ralph Banister, who had been his servant, who on the king's proclamation of a reward of 1000l. or 100l. per annum, for the discovering of the duke, betrayed him, and he was without either arraignment or judgment, beheaded at Salisbury.

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In reward for this service, the king immediately afterwards granted this manor to the before-mentioned Ralph Banister, to hold by knight's service. But on the death of king Richard, and the accession of the

earl of Richmond to the crown, this manor returned to Edward, duke of Buckingham, eldest son and heir of the above-mentioned duke, who in the 13th year of the next reign of king Henry VIII. being accused of conspiring the king's death, was found guilty, and beheaded on Tower-hill that year. He was afterwards attainted by parliament, and though his son Henry was restored in blood by another act, yet it did not extend to his honors and lands. So that the manor of Yalding becoming thus forfeited to the crown, the king granted it that year to Charles Somerset, earl of Worcester, to hold in capite by knight's service.^{/e} He was the natural son of Henry, duke of Somerset, and being a person of great parts, was much favored both by king Henry VII. and VIII. and arrived at high advancement both in honors and estates. By reason of his marriage with Elizabeth, sole daughter and heir of William Herbert, earl of Huntingdon, he bore the title of lord Herbert, of Cherbury; being first made a knight banneret, then knight of the garter, and afterwards captain of the king's guards, a privy counsellor, and lord chamberlain, which office he continued in after the accession of king Henry VIII. who continued him of his privy council, and conferred several important trusts on him; and by reason of his noble descent, and near alliance to the king in blood, as the patent imports, he was, in the 5th year of that reign, made earl of Worcester, bearing for his arms, France and England quarterly, a bordure gobony argent and azure, with a battoon sinister argent, his solemn creation being performed at the archbishop's palace at Lambeth the same day. He alienated this manor to George Nevill, lord Bergavenny, whose son

^{/e} Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 3. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 294.

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Henry, lord Bergavenny, dying without male issue, this manor, among other estates, came to Edward Nevill, son of Sir Edward Nevill, a younger brother of George, lord Bergavenny, before-mentioned,^{/f} and his eldest son Edward, lord Bergavenny, alienated this manor to Isaac, who again passed it away by sale to the Freers, of Westminster, in Sussex; from whom it was sold, about the year 1670, to Thomas Brewer, esq. of Smith's hall, in West Farleigh, in whose descendants it continued till John Brewer, esq. leaving an only daughter and heir Jane, who married John Carney, esq. and 2dly, John Shrimpton, esq. both of whom she survived, and died in 1762 without issue. She devised this manor, among the rest of her estates, to her kinsman, the Rev. Dr. John Davis, prebendary of Canterbury, whose son John Davis, esq. in 1774, alienated it to William Philip Perrin, esq. of Smith's hall, and he immediately afterwards exchanged it for some other lands lying near his house, with Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Teston, who is the present proprietor of it.

A court baron is held for this manor.

WOODFOLDE is a manor in this parish, which lies about half a mile south-eastward from Brandt bridge, and was held in the reign of king Edward II. by Anceline Quynin, and the heirs of Daniel de Lodneford, who held it of George Cham, as he did of the earl of Gloucester. In the 20th year of king Edward III.

Robert Reickyn, by his wife, sister of John de Lodneford, paid respective aid for it. One of his descendants alienated it to Burton, in whose family it continued till the reign of Henry VIII. when Robert Burton's heirs passed it away by sale to that branch of the family of Fane, seated at Burston, in the adjoining parish of Hunton. After which it continued in this family in like manner as Burston, down to John Fane,

/f Coll. Peer. vol. vi. p. 505 et seq. See more of this family, under Birling, vol. iv. p. 479.

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earl of Westmoreland, who died s. p. in 1762, and it is now with that manor, as well as Mereworth, at length by the limitations in his will, come to the right hon.

Thomas, lord le Despencer, the present owner of it.

THE MANOR OF LODINGFORD, alias BERMONDESEY, lies about half a mile eastward from Woodfold manor last described. It acquired the latter of these names from a family, who were proprietors of it. In the reign of king Edward II. Hugh de Bermondese was the possessor of it, and his heirs, in the 20th year of king Edward III. paid aid for it as the tenth part of a knight's fee, which he before held in Yalding of the earl of Gloucester. How this manor passed afterwards, till it came into the possession of the family of Wood, I have not found; but William Wood was owner of it in the latter end of the reign of king Henry VIII. and his descendant, Thomas Wood, alienated it to Fane, from which name it passed into that of Austin, and continued in it till Mrs. Austin, of London, devised it by her last will to Mary, daughter of Mr. Piggott, of Cambridge, who marrying the Rev. William Foster, D. D. he is in her right the present possessor of it. A court baron is held for this manor.

JENNINGS-COURT is a manor which lies in the parishes of Yalding, Nettlested, and West Barming, and is held of the manor of Pipping-heath, though it seems once to have been accounted as a third part of West Barming manor, extending into this parish. In the 20th year of king Edward III. as has been already mentioned before in the description of that manor, it seems to have been then held by John de Huntington, how long it continued in that name I do not find, but in the 10th year of king Henry the VIth's reign, Thomas Knot, of Yalding, died possessed of it, by the name of part of the manor of West Barming, otherwise called Pimpe, in this parish of Yalding. He seems to have alienated it to Thomas Attewood, whose descendant John Atwood, died in the 3d year of king

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Henry VIII. possessed of this estate, then called Jennings, alias West Barming, in this parish, and West Barming, part of it being held in capite, and the remainder of the duke of Buckingham, after which it appears to have been given, by the name of the manor of Jennings-court, to Brazen Nose college, in Oxford, part of the possessions of which it remains at this time.

In 1687 this manor was held by lease from the above-mentioned college, by Allmott Peers, who alienated his interest in it soon afterwards to John Ken-

ward, esq of this parish, who died possessed of it in 1708, and his grandson, John Kenward, esq. dying without male issue in 1749, his daughter Martha carried her interest in the lease of this manor in marriage to Sir John Shaw, bart. of Eltham, whose grandson, Sir John Gregory Shaw, bart. is the present lessee of it. A court baron is held for this manor.

BOKINGFOLD is a manor of large extent, the only house on which is situated just within the southern bounds of this parish, though the demesnes extended into those of Brenchley, Horsemonden, Marden, and Goudhurst; the mansion of it is continually mentioned in records and antient deeds, as being within the former of those parishes, the bounds of which must therefore have been changed, or the present house on this manor could not be that which was antiently esteemed the mansion of it; there was a free chapel belonging to it, and adjoining to it was a park, or forest, of no small extent.

In the reign of king Henry III. this manor was in the possession of the family of Crevequer, of whom Hamo de Crevequer died possessed of it in the 47th year of that reign, it being at that time a member of the manor of Chatham, which he held of the king by barony./g Robert his grandson, siding with the rebellious barons, this manor was seized on by the king, where it rested till king Edward II. in his second year,

/g Rot. Esch. ejus an. N. 33. See Chatham, vol. iv. p. 205.

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granted it, together with the free chapel of it, in fee, to Bartholomew de Badlesmere, for the annual rent of twenty-five pounds at his exchequer.

On a quo warranto brought in the 21st year of king Edward I. this manor being then in the crown, it was found that the collection of it belonged to the king, and was worth about ten marcs per annum, and that John de Capgrave was then in possession of it, of the collation of the prior of Leeds, who alledged that he possessed the advowson of it by the gift of Hamo de Crevequer, and that though queen Alianor had presented to it in right of her manor of Leeds, yet that after her death, it had been determined, with the king's consent, that it should be restored to the prior, and this was testified by John de Berewick, &c. Notwithstanding which, the king granted away this advowson to Bartholomew de Badlesmere as above-mentioned, who, upon an exchange made between the king and him, six years afterwards, had another grant made to him in fee of this manor and chapel, to hold in so= cage, by the service of paying one pair of clove gilli= flowers, by the hands of the sheriff,/h and next year he obtained many liberties and privileges for his estates and free warren, for his demesne lands of this manor, among others./i But afterwards siding with the earl of Lancaster, and other discontented barons, he was with them defeated and put to death, and this manor, among his other estates, was confiscated to the crown.

Whilst this manor was in the crown, the king in his 19th year, withdrew to it, on the charge of his intention of visiting France for the performance of his homage due for the duchy of Aquitaine, and during his stay here, Hamo de Hethe, bishop of Rochester, the

king's confessor, sent him a present both of wine and grapes, from his vineyard at Halling, near Rochester,

/h Rot. Turr. ps. 1ma. ejus an. Morant's Essex, vol. i. p. 265, Note A. /i Rot. Cart. ejus an. N. 57.

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and before he left it, finding many persons had unlawfully hunted in his park of Bokinfold, he commanded that they should be indicted for the trespasses and irregularities they had committed in it;/k the large extent of it, and its wild appearance, covered with large and thick woods, gaining it the name of a forest, by which appellation Twine in his treatise, de Rebus Albionis, mentions it, calling it the forest of Buckenwald, near Tunbridge.

After which, the king granted it, with the advowson of the chapel, to Thomas de Camvill, by the above-mentioned service, and he died in the 4th year of king Edward III. upon which the king confirmed it to Giles de Badlesmere, son of Bartholomew above mentioned, as being of his inheritance, and confirmed to him the grant of it made by his father in his second year. He died in the 12th year of the same reign, s. p. leaving his four sisters his coheirs,/l and upon the parting of their inheritance this manor, with fifty acres of wood, belonging to it, was assigned to Maud, the eldest sister, wife of John de Vere, earl of Oxford, and another fifty acres of wood belonging to it, to Margaret the youngest sister, married to John de Tibetot./m

Robert de Vere, earl of Oxford, grandson of John above-mentioned, was the great favorite of Richard II. who created him duke of Ireland, and thought no accumulation of wealth and honors sufficient to testify his great affection to him, but this prodigality of the king's favor made him so haughty and insolent, that he was at length accused of treason, and banished, and all his possessions were confiscated, except his intailed lands, which only were to remain to his right heirs,/n but the duke never became possessed of this manor, which at the above time remained in the possession of Maud,

/k Morant's Essex, vol. i. p. 265, note A.

/l Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. /m Ibid. vol. i. p. 59, 60, 193.

/n See more of the Veres under Badlesmere.

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the widow of his father Thomas, earl of Oxford, as part of her dower, and the inheritance of it was probably part of those estates of the duke, confiscated as before-mentioned, for soon afterwards this manor appears to have been granted to Thomas, duke of Gloucester, the king's uncle, who in the 17th year of that reign settled it, being then held in capite, on his new-founded college at Plecy, in Essex./o

On the death of the countess of Oxford, in the 14th year of king Henry IV. the master and priests of the above college took possession of this manor, and the advowson of the chapel of it, and it continued with them till their dissolution in the 27th year of king Henry VIII. when being one of those lesser houses, whose revenues did not amount to two hundred pounds per annum, it was surrendered into the king's hands, and was granted, together with this manor and other

premises, in the 38th year of that reign, to John Gate, or Gates, esq. as he was commonly called, gentleman of the king's privy chamber, to hold in capite. He was knighted in the next reign, and in the 2d and 3d years of it his lands were disgavelled by the act then passed, but after king Edward's death, being concerned in advancing lady Jane Grey to the crown, he was, with the duke of Northumberland, and others of that party, found guilty of high treason, and beheaded in the 1st year of queen Mary. This man was a great dealer in the suppressed religious houses, the churches of which he never scrupled to pull down, to destroy their monuments, and to sell the plunder of them to his own advantage;/p being attainted, his lands became forfeited to the crown, and the queen before the end of that year, granted the manor of Bockingfield, with its appurtenances, to Susan Tong, to hold in capite,

/o See Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 169. Dugd. Mon. vol. iii. pt. 2. p. 130.

/p See Morant, vol. i. p. 474. Weever, p. 637.

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and she in the 3d year of the queen's reign, alienated it to Thomas Culpepper, esq. of Bedbury, who was sheriff in the 3d year of king Edward VI. his eldest son Alexander Colepeper, in the 6th year of queen Elizabeth, alienated that part of this manor which lay in Goudhurst, under which parish a further account of it may be seen, to Sharpeigh, and the other part of it, which lay in Yalding, Brenchley, Marden, and Horsmonden, to Roger Revell, but it must be observed, that the free chapel of Bockingfold, after Sir John Gates's attaind, remained in the crown, and continued so till queen Elizabeth granted it to Richard Tilden, of Brenchley./q

That part of this manor of Bockingfield, lying in this parish, Brenchley, and Horsmonden, in the possession of Roger Revell, was in the 17th year of that reign, by fine then levied, conveyed to Benedict Barnham, alderman of London, who died in 1598, leaving four daughters his coheirs,/r and on the division of their inheritance, Bridget the youngest, married to Sir William Soame, intituled her husband to this estate. He sold it in the beginning of king Charles the 1st's reign, to Mr. George Brown, of Buckland, in Surry, who bore for his arms, Gules, a griffin passant segreant, and a chief or, which was assigned by William Segar, garter, to John Browne, of Brenchley, who married the daughter of Richard Tilden, of that parish above-mentioned, and he in 1685 conveyed it to his brother Ambrose Browne, of Buckland, who in 1693 passed it away to Mr. William Woodgate, of Chidingstone, and his great grandson William Woodgate, esq. of Somerhill, in Tunbridge, is the present owner of it.

THE COURT LODGE of the manor of Yalding, and all the demesne lands belonging to it, have been long

/q Grant's Temp. Eliz. Roll iv. N. 42.

/r Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. i. See more of the Barnhams under Boughton Monchensie.

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separated from the manor itself, and have been many

years in the family of Plumer, the present proprietor of it being William Plumer, esq. of Hertfordshire, and M. P. for that county.

HENHURST is an estate in this parish, which was formerly held by a family of that name. In the reign of king Edward II. Gilbert de Henhurst held half a knight's fee in Henhurst, of the earl of Gloucester, for which, in the 20th year of king Edward III. Richard Totesham, Henry Gervas, and John de Sandherst, paid respective aid. This estate continued in the name of Totesham till the reign of king Henry VIII. when Anthony Totesham, esq. of Totesham-hall, in West Farleigh, alienated it to Thomas Chapman; from which name it passed by sale to Laurence, and thence again to Augustine Skinner, esq. one of whose descendants conveyed it to Goulston, and Francis Goulston, about the year 1726, sold it, with Totesham-hall and other estates in these parts, having the authority of an act of parliament for this purpose, to Sir Philip Botel, bart. of Teston, who died possessed of it in 1772, without issue, and by will gave it among his other estates to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Chart Sutton, Elizabeth, viscountess dowager Folkestone, and William Bouverie, earl of Radnor, since deceased; and on a partition of these estates, this at Yalding was, among others, allotted to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, now of Teston, the present possessor of it.

ANOTHER ESTATE in this parish, called Kenward's farm, was formerly in the possession of the Twisdens, in whose possession it continued till Sir Thomas Twisden, bart. of Bradbourn, and Anne his wife, in the reign of king George I. conveyed it to Sir Philip Botel, bart. of Teston, who died s. p. in 1772, since which it has become by his will, and a partition made since, in like manner as Henherst above-mentioned, the property of Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Teston.

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There is a district in this parish, called Trendherst Denn, which is within the manor of Gillingham, near Rochester.

CHARITIES.

WILLIAM CLEAVE, citizen and haberdasher of London, in the year 1663, founded and endowed a free school in this parish, for teaching the parishioners of it reading, writing, and arithmetic.

MRS. ALKHORNE, of Crowhurst, in Sussex, and her sister MRS. BENNET WARDE, of Yalding, widow, in 1711, founded and endowed another free school here, for the teaching of 24 poor children, boys and girls; the former to be taught to read the bible, and each to have one given to them; and the latter to be taught reading, knitting, and plain work, to sit them for service.

MRS. JULIAN KENWARD, of Yalding, in 1619, gave by will land in this parish, the produce to be distributed yearly, for four gowns, six shirts and six shifts, to be given to the poor yearly on a Good Friday, now of the annual produce of 3l.

MR. THOMAS CLEAVE, citizen and haberdasher of London, and MRS. BENNET WARDE, of Yalding, in 1637, gave by deed lands to the value of 5l. 4s. per annum, for thirteen penny loaves, to be given to the poor of this parish not receiving alms, on every Sunday throughout the year, and the residue of the

money to be given to the poor on Good Friday.

MRS. JULIAN KENWARD, of this parish, widow, THOMAS TWIFFIN and JOHN TWIFFIN, of Kingston, in Surry, brewers, in 1641, gave by deed lands to the value of 10l. per annum; half of which was to be applied to the schoolmaster to teach five poor children to read, write, &c. and the other half to be given to the poor of this parish, not receiving alms, on Good Friday yearly, now of the annual product of 8l. 10s.

AMBROSE WARD, ESQ. above-mentioned, who died in 1637, bestowed 50l. in land for the use of the poor of this parish for ever.

YALDING is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Malling.

The church, which is a large handsome building, consists of three isles and a large chancel, with a square tower at the west end. Against the south wall in it is a very antient altar tomb, which has been much defaced, on which is remaining, Ermine, a bend gules.

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There was formerly a brass plate on it. On a large stone in the middle isle, is a memorial for Robert Penhurst, descended from Sir Robert Penhurst, of Penhurst, in Sussex, who died in 1610. The arms, on a shield, a mullet. In the chancel there is a handsome monument for the family of Warde, who bore for their arms, Azure, a cross flory or, and one for the family of Kenward, in this parish. In the pavement of the church are several large broad stones, a kind of petrification of the testaceous kind, dug up in the moors or low lands in this parish.

Richard de Clare, earl of Hertford, gave the church of Aldinges, with the chapel of Brenchesley, and all their appurtenances, in pure and perpetual alms, to the priory of Tunbridge, lately founded by him.

Gilbert de Glanvill, bishop of Rochester, who came to that see in the 31st year of king Henry II. confirmed this gift, and granted, that the prior and canons should possess the appropriation of this church in pure and perpetual alms; saving a perpetual vicarage in it, granted by his authority, with the assent and presentation of the prior and canons as follows:

That the vicar should have the altarage, and all obventions, and small tithes belonging to this church, and all houses, which were within the court, and the land belonging to the church, together with the tenants and homages, and the alder-bed, and the tithes of sheaves of Wenesmannesbroke, and the tithes of Longesbroke, of the new assart, and the moiety of meadow belonging to the church; all which were granted to him, to hold under the yearly pension of two shillings, duly to be paid to the prior and canons; and that the vicar should sustain all episcopal burthens and customs, as well for the prior and canons as for himself. And he granted to the prior and canons as part of the appropriation, the tithes of sheaves of this church, excepting the said tithes of Wenesmannesbroke, and of Longebroke; and that they should have the

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moiety of the meadow belonging to the church, with

the fisheries, and the place in which the two greater barns stood, with the barns themselves, and the whole outer court in which the stable stood, with the garden which was towards the east, and the small piece of land which lay by the garden, and the rent of four-pence, which ought to be paid yearly to the court of Eyles=forde; reserving to himself the power of altering the endowment of this vicarage, if at any time it should seem expedient; saving, nevertheless, all episcopal rights to the bishop of Rochester, &c./s

The church of Yalding, together with the advowson of the vicarage, remained with the priory of Tun=bridge, till the suppression of it, in the 17th year of king Henry VIII. when being one of those smaller monasteries which cardinal Wolsey had obtained for the endowment of his colleges, it was surrendered into his hands, with all the possessions belonging to it.

After which the king granted his licence to him, in his 18th year, to appropriate and annex this church, among others of the cardinal's patronage, to the dean and canons of the college founded by him in the university of Oxford. But here it staid only four years, when this great prelate being cast in a præmunire in 1529, the estates of that college were forfeited to the king, and became part of the royal revenue.

Queen Elizabeth, in her 10th year, granted the rectory or parsonage of Yalding, and the advowson of the vicarage, for thirty years, to Mr. John Warde, at the yearly rent of thirty pounds, in whose possession they continued till king James I. in his 5th year, granted the fee of them to Richard Lyddale and Edward Bostock, at the like yearly rent, /t and they soon afterwards alienated them to Ambrose Warde, gent. of this parish, son of John above-mentioned, in whose

/s Reg. Roff. p. 145, 146, 666.

/t Partic. of Fee-farm Rents temp. interregni, roll 62-180.

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descendants they continued down till they came into the possession of three brothers, Thomas, of Littlebrook, in Stone; George and Ambrose, among whose descendants they came afterwards to be divided, and again sub-divided in different shares, one third part to captain Thomas Amhurst, of Rochester; one third of a third part, and a third of a sixth part to Mr. Holmes, of Derby; Mr. Ambrose Ward, of Littlebrook, and the Rev. Mr. Richard Warde, late of Oxford, each alike, and the remaining sixth part by the Rev. Mr. John Warde, the present vicar of this parish, who some years ago rebuilt the vicarage-house in a very handsome manner.

This rectory now pays a yearly fee-farm rent of thirty pounds to the crown.

It is valued in the king's books, at 20l. 18s. 9d. and the yearly tenths at 2l. 1s. 10¹/₂d.

There are two separate manors, one belonging to the rectory or parsonage, and the other to the vicarage of this church.

CHURCH OF YALDING.

PATRONS, &c.

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Prior and canons of Tunbridge Laurence, presented in 1184./u
William Sibthorpe, 1411.
Nicholas Dunlaugh, 1486./w
Nicholas None, 1493./x
The Crown. Robert Cage, 1560./y
Ambrose Warde, esq. Richard Beeston, in 1630.
Oliver North, A. M. 1663, ob.
May 11, 1675./z
Samuel Rhodes, A. M. 1700.
John Lyng, A. M. instit. Feb.
13, 1706.

/u Reg. Roff. p. 146. He had been rector, and resigning this church, became the first vicar of it.

/w Reg. Roff. p. 166.

/x Ibid. p. 490.

/y Vacant by deprivation. Rymer's Fœd. vol. xv. p. 563.

/z He was vicar of Teston, and lies buried in this church.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Ambrose Warde, esq. John Fuller, A. M. instit. Jan.
1738, obt. July 1751./a

Daniel Hill, A. M. resigned
1759./b

Mr. Thomas Warde. John Warde, 1759, the present vicar./c

/a He was also vicar of Linton.

/b Since vicar of East Malling, and rector of Addington.

/c Son of Mr. Thomas Warde, the patron.

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THE
HUNDRED OF WACHLINGSTONE,
AND THE
LOWY OF TUNBRIDGE.

SOUTH-WESTWARD from Twyford hundred lies the hundred of Wachlingstone, with the liberty of the lowy of Tunbridge, probably once part of it, though now, and for a long time past, a separate jurisdiction from it.

THE LOWY OF TUNBRIDGE.

Or, as it is now generally called, the lewy, adjoins the hundred of Littlefield towards the north, and on the other sides is incircled by the hundred of Wachlingstone, being about five miles in length from north to south, and about six miles in width from east to west. The whole of it lies within that district of the county, called the Weald of Kent.

It contains within its bounds the boroughs of

1. HADLOW,
2. TUNBRIDGE TOWN,
3. HILDEN, and
4. SOUTH.

The borough of Hadlow contains part of the parish of Capel, and part of the parish of Hadlow, and the churches of both those parishes.

The borough of Tunbridge Town contains that town and the church; and the boroughs of Hilden and South contain the remaining part of the parish of Tunbridge.

Each of these boroughs has a constable, who has jurisdiction over his respective borough.

THE LOWY OF TUNBRIDGE is called in old Latin deeds, Districtus Leucæ de Tonebridge, and in the book of Domesday, Leuua Ricardæ de Tonebriga.

It was antiently the custom in Normandy, to term the district round an abbey, castle, or chief mansion, leuca or leucata, in English, the lowy, in which the possessor had generally a grant of several peculiar liberties, privileges, and exemptions.

When Richard Fitz-Gislebert, who came into England with the Conqueror, had possessed himself of the manor and castle of Tunbridge, in exchange with the archbishop for other lands in Normandy, he procured a grant of several liberties and exemptions to it, as well as to his adjoining manor of Hadlow, probably the same as those he enjoyed with his possessions there, after the example of which he called this district round his manors and castle, the lowy of Tunbridge, by which name it has been called ever since.

In process of time frequent disputes arose between the earls of Gloucester, successors of Richard de Tonebridge in his lowy, and the archbishops of Canterbury, concerning the extent, limits, and privileges of it, which were adjusted by actual surveys and perambulations, the first of which was made in the 43d year of king Henry III. by the view and oaths of twenty-four men, twelve of whom were chosen by the archbishop, and the other twelve by the earl, to determine it.

After this, disputes again arising, concerning the bounds of the lowy, another perambulation was had in the 8th year of king Edward I. before Stephen de Penchester and Solomon Roffe, justices in eyre, by the view and oaths of a like inquest. But the places, as well as the names of persons mentioned in both these perambulations, being obsolete, and now totally unknown, the insertion of them in this place can give so little information to the reader, that it has been thought proper to omit them both here.

And the inquest found further, "that no man's tenants, excepting the earl's, were within the perambulation; and that the tenants of the archbishop were within the jurisdiction of his own bailiff or ministers."

At which time the earl of Gloucester claimed among others, these liberties within his lowy, viz. a coroner out of his own tenants, or by their election in the court of Tunbridge; that his tenants should not make presentments before any justices in eyre, either of assize or of gaol delivery, but only when they should come into the lowy; which they ought to do before their departure out of Kent, and there

to hold their oyer assizes, or gaol delivery for the lowy.

That the ministers of the king, or of the archbishop, should not bear up their rods in the lowy, nor make any summons or distresses for any pleas out of it.

That his tenants should be free of toll over all England; and that when the justices in eyre should come to Canterbury, the earl's steward should go thither with twelve men of the lowy, and in their hearing demand allowance of these liberties, and the justices should at their pleasure assign a day to go to Tunbridge, before their departure out of the shire.

In the 7th year of king Edward I. the earl of Gloucester claimed the above liberties within his lowy,

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and likewise view of frank-pledge, and assize of bread and beer, within his lands in the parishes of Eltham, Keston, Mereworth, Netelstede, Chekeshall, Tremworth, Hardress, Stelling, Natyngden, Blean, and Sheldewyke, and that his tenants in them should be free of all suit and service in the hundreds of the county, and on a quo warranto in the 21st year, and again in the 29th of the above reign, the liberties and privileges above-mentioned, within the lowy, were allowed and confirmed to him and his heirs. Hugh de Audley, and Margaret his wife, in the 7th year of king Edward III. claimed these liberties within their lowy, and likewise free warren and chase, and to hold pleas of withernam, and that the tenants of the lowy should be free of all toll, passage, murage, pontage, contributions to the repair of highways, &c. throughout England.

These liberties and privileges seem to have been at first extended to the earl's tenants in different parts of this county, at some distance from the lowy, which from thence seem to have been accounted as within the bounds of it; of which there are several examples in the book of Domesday, in which Ricardus de Tonebridge is said to have held lands in sua Leuga, that is, within his lowy, as may be observed in different places throughout this history.

All the above-mentioned liberties, even within the district of the lowy, have been disused time out of mind; nor has there been a bailiff appointed for it within memory: so that now it falls in with the like jurisdiction as other places in this county, which, not being in any hundred, appoint their own constables.

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HADLOW.

THE BOROUGH OF HARDLOW, within the lowy of Tunbridge, contains the parish of Hadlow, with the church, except a small district of the northern part of it, which is in the hundred of Littlefield.

THE PARISH of Hadlow is of large extent, joining to West Peckham northward, and to the river Medway, its boundary southward; to the west it extends to the Northfrith woods and the parish of Tun=

bridge. It is far from being a pleasant situation, being a flat low country, much covered with large and spreading oaks, and broad hedge rows; the soil is in general a stiff clay, much of which is very swampy and wet; towards the upper part of the parish it is but poor, being very panny, and in some places inclining to gravel; lower down it is much more fertile, and bears good corn, and is kindly for hops, of which there are many plantations, which have much increased of late years. Near the river the grass lands are very rich, and capable of fattening beasts of a large size. The rivulet called the Sheet, which flows from Plaxtool by Oxenhoath, crosses this parish, joining the river Medway, a little above Brandt bridge, near which at Hartlake bridge, at the east end of this parish, is what is here called a flowing bolt, being an ingenious contrivance to pen up the water to a certain height, by which means it is capable of being let out in dry seasons, to flow over and moisten the adjoining meadows, which is at that time of the greatest advantage to them. The high road from Maidstone through Mereworth to Tunbridge, crosses this parish over Hadlow common, at the northern boundary of it, whence it goes through the town or village of Hadlow, between which and the river is Fish-hall and

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Hadlow-place, and more eastward the small hamlets of Goldwell-green, Barnes, and Mill-street.

On the bank of the Medway, at the west end of the parish, is a wharf and landing place, called Hadlow-stairs, for the lading and unlading of timber, coals and other merehandize.

A fair is yearly held in Hadlow town on Whit-Monday.

IT APPEARS from the survey of Domesday, that this place was part of those vast possessions with which William the Conqueror enriched his half-brother Odo, bishop of Baieux, whom he afterwards made earl of Kent, under the title of whose lands it is thus entered there.

Richard de Tonebridge holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Hastow. It was taxed at six sulings. The arable land is twelve carucates. In demesne there are three, and forty-seven villeins, with fifteen borderers, having fifteen carucates. There is a church and ten servants, and two mills of eleven shillings, and twelve fisheries of seven shillings and six-pence, and twelve acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of sixty hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, and now, it was and is worth thirty pounds. Eddeva held it of king Edward.

In the reign of king Henry III. the seignory of this manor was claimed by the archbishop of Canterbury, and an agreement was entered into in the 42d year of it, between archbishop Boniface and Richard de Clare, earl of Gloucester and Hertford, concerning the customs and services which the archbishop required of the earl, on account of the tenements which the latter held of him in Tunebregge, Hanlo, &c. that is, the manors of Tunebregge and Hanlo, together with the whole lowy of Tonebregge, whence

the archbishop required of the earl that he should do him homage, the service of four knights fees, and suit to his court at Canterbury, and that he should be

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the high steward of him and his successors, at thier great feast, whenever it should happen that the archbishop should be inthroned.

The above-mentioned Richard de Clare, earl of Gloucester and Hertford, dying at Eschemerfield, in this county, in the 46th year of the reign of king Henry III. anno 1261. Gilbert, earl of Gloucester and Hertford, his son, succeeded him in this manor, and whose son of the same name, earl of Gloucester and Hertford, dying in the 7th year of Edward II. anno 1313, without surviving issue, his three sisters became his coheirs./d Upon which the manor of Hadlow, with the adjoining manor and castle of Tunbridge, and others in these parts, seem to have been allotted to the share of Margaret, the second sister, wife of Hugh de Audley, who in her right became possessed of this manor, and in the 11th year of king Edward III. was, in respect of this marriage, in parliament created earl of Gloucester.

Margaret, countess of Cornwall and Gloucester, died in the 16th year of that reign, and her husband, earl Hugh, outliving her about five years, died then possessed of this manor by courtesy of the realm, and leaving by her an only daughter and heir Margaret, then the wife of Ralph Stafford, lord Stafford. He before the end of that year obtained a special possession of all the lands of her inheritance, and among them of this manor, and in his descendants, earls of Stafford, and afterwards, by creation, dukes of Buckingham, of high estimation for the great offices of state which they held in the different reigns in which they lived. This manor continued down to Edward, duke of Buckingham, who in the 13th year of Henry VIII. being accused of conspiring the king's death, was found guilty, and beheaded that year; and although

/d See more of the family of Clare, as well as the succeeding possessors of this manor under Tunbridge, hereafter.

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there was an act passed for his attainder, yet another act passed likewise for the restitution in blood of Henry his eldest son, but not to his honors and lands, which remained forfeited to the crown, and the king in his 16th year, granted the manors of Hadlow and Northfrith, aud several messuages, tenements, parks, &c. in the parishes of Hadlow, Shipborne, and Tunbridge, late belonging to Edward, duke of Buckingham, attainted, to Sir Henry Guildford, comptroller of his houshold, to hold by knight's service.

Sir Henry Guildford had greatly signalized himself by his valour against the Moors in Spain, and being first knighted, afterwards created a knight banneret, and made master of the horse. In the 17th year of king Henry VIII. he was made one of the chamberlains of the exchequer, and next year was elected a knight of the garter, being only thirty-nine years of age at the time of his election./e

On his death in the 23d year of king Henry VIII. this manor seems to have reverted to the crown, where it remained till king Edward VI. in his 4th year, granted the manor and park of Hadlow to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, who was afterwards created duke of Northumberland, and he by indenture, in the 7th year of that reign, inrolled in the Augmentation-office, sold this manor, among other premises, to the king, in exchange for lands in several other counties./f

The manor of Hadlow remained in the crown till the accession of queen Elizabeth, who in her 1st year granted it, together with the park called Northfryth, to her kinsman, Henry Carey, lord Hunsdon, to hold in capite; and he seems to have given it before his death to his eldest son, Sir George Carey, who possessed it.

/e See more of the Guildfords under Benenden.

/f See Augtn. off. box C. 17. See more of the duke of Northumberland under Knoll, in Sevenoke, vol. iii. p. 68.

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in the 25th year of that reign, and on his father's death in the 38th year of it, succeeded to the title of lord Hunsdon. He died in the 1st year of king James I. without male issue, upon which this manor came to his next brother John, who succeeded him likewise as lord Hunsdon, and died in the 15th year of James I. and his eldest son Henry, lord Hunsdon, soon afterwards conveyed this manor by sale to James Faircloth, M. D. of London, who alienated it to George Rivers, esq. of this parish, second son of Sir George Rivers, of Chafford, in this county, whose son Edward Rivers, esq. was of Fishall, in this parish, and dying possessed of this manor in 1660, was buried near his father in this church. His successor alienated it in the reign of king Charles II. to Jeffry Amherst, gent. and he in the year 1699 sold it to Mr. John France, who dying without male issue, his two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, became his coheirs; the eldest of whom married Walter Barton, gent. and the youngest George Swayne, gent. On his death, the former by settlement succeeded to this manor, as did his son Mr. John Barton, (by the entail in the same settlement, on his father's decease) and his son Walter who has since taken the name of May, is the present proprietor of it.

This manor holds a court leet and court baron, which seems to be entirely independent of the court leet of the manor of Tunbridge, for in 1759 a constable of Tunbridge was chosen at the court leet of that manor, and as such claimed jurisdiction over the parish of Hadlow; but on a trial had on a suit concerning it, at the Lent assizes for this county in 1761, it was proved, that the courts leet of Tunbridge and Hadlow had no connection with each other, and a verdict was found accordingly.

HADLOW-PLACE is a seat and estate in this parish, which, in all probability, gave both name and residence to a family of no small note in antient time.

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John de Hadloe, a descendant of Nicholas de

Hadloe, was among those gentlemen of this county, who attended king Edward I. in his expedition into Scotland, in the 28th year of his reign, and for his remarkable service there, at the siege of Carlaverock, was made knight banneret by that prince. The Hadlows bore for their arms, three crescents, to which was afterwards added, seven cross-crosets, in token of some exploit or expedition against the Saracens in the holy land; a usual mark of honor in those times. This addition was most likely granted to Nicholas de Hadloe, who is in the list of those Kentish gentlemen, who were with king Richard I. at the siege of Acon, in Palestine.

How long Hadlow-place remained in the above-mentioned family I do not find; but most likely till it was alienated to that of Vane, alias Fane. Henry Fane, the eldest son of John Fane, esq. of Tunbridge, was possessed of it in the reign of king Henry VII. and was sheriff in the 23d year of it.^{/g} He died in the 30th year of king Henry VIII. anno 1538, leaving no issue by Alice his wife, sister of John Fisher, gent. of this parish. By his will he gave this manor-place, in which he then dwelt, with all his lands in Hadloe and Capel, to his kinsman Ralph Fane, son of Henry, his father's youngest brother, in tail male, remainder to each of the sons of his youngest brother, John Fane, successively in like tail.^{/h}

Ralph Fane was afterwards knighted at the siege of Bulleyn in 1544, and for his gallant behaviour at the battle of Musselborough, in the 1st year of king Edward VI. was made a knight banneret; but in the 6th year of that reign, being found guilty of high treason, he was executed. He died without issue, and Hadlow-place, with the adjoining lands, by virtue

^{/g} See more of this branch, under Mereworth, vol. v. p. 75.

^{/h} Collins's Peerage, vol. ii. p. 260 et seq.

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of the above entail, came to Henry Fane, the eldest son of John Fane, deceased, the youngest brother of Henry, of Hadlow, before-mentioned, who was of Hadlow-place; being concerned in Sir Thomas Wyatt's insurrection, he was attainted, but the queen pardoned him on account of his youth, and his estates were restored to him; his son Henry, wrote himself, as his ancestors had formerly done, Vane, which his posterity have continued to do ever since. He removed his residence to Raby-castle, in the bishopric of Durham, and was afterwards knighted, from which time he acted a conspicuous part in public affairs, and was greatly favored by king Charles I.^{/i} But in the year 1642, the king being offended at his forwardness in the prosecution of the earl of Strafford, he was removed from his place of secretary of state, and from the privy council, and became one of the most malicious of the king's enemies, soon after whose death he alienated this seat, with the estate belonging to it in this parish, to Mr. Thomas Petley, of Filston, in Shoreham, who at his death gave it to his son, Ralph Petley, by his second wife Elizabeth, daughter of Ralph Cam, of London, and he removed from Shoreham to Riverhead, in Sevenoke, where he af=

terwards resided, and in his descendants resident there this estate continued down in like manner with that seat to Ralph Robert Carter Petley, esq. who died in 1788, leaving his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Petley surviving, who is the present possessor of this estate./k

FROMANS, alias GOODWIS, is a manor in this parish, which was formerly called, more properly, Fromonds, from a family of that name, once possessors of it.

Simon Fromond was owner of it in the reign of king Henry III. in the 43d year of which he was

/i See Shipborne for a further account of this branch of Vane.

/k See Riverhead, in Sevenoke, vol. iii. p. 96.

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chosen one of the twelve jurats on the part of the earl of Gloucester, to determine the bounds of the lowy, in a dispute between him and the archbishop. His successor in it was Peter Fromund, whose house is mentioned in a perambulation of the lowy, taken in the 8th year of king Edward I. being just within the boundary of that district.

In the above-mentioned family this manor continued till Richard Fromond sold it to one of the family of Colepeper, in whose descendants it continued till Richard Colepeper, of Oxenhoath, about the time of king Edward IV. passed it away by sale to John Fromond, a descendant of the before-mentioned Richard Fromund, by one of whose successors it was alienated to Vane, alias Fane, in which family it continued down, in like manner as Hadlow place above-mentioned, to Henry Fane, esq. of Hadlow-place, who died in the 22d year of queen Elizabeth, possessed of this manor of Goodins, alias Fromins, then held of the manor of Hadlow by knight's service.

His grandson Sir Henry re-assumed the original name of his family, calling himself Vane, of whom mention has been made under Hadlow-place, on his removing to his seat at Raby-castle, in the north. He alienated this manor, with the rest of his estates in this parish, soon after the death of king Charles I. to Mr. Thomas Petley, of Filston, in Shoreham, from whom it descended, in like manner as Hadlow-place above-described, to Ralph Robert Carter Petley, esq. of Riverhead, who died in 1788, leaving his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Petley surviving, who is the present possessor of it.

A court baron is held for this manor.

CROMBURY, alias EAST CROMBURY, is another manor in Hadlow, which in antient time was called Crancheberi, and afterwards Crongeberi, as appears in the archives of the church of Rochester.

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This place was soon after the conquest in the possession of William, son of William de Horsmundenne, who gave the tenths of it to the monks of St. Andrew's priory, in Rochester, (for which a composition of five shillings a year was agreed to) at which time it was accounted an appurtenance to the manor of Mereworth./l It afterwards came into the possession of the family of that name; John de Mereworth, in the

20th year of king Edward III. paid aid for the manor of Mereworth with Crongebury, held of the earl of Gloucester as one knight's fee.

From this name it passed into that of Fromund, in which it staid till Thomas Fromund alienated it to John Godwin, one of whose successors sold it to Peckham, and Katherine Peckham died possessed of it in the 7th year of king Henry VII. then holding it of the duke of Buckingham, as did her son, Thomas Peckham, gent. in the 9th year of king Henry VIII. holding it by knight's service, as appears by the inquisitions taken after their respective deaths; his son, Thomas Peckham, soon afterwards passed it away to the family of Vane, alias Fane, in which it continued down, in like manner as Hadlow-place, &c. to Sir Henry Vane, for so he spelt his name, who, as his ancestors had before, became a man of great note in public affairs.

He removed from this parish to his seat of Raby-castle, in the north, and soon after the death of king Charles I. alienated this manor, with the rest of his estates in this parish, to Mr. Thomas Petley, of Filston, in Shoreham, from whom it descended, in like manner as Hadlow-place and Fromunds above described, to Ralph Robert Carter Petley, esq. of Riverhead, who died in 1788, leaving his wife Mrs. Elizabeth Petley surviving, who now possesses it.

There is a court baron held for this manor.

/l Text. Roff. p. 178. Reg. Roff. p. 382.

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CAUSTONS is a manor in this parish, which had formerly owners of that name. In the 8th year of king Edward II. the heirs of Hugh de Causton and William Franklyn held the eight part of a knight's fee in Hadlow, of the honor of Clare.

This manor continued in the name of Causton, till Hugh Causton alienated it to one of the family of Watton, of Addington, in which it remained till William Watton, esq. of Addington, about the reign of king Edward IV. sold it to Thomas Peckham, owner likewise of the manor of Crombery last described, in whose descendants it continued till Thomas Peckham, in the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. passed it away, with the rest of his estates in this parish, to the family of Vane, alias Fane, in which it continued down, in like manner as Hadlow-place, &c. to Sir Henry Vane, for so he wrote himself, as all his posterity have done since, who became a man of much eminence in public affairs. Soon after the death of king Charles I. he passed away this manor by sale to Maynard, of Mayfield, in Sussex, in which name it remained in the reign of king Charles II. after which it had some intermediate owners, and was then sold to Mr. John Kipping, in which name and family it still continues. Mr. Thomas Kipping, being at this time the possessor of it.

GOLDWELL, alias COLDWELL, is an estate in this parish, which was antiently in the possession of a family of some rank, named Beald, from whence it passed into that of Fromund, who were considerable owners in this parish, as has been already

related, in whom it continued some time, and then John Fromund alienated it to one of the family of Colepeper, in which it continued till Sir Richard Colepeper, of Oxenhoath, dying in the 2d year of the reign of king Richard III. without male

issue. See Oxenhoath in West Peckham.

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issue, his three daughters became his coheirs, and on the division of their inheritance, this estate of Goldwell was allotted to Margaret the eldest, married to William Cotton, esq. afterwards of Oxenhoath, and his grandson, Robert Cotton, esq. of Hadlow, alienated it to John Chowne, gent. of Fairlane, whose great-grandson, Sir George Chowne, of Fairlane, intending to confine his possessions within Sussex, sold it, after the death of king Charles I. to Mr. Thomas Barton, gent. whose daughter Alice married John Keriell, esq. whose grandson John Keriell, passed it away by sale to Mr. William Heath, on whose death without issue, it came to his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Burges, of Westerham, whose only son, Robert Burges, esq. of Hall-place, in Lyghe, lately died possessed of it.

PECKHAMS is a manor in this parish, which took its name from a family which once possessed it.

John de Peckham, in the 8th year of Edward II. held this manor of the honor of Clare by knight's service, and in his descendants it continued till it was alienated to Colepeper, in which name it staid till the death of Sir Richard Colepeper, without male issue, when on the division of the inheritance of his three daughters and coheirs, this manor was allotted to Margaret the eldest, married to William Cotton, esq. afterwards of Oxenhoath, whose grandson, Robert Cotton, esq. of Hadlow, alienated it to Ferrers. In the 6th year of king Edward VI. dame Constantia Ferrers died possessed of this manor, holding it by knights service, and her son Edward Ferrers alienated it to Leigh, whose descendant Mr. John Leigh passed it away by sale to George Rivers, esq. of this parish, and his grandson, in the reign of king Charles II. sold it to a family of the name of Dalling, one of whom, Mr. John Dalling, of Westerham, died possessed of it about 1750, leaving an only daughter and heir, married to Mr. Jonathan Chilwell, then of Tun-

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bridge, but afterwards of London, who is the present proprietor of this manor.

FISH-HALL is a seat here, which was formerly the residence of John de Fisher, so called from his being invested by Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester, lord of the lowy of Tunbridge, with the privilege of fishing freely and without controul within his jurisdiction. The name of Fisher continued in his posterity, one of whom, John Fisher, possessed this seat, and resided here in the reign of king Henry VIII. in the 35th year of which, he had a lease from the king, of the scite of the manor of Hadlow, as he had soon afterwards of all the rivers, fisheries, and ponds within it. He alienated this seat to the family of Fane, alias

Vane, from one of whom it passed by sale into that of Rivers, of Chafford.

George Rivers, second son of Sir George Rivers, of Chafford, resided at Fish-hall, and was succeeded by his son Edward, who likewise resided here, and possessed it at his death in 1660. His successor alienated it in the reign of king Charles II. to Jeffry Amhurst, gent. and he sold it to John France, who left two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, his coheirs; the eldest of whom married Walter Barton, gent. and the youngest, George Swayne, gent. to the latter of whom he by his will gave this seat, and his son, Mr. Thomas Swayne, sold it to Mr. John Porter, of this parish, who is the present owner of it.

BARNES-PLACE is a considerable estate in this parish, which lately belonged to Sir John Van Hatton, who in 1768 passed it away by sale to Sarah, lady viscountess Falkland, she died possessed of it in 1776, and by her will devised it for life to her husband, Lucius Carey, viscount Falkland, and the remainder in fee to Francis Motley Austen, esq. now of Sevenoke, who has since purchased lord Falkland's interest in it, and is the present proprietor of it.

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CHARITIES.

ROBERT WHITE gave by will in 1619, for the benefit of the poor of this parish, 100l. vested in the parish officers, and now of the annual produce of 8l.

JOHN WELLS, by will in 1697, gave for the like purpose, a sum of money vested in like manner, and now of the annual produce of 1l.

The number of poor receiving relief are about 100.

HADLOW is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling.

The church, which stands on the east side of the town, in Hadlow borough, is dedicated to St. Mary. It is a small building with a low pointed steeple at the west end. There is a monument in it for Sir John Rivers and his lady. It was part of the possessions of the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, commonly called the knights hospitallers, so early as the reign of king John; for in the last year of it, anno 1216, Benedict, bishop of Rochester, at the presentation of the prior and brethren of that hospital, admitted and instituted Adam de Fontibus to this church, saving to the prior and brethren the antient pension of two shillings yearly paid to them from it; and the right likewise of the church of Rochester in all matters, and the right of those who were accustomed to take tithes in this parish, separated from the mother church.

Thomas de Inglethorpe, bishop of Rochester, in 1287, appropriated this church, then vacant, and of the patronage of the prior and brethren, to them and their house, for ever; reserving a competent vicarage in it, which he decreed should consist of all the small tithes, oblations, obventions, and all other matters belonging to the altarage, excepting the tithe of the hay of the parish; and he decreed, that the vicar should have one acre of land, where he might conveniently build a house, and two acres of meadow, fit to be

mowed, of the demesne of the church; and that he

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should sustain the ordinary burthens of the church, viz. the procurations of the archdeacon, and should pay yearly to the rector of the church of Adintone, eighteen pence, which the rector of the church of Hadlo used to pay to it, time out of mind; and that the prior and brethren should pay to the prior and convent of Rochester five shillings yearly, as had been accustomed to be paid to them from this church from antient time.

On the establishment of the preceptory in the adjoining parish of West Peckham by those knights, this church was allotted as an appendage to it; in which state it continued till the general dissolution of their hospital in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. when that order was suppressed by an act specially passed for the purpose, and all their lands and revenues given by it to the king. At which time the parsonage or rectory of Hadlow, appears to have been esteemed a manor.

King Edward VI. July 16, in his first year, granted the rectory and advowson of Hadlow, to Sir Ralph Fane, and lady Elizabeth Fane his wife, to hold in capite by knights service. On Sir Ralph Fane's death, lady Elizabeth Fane, his widow, became possessed of it, and soon afterwards alienated one part of it, by the description of the manor of the rectory of Hadlow, together with all houses, glebes, tithes, and other appurtenances, lying in Hadlow-ward in this parish, to Thomas Roydon, esq. of East Peckham, whose daughter and coheir Elizabeth, married William Twysden, of Chelmington, who became in her right possessed of this manor and rectory; and his descendant, Sir William Jarvis Twysden, bart. lately sold it to Mr. Walter Barton, who is the present pos-

/n Rot. Esch. ejus an. p. 6. Roll of Partic. Aug. off. box F. 8. Ibid. Inrolm.

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essor of this tithery, with the manor and appurtenances belonging to it.

The other two parts of the rectory of Hadlow, consisting of the tithes of this parish, in the tithe wards of Goldwell, alias Coldweld and Stair, as well as the advowson, remained (after the above-mentioned alienation to Roydon) in the possession of lady Eliz. Fane, who in the 1st and 2nd year of king Philip and queen Mary, alienated the remainder of the parsonage of Hadlow to Henry Fisher, and he, in the first year of queen Elizabeth passed it away to Richard Smithe, who next year alienated it to John Rivers; his son, Sir George Rivers, possessed this parsonage, as well as the advowson of the church, which seems to have passed with it from lady Fane, and his eldest son, John Rivers, esq. was created a baronet, and in the 21st year of king James I. procured an act of parliament to disgage as well his lands as those of Sir George Rivers, his father, and to settle the inheritance of them upon himself and his heirs by dame Dorothy his wife, daughter of Thomas Potter, esq. of Westerham. His

grandson and heir, Sir Thomas Rivers, bart. son of James Rivers, esq. who died in his life time, in 1657 conveyed that part of this parsonage, which consisted of the tithes arising within the ward of Stayer, to Edward Rivers, esq. son of George Rivers, esq. of this parish, next brother to Sir John Rivers, created a baronet as above-mentioned, and he died possessed of it in 1660, and was buried in this church. His son, George Rivers, esq. possessed it near seventy years, and then dying, by will gave it to his god-son, George Rivers, esq. of the Inner Temple, who in 1737, reserving to himself a life estate in this tithery, sold the reversion of it to Stephen Hervey, esq. of London, and he soon after Mr. Rivers's death, in 1777, conveyed the fee of it to Mr. Robert Simmons, of Hadlow, who gave it by will to his nephew Mr. William Simmons, the present possessor of this part of the parsonage of Hadlow.

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The remaining part of the parsonage of Hadlow, consisting of the tithes within Goldwell, commonly called Colweld-ward, passed afterwards into the possession of Wm. Lea, gent. of Hadlow, whose granddaughter, Mrs. Eliz. Leavens, of Hadlow, in 1701, conveyed it to Mr. John Weekley, of Town Malling, who in 1738 gave it by will to his brother, Mr. George Weekley, late of Ware, in Hertfordshire, on whose death in 1777 it descended to his only daughter and heir, Miss Jane Weekley, since whose death this tithery has been sold by her devisees to Mr. Thomas Swayne, of Tunbridge, the present possessor of it.

THE ADVOWSON of the vicarage of Hadlow seems to have continued in the Rivers family, till the death of Sir George Rivers, in 1734, when, on disputes arising concerning the devise of his estates, they were put into chancery, and after several decrees and process at law, this advowson, among his other estates, was in 1743 ordered by the court to be sold, and it was accordingly conveyed to the Rev. Arthur Spender, vicar of this parish, who died in 1750, and his son Arthur, dying unmarried, it came to his brother, Mr. John Spender, of Northamptonshire, who sold it not long since to Mr. Monypenny, who is the present patron of it.

It is valued in the king's books at 13l. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 6s.

The income of this vicarage greatly depends on the hop-plantations in this parish, which have been some years so advantageous as to increase the income of it to 240l. per annum.

In 1608 the communicants in this parish were in number three hundred and seventy-six.

/o See Chafford, vol. iii. of this history, p. 252.

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CHURCH OF HADLOW.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Prior and brethren of the hospital

of St. John of Jerusalem. Adam de Fontibus, anno 1216./p

VICARS.

John Stobe./q

John Starkey, A. M. 1596./r

..... Grimes, 1642./s

..... Rany, obt. 1696.

..... Brooks.

George Oliver, obt. 1718.

..... Richards, 1720.

Arthur Spender, A. M. 1750.

Mr. James Berdmere. William Fitzherbert, obt. 1797./t

/p Reg. Roff. p. 381.

/q He lies buried in this church.

/r He was vicar in 1626. MSS.

Twysden.

/s He was sequestered, and living till the restoration, had afterwards the vicarage of East Peckham. Walker's Suff. of the Clergy, part ii. p. 252.

/t In 1756 a dispensation passed for his holding Hornden on the Hill, in Essex, with this vicarage. He was also sub-dean of St. Paul's, and a priest of his majesty's chapel royal.

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CAPEL.

SOUTHWARD from Hadlow lies Capel, so called from the church of it having been always esteemed as a chapel only, as it is at this time, to the church of Tudeley adjoining; though as to its civil jurisdiction it has always been a distinct parish of itself. Part of it is in the hundred of Wachlingstone, but the greatest part of it, together with the church, is within the lowy of Tunbridge.

THIS LITTLE PARISH is situated opposite to Hadlow, on the other or southern side of the river Medway, about a mile from it, it lies obscurely in a woody country, and is but little known or frequented, the surface of it is very low and flat, except in the middle of it, where there is a small rise, on which the church stands; here the soil is sand and stone, but in

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the rest of the parish it is a deep miry clay, the hedge rows broad, and filled with large and spreading oaks, which makes it exceeding gloomy. It is a wet place, full of ponds, and watered besides by two small streams, on the east and west sides of the parish, which runs from hence into the Medway; towards the south it joins to the Southfrith woods and the parish of Pembury.

The manor and borough of Hadlow, in Tunbridge, claim over that part of this parish which is within the lowy, which is here called the borough of Hadlow Capel.

TATLINGBURY is a manor in this parish, which as appears by the Book of Knights Fees, taken in the reign of king Edward I. was part of the possessions of the prior and convent of Tunbridge, with which it was surrendered up in king Henry VIIIth's reign, and was given by the king in his 17th year, towards

the endowment of cardinal Wolsey's college, founded by him in Oxford, but that great prelate being cast in a præmunire, four years afterwards, all the possessions of the college, which for want of time had not been firmly settled on it, became forfeited to the crown, from whence this manor was afterwards granted to the elder branch of the family of Fane, settled at Badsell, in the adjoining parish of Tudeley, who became earls of Westmoreland, the last of whom, John, earl of Westmoreland, died s. p. in 1762, since which it has, with Mereworth and the rest of his estates in this county, at length come by the limitations of his will, to the right hon. Thomas lord le Despencer, the present owner of it.

There are no parochial charities.

The number of poor relieved are about fifty.

Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 1037. Tan. Mon. præf. p. xxxv. Rysh. Fœd. vol. xiv. p. 156.

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CAPEL is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Malling.

The church is dedicated to St. Thomas Becket the Martyr. The body of it has lately been rebuilt of brick; the chancel seems very antient. It has a tower at the west end, with a small spire set on it. It has long been a chapel annexed to the church of Tudeley.

The rectory of Capel, with the chapel belonging to it, was antiently part of the possessions of the knights hospitallers, by whom it was annexed to the jurisdiction of their preceptory of West Peckham.

In the 22d year of king Henry VII. the prior and brethren of that hospital, let to ferm to Sir Thomas Starkey, chaplain, their chapel, commonly called Capel, together with all tithes, lands, and appurtenances, woods and underwoods only excepted, to hold for his life, he being beneficed in it, paying the yearly rent of forty shillings to the prior, and duly serving either by himself, or by some able curate in his stead, the cure of the chapel, and the parishioners of it; and further, that he should repair and maintain the mansion of it, and the barn and little stable belonging to it in a covering of straw, with other covenants therein mentioned.

On the dissolution of the order of knights hospitallers, in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. by an act specially passed for the purpose, their lands and revenues were given to the king, who that year demised this rectory and chapel of Capel, belonging to the preceptory or commandry of Peckham, otherwise called the Chantry Magistrale, together with the mansion of it, and all the messuages, tithes, lands, &c. belonging to it, to Sir John Baker, at the yearly rent of four pounds. After which, the fee of this rectory, with the advowson of the chapel, seems to have been granted to Sir Ralph Fane, and he, in the 37th year

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of the same reign, alienated it to Thomas Stone, of Hadlow, yeoman.

How it passed back again into the same family of Fane, I do not find; but it was for some length of time, together with the above-mentioned manor of Tatlingbury, possessed by the elder branch of it, earls of Westmoreland, the last of whom, John, earl of Westmoreland, died s. p. in 1762, since which it has, by his will, in like manner with the rest of his estates in this county, at length descended to the right hon. Thomas, lord le Despencer, the present owner of it.

The vicars of Tudeley serve the cure of this parish and chapelry, united to that church as before-mentioned.

It is not in charge in the king's books.

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TUNBRIDGE.

THE next parish north-westward from Capel is that of Tunbridge, written in Saxon, Tunbryege, or the town of Bridges. In Domesday, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, it is written *TONEBRIGA*, and is supposed to take its name from the several bridges which are built over the five streams of the river Medway, as they pass through this town.

THE PARISH of Tunbridge is very large, extending six miles in length from north to south, and about six in breadth; its circumference is supposed to be about twelve miles, though the bounds of it have not been perambulated for many years. From its great extent, the situation, as well as the soil, is very different in the several parts of it; it lies in general very low and moist, owing to the different streams of the Medway, which flow through it, and at times inundate it to a considerable extent. From the nature of its soil it is extremely kindly for oak timber, of which

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there are numbers of large sized trees throughout it, the whole is esteemed a very healthy air; the soil is in general a stiff clay, much of which, especially in the grass lands on each side the river is very fertile and good fatting land, at the same time much of it is productive of good crops of corn and hops, of which there are several plantations. At the south-west part of the parish the ground rises to the quarry hill, where the soil becomes a sand covering the quarry stone rock, about a mile beyond which is the hamlet of Southborough, at the extremity of the parish that way. The north and south parts of this parish on the east side, are covered with the woods of the north and south Frith, the former of which joins to West Peckham, and the latter, of much larger size, being upwards of three miles in length, and two in breadth, extending to within a very small distance of Tunbridge-wells, in Speldhurst. On the northern side of the latter, about a mile and a half from the town, on a pleasing eminence, is the mansion of Somerhill, Mr. Woodgate's; the state apartment of this large and venerable mansion, is noble and spacious, and retains its original form, as well as much of its gilding and other decorations, and the whole, by a repair made with a proper attention to the style of its architecture, might be rendered a most magnificent residence.

Along the western side of the Frith woods there runs a stream, which comes from Speldhurst, and about midway here turns a mill, used for the manufacturing of that sort of gunpowder, usually called battle gunpowder, it is situated at a place in it called Old Forge-farm, from its being in queen Elizabeth's time an iron foundery, subject to her use and directions. In 1763 an act passed to enable the proprietors to continue to work the mill as a pestle mill, which is otherwise prohibited by law.

The town of Tunbridge is situated nearly in the middle of the parish, about thirty miles from London,

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on the sides of the high road leading from thence to Tunbridge-wells, and likewise to Cowden, &c. and to Rye, in Sussex, to which places the road divides at the south end of the town; another road branches off from the middle of the town eastward through Hadlow to Mereworth, and thence to Maidstone.

The river Medway crosses the town near the south end of it, in five streams, over which there are as many bridges. The southern was formerly the main stream, of the river, but the northern, which was dug entirely to form the inner moat of the castle, is now the only navigable and main branch of it, over which there was built in 1775, on the foundations of the former one, which was grown ruinous, a new stone bridge of three arches, which cost eleven hundred pounds, at the county's expence. It was built from a design of Mr. Milne, but is calculated more for utility than ornament. Just below this bridge there is a spacious wharf, on which a great quantity of the largest oak timber which is brought out of the Wealds of Kent and Sussex, is continually laid, till it can be conveniently wafted down the river to the royal docks at Chatham and Sheerness, and elsewhere, principally for the use of the navy. Above this, the Medway, though narrow, is navigable for small boats for about a mile, where the principal channel comes from Penshurst, to which, by all appearances, it might with ease be made navigable, should the commissioners, who are empowered to compleat the navigation as far as Forest-row, in Sussex, think it an object of importance.

THE CASTLE of Tunbridge stood close to the river, just above the new bridge above-mentioned, at the south-west corner of the present town, the ruins of it are venerable, and are conspicuous for some distance round it, though there are at this time little more remaining of it than the inner gateway, a building flanked by two large circular towers of great

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thickness and strength, a part of the walls round the circuit of it, and the high mount within them of the keep or dungeon, all which are convincing proofs that when in its prosperity it was a place of no small strength and consequence; the walls formerly inclosed six acres of ground. The fortifications seem to have consisted of these two spacious round towers, of about seventy feet diameter, communicating with each other by a strong high wall of sixty feet, from east to west,

these are united to the great keep on the top of the mount, the base of which is the circle of an acre, and had a covered way from it to the gateway of the castle, from which there was another covered way over the chapel to the south-east tower. The governor's domestic apartments were in the area, parallel to the south wall, which overlooks the river, and unites the two towers at the extremities of it as above mentioned.

There were formerly three moats which incircled this castle, the innermost of which was made by a new stream dug for that purpose, now the principal one of the Medway, over which was a stone bridge, which was joined by a strong broad wall of stone to the south-east round tower of these above-mentioned, and kept up a large head of water in the moat which was between the gateway and the barbican, or watch tower. The other two moats inclosed the then town of Tunbridge, the outermost of them had a draw-bridge over it at the north end of the town. These moats were capable of being filled or emptied at pleasure, by a large wear and bank, which extended the space of two miles, towards Lyghe./w

In former times the town of Tunbridge was little more than the suburbs belonging to the castle, and being situated between the two outer moats of it, partook of the same vicissitudes of fortune, as that

/w See Archæol. vol. vi. p. 27.

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eminent fortress did, in the several sieges it underwent, particularly in king Henry III's reign, Gilbert, earl of Gloucester, the noble owner of it, having associated with the rebellious barons, the king besieged this castle, and having burnt down the town, afterwards took the castle in 1264. The present town is situated for the most part northward of the castle, on the rise of a hill. Since the river Medway has been made navigable up to it, the trade of it has been greatly increased, as well as the wealth and number of the inhabitants, there being at this time not less than one hundred freeholders residing in it, so that it is now in a flourishing state, many good houses having been erected in it, and several persons of genteel fortune induced by so healthy and pleasant a situation, and a well supplied market, have fixed their residence in it, particularly on the hill at the north end of the town are two handsome well-built houses, one late the residence of Thomas Hooker, esq. late lord of this manor, and the other of George Children, esq. the latter of whom possesses a good estate in this county, and is descended of a family who were for many generations settled at a house called from them Childrens, situated at Lower, or Nether-street, in Hilden-borough, in this parish, who bore for their arms, Or, a saltier engrailed gules. A descendant of them was John Children, esq. who married Jane, daughter of Robert Weller, esq. of Tunbridge, by whom he had one son George, and two daughters, of whom Anne was married to Mr. Richard Davenport, surgeon, of London, and Jane to Christian Albert de Passow, a Danish gentleman. He died in 1772, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

George Children, esq. now of Tunbridge, barrister at law, who married Susanna, since deceased, the second daughter of the Rev. Thomas M. Jordan, rector of Barming, by whom he has one son John George.

Near the above house of Mr. Children, but on the opposite side of the road, is the free grammar school, a

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well-built venerable mansion, of which more will be treated of below.

THE TOWN, the principal street of which is very broad and airy, is from its situation at the rise of the hill, naturally neat and clean, and is kept exceedingly so under the care of two town wardens, who are chosen at the court leet of the manor every three years, and employ for that purpose a yearly rent of about thirty-two pounds per annum, arising from certain lands, called the town lands, lying near the town, given by persons unknown, many years ago, for this use. A large market is kept in it for cattle, on the first Tuesday in every month; and another market for meat, poultry, &c. on a Friday weekly. A fair is held here on three days yearly, on Ash Wednesday, on July 5, and on Oct. 29, for live cattle and toys.

John Willford, citizen of London, about the middle of king Henry VIII.'s reign, raised, at his own expence, the great stone causeway at the end of the town, in the high road towards London.

This town had formerly the privilege as a borough, of sending burgesses to parliament; but there is but one return to be found of its having so done, to the parliament held in the 23d year of king Edward I.'s reign, at Westminster; when John German and John Martin were returned for it./x An account of the dreadful storm, which happened on Friday, Aug. 19, 1763, which entered this county at Tunbridge-Wells, and directing its course north-north east, spread havoc and desolation wherever it vented its fury, has already been given under the description of Maidstone.

OUR BOTANISTS have observed the following scarce species of plants growing in this parish:

Lichen parvus repens, foliolis angustis non squamosis, ceranoides; by Mr. Buddle, near the town of Tunbridge.

/x Willis's Notitia Parl. p. 85.

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Lichenoides non tubulosum ramulis scutellis nigris terminatis, called also *museus coralloides* Tunbringsis *bracteolis nigerrimis*, found by Mr. Petiver, on the rocks near this place.

Marrubium flore albo odorem sed languidum balotes spirat, folia pallidiora & minora sunt; white horehound; found in this parish by Mr. Dare, apothecary of London.

Cyperus minor palustris, hirsutus paniculis albis paleacis; observed by Mr. Du Bois, plentifully near Tunbridge./y

Gentiana palustris angustifolia, marsh gentian, or callithian violet; found by Dr. Wilmer, near it.

Trichomanes Tunbrigense frondibus pinnatis, pinnis oblongis dichotomis decurrentibus dentatis, Tunbridge

trichomanes; found in the apertures or chasms of the rocks by Mr. Dare.

An account of the noted medicinal waters, usually called Tunbridge-Wells, situated about five miles southward from the town of Tunbridge, has already been given under the parish of Speldhurst, in which they are mostly situated.

TUNBRIDGE has given TITLE to several illustrious families.

Edward Stafford, the last duke of Buckingham, in the reign of king Henry VIII. bore, among his other titles inherited from his ancestors, that of baron of Tunbridge; but being convicted of high treason in the 13th year of that reign, he was executed, and an act passed anno 14 and 15 of that reign, for his attainder, and though another act passed the same year for the restitution of his son Henry in blood, yet it did not extend to his honors and lands.

Richard Burgh, earl of Clanrickard, &c. was by king James I in his 22d year created baron of Somers-

/y Raii Synopsis. p. 63, 66, 239, 427.

/z Lel. Itin. vol. v. p. 111. York's Honor, p. 92.

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hill, the name of the seat he had built in this parish, and viscount Tunbridge, and in the 4th year of king Charles I. earl of St. Albans. He died in 1636, and was succeeded in titles by his son and heir Ulick, who was afterwards created Marquis of Clanrickard. He died without male issue, and his titles, among which was that of viscount Tunbridge, became extinct.

William Henry de Zuleisten de Nassau was in the 7th year of king William III. anno 1695, created baron of Enfield, viscount Tunbridge, and earl of Rochford, in Essex. He was the son of Frederick de Nassau, lord of Zuleisten, in Holland, and natural son of Henry, prince of Orange, the king's grandfather. The earl of Rochford, viscount Tunbridge, died in 1708, in whose descendants those titles have continued down to the right hon. William Henry Nassau, the present earl of Rochford and viscount Tunbridge.

THOUGH THERE IS NO PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION of this place in the survey of Domesday, yet the possessor of it, Richard de Tonebridge, alias Fitz Gislibert, is frequently mentioned in it, as is the district which he was lord of round about it, called in it Leuua Ricardi de Tonebrige, the lowy of Richard de Tonebridge, as may be seen in the several parts of that record, inserted in different parishes throughout this history.

This Richard was named Fitz Gilbert, as being the eldest son of Gilbert, earl of Brion, in Normandy, son of Geffry, natural son of Richard, the first duke of Normandy of that name.

He was one of the principal persons, who came into England with the Conqueror, and was with him in the memorable battle of Hastings, by which the duke obtained the crown of this realm, in reward for which service, and in regard of his near alliance in blood, he had great honors and large possessions, both in Normandy and England, bestowed on him.

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Towards the end of the Conqueror's reign, he obtained the town and castle of Tunbridge, or Tonebruge as it was then called, from the archbishop of Canterbury, in lieu of the castle of Brion, each being measured to the same extent; and having fixed his residence in his new acquired demesnes, was from thence called Richard de Tunbridge, and the district round about him, his lowy. Upon the death of the Conqueror, he favored the title of Robert Curthose against William Rufus, who besieged him in his castle of Tunbridge, on the surrender of which he submitted, and swore allegiance to him. From which time to the death of king Henry I. nothing remarkable occurs relating to him, and soon after that he was slain in Wales, and was buried at St. Neots, in Huntingdonshire, being succeeded in all his possessions in England by Gilbert de Tunbridge, his eldest son, who in his father's life-time, in the 12th year of William Rufus, taking part with Robert, earl of Morton, then in rebellion, he fortified himself in his castle of Tunbridge in the earl's behalf; but the king, after a siege of two days, obliged Gilbert, who was wounded, to surrender it up. He died about the 12th year of king Henry I. anno 1111, leaving four sons, of whom Gilbert, the second, surnamed Strongbow, was by king Stephen, in his 3d year, created Earl of Pembroke; Walter, the third son, was founder of the abbey of Tinterne, in Wales; and Baldwin, the fourth, assumed the surname of Clare.

He was succeeded in this manor and castle by his eldest son Richard, who assumed the surname of Clare, from his lordship of that name in Suffolk, and was the first of his family who had the title of earl of Hertford,^{/a} bearing for his arms, Or, three chevrons gules. He founded the priory of Tunbridge, and was slain by the Welsh, in the latter end of the above reign, leaving several children, of whom Gilbert, the eldest son, be-

^{/a} See Camd. Brit. p. 360, 442. Reg. Roff. p. 665.

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came his father's heir, and had the title likewise of earl of Clare. He gave the church of Tonebruge to the monks of Lewes, in Sussex, and dying in the 17th year of king Stephen, s. p. was buried in the cell at Clare, which Gilbert his grandfather had given to the monks of Bec, in Normandy. He was succeeded by Roger his brother, who likewise bore the title of earl of Clare. In the 9th year of king Henry II. he was summoned to appear at Westminster, by archbishop Becket, to do him homage for the castle of Tunbridge, which he asserted was held of him in right of his archbishopric; this the earl, through the king's persuasions, refused, alledging that he held it by military service of the king, and not of the archbishop, who upon this let the matter drop, without pursuing it any further.^{/b} In the 12th year of that reign, upon levying the aid for marrying the king's daughter, he certified his knights fees to be one hundred and forty-nine in different counties. His gifts were many to different religious houses, in manors and lands, and among others, he gave to the monks of St. Augustine's, near Canterbury, a stag every year out of his forest of Tonebrugge; to the knights hospitalers, the church of Tunbridge; and to the canons

of the priory of Begeham, in Sussex, in free, pure, and perpetual alms, twenty-five hogs yearly, in the southern parts of his forest of Tunbridge, free of all pannage. He died in the 19th year of Henry II. leaving one son and heir.

Richard de Clare, who married Amicia, second daughter of William, earl of Gloucester, and at length sole heir to that earldom, by whom he had Gilbert de Clare, who was the first who was earl of Gloucester and Hertford jointly. He was one of the chief of the barons who put themselves in arms against king John, upon which, Falcatus de Brent, who com=

/b Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 210. Rapin, vol. i. p. 227.

/c See concerning him in Prynne, p. 58 and 130.

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manded a party of the king's forces, took the castle of Tunbridge from the earl by force, and kept it for the king's use, till peace was established between them, which was not till the beginning of the next reign of king Henry III.

Richard, his eldest son, succeeded him as his heir, and being then a minor, the guardianship of his lands and honors, was committed to Hubert de Burgh, justice of England, and among them the castle of Tunbridge.

Richard, archbishop of Canterbury, complained of this to the king, alledging its being a fief of the archbishopric; to which the king replied, that the wardship of the young earl of right belonged to him; and therefore it was his prerogative to dispose of it to his justiciary, during the heir's minority; this answer not satisfying the archbishop, he immediately departed to carry his complaints to Rome, where he obtained a bull from the pope, authorizing him to take possession of this castle, during the earl's nonage. But he reaped no benefit from this; for he died on his journey home in 1234, being succeeded in the see of Canterbury by St. Edmund, to whom the king is said to have granted the custody of the lands belonging to the castle and honor of Tonebregge and Bradested, will the earl should be of age. Perhaps this grant might be made two years afterwards, at the time this archbishop married the king to his queen Eleanor.

In the 29th year of that reign, on the aid for marrying the king's daughter, the earl paid for three hundred and four knights fees and an half, which he held besides those in Kent, which were twelve and an half, and in the 34th year of it, the earl of Gloucester was present, with a noble attendance, at the solemn inauguration of archbishop Boniface, and exercised at it the office of chief butler and steward. Notwithstanding

/d Somn. by Batteley, Append. p. 12.

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which there appears to have been great contests and disputes between them, as well concerning the customs and services required by the archbishop of him, as the fees for performing those offices; all which were settled by a mutual agreement or composition made between them, a few years afterwards. In which it was agreed, as to the customs and services which the arch=

bishop claimed of the earl, for the manors of Tunebregge and Hanlo, with the whole lowy of Tunbridge; and for the manors of Vyelestun, Horsmundenne, Meletune, and Pettes, with their appurtenances, that he should have in future of the earl homage, the service of four knights fees, and suit at the archbishop's court, for the manors of Tunebregge and Hanlo, together with the lowy; and further, that he should be the archbishop's high steward and his chief butler, at the great feast of his inthronization, and perform suit at the archbishop's court at Otford, for the manor of Bradested; and homage, and the service of four knights fees, for the manors of Vyelestun, Horsmundenne, Meletune, and Pettes. And also for the manor of Vyelestun, suit at the archbishop's court at Otford, and for the manors of Horsmundenne, Meletune, and Pettes, suit at the archbishop's court at Canterbury. And it was further agreed between them, that whenever an archbishop should be inthroned in the church of Canterbury, the earl should receive, for the service of steward, seven robes of scarlet, thirty gallons of wine, fifty pounds of wax for the use of his own lights on the feast, the livery of hay and corn for eighty horses for two nights, and the dishes and salts, which should be set before the archbishop at the first course in the feast, and at the departure of the earl, entertainment for three days, at the cost of the archbishop, and his successors, at their nearest manors by the four quarters of Kent, wheresoever the earl should chuse it, (ad sanguinem minuendum) so that the earl did not come there but with fifty horse only, to be entertained.

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And for the service of butler, seven robes of scarlet, twenty gallons of wine, fifty pounds of wax, livery of hay and oats for sixty horses for two nights, and the cup with which he should serve before the archbishop, with other fees of a lower sort, as are more particularly mentioned in it./c

His descendants, possessors of the manor and castle of Tunbridge, &c. continued after this to perform these services at the archbishop's inthronization. In particular, Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester, received his whole fee of archbishop Winchelsea in 1294, as by this composition for his stewardships and butlership; and he received of archbishop Walter in 1313, for his fee, two hundred marcs. Hugh de Audley, earl of Gloucester, received of archbishop Stratford, in 1333, one hundred marcs; and the earl of Stafford, lord of Tunbridge, was at the inthronization of archbishop Sudbury, in 1375, and received for his fee forty marcs, and a cup of silver gilt. And lastly, Edward, duke of Buckingham, received the same of archbishop Warham, when the duke executed the stewardship in person, and the butlership by his deputy, Sir Thomas Bouchier./f

In the 44th year of king Henry III. the earl obtained the king's licence to wall and embattle his town of Tunbridge, and to make castles of his houses in Essex and Suffolk. He died two years afterwards, at John, lord Criol's house, at Eschemerfield, in this county, being said by some to have been poisoned at the table of Peter de Savoy, the queen's uncle. His

body was buried in the choir at Tewksbury, on the right hand of his father; his bowels at Canterbury, and his heart in Tunbridge church.

Gilbert, his eldest son, surnamed Rufus, succeeded him as earl of Gloucester and Hertford. Soon after which, associating himself with the rebellious barons,

/e Regist. of Christ Church, Cant. cart. 177, MSS.

/f Battely's Somner Append. pt. 12, 20.

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prince Edward, the king's son, besieged this castle and took it, and in it the countess of Gloucester, the besieged having first set fire to and burnt down the town. After which the castle was garrisoned with the king's troops, and the countess was set at liberty.

Before the end of that reign the earl, after having changed from one side to the other, was reconciled to the royal favor, and upon the king's death, and prince Edward's arrival from the holy land, the earl entertained him with his whole retinue most honorably for many days, in this castle. Soon after which he was divorced from Alice his wife, and anno 17 Edward I. married Joane of Acres, the king's daughter, in consequence of which he then entailed all his castles and manors in England and Wales, and among them those of Tunbridge, Yalding, Bradsted, Hadlow, Dachurst, &c. on his issue by her; and in default, to her heirs and assigns, in case she should survive him.

In the 20th year of that reign, on a complaint being made against the earl in parliament, of his having committed great depredations by force and arms on the earl of Hereford's lands in Wales, his lands and castles were seized, and adjudged to be forfeited during his life, and he himself was committed to prison till he had made an atonement. During this space of time, in the 22d year of that reign, prince Edward, the king's son, who was left his father's locum tenens during his absence in Flanders, resided at Tunbridge castle in August that year, where in his chamber, in the presence of Sir Reginald de Grey, and Sir William de Badesmere, and others, he delivered the king's seal to John de Langton, the king's chancellor. The earl died at his castle of Monmouth in the 24th year of the above reign, and was buried in Tewksbury church, on the left hand of his father. He left by Joane his wife, who survived him, one son and heir, Gilbert, and three daughters, who will be further mentioned hereafter.

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Joane, his wife, became enfeoffed of all the lands belonging to him in his earldoms, and soon afterwards re-married a plain esquire, named Ralph de Monthermer, at which, though the king was at first highly incensed, yet being reconciled afterwards, he had many marks of favor conserred on him, and in consideration of his services in Scotland, he had restored to him, and Joane his wife, the castle and honor of Tonebrugge, with other lands in the counties of Kent, Surry, and Sussex, and he had likewise possession granted of all the lands belonging to the great earldom of Gloucester, to hold by the service of fifty knights fees; upon

which he assumed the title of earl of Gloucester,^{/g} which, on the death of Joane his wife, in the 1st year of king Edward II. he entirely laid aside, though he lived several years afterwards, having had by her two sons, Thomas and Edward; the former of whom was slain in a sea fight in 1340, leaving Margaret, his daughter and heir, who married John de Montacute, from whom the several branches of the family of Montacute, or Montague, for they are one and the same name, at different times ennobled, derived their descent.

Gilbert de Clare, the only son and heir of the late Gilbert, earl of Gloucester and Hertford, by Joane of Acres, his wife, on her death had possession granted of the lands of his inheritance, and bore the titles likewise of his father's earldoms. Being captain of the vanguard of the king's army in Scotland, he was slain in the battle of Bannocksbourne, near Strivelin, in the 7th year of that reign, and his body was buried in the abbey church of Tewksbury.^{/h} On his death, without surviving issue, his three sisters became his coheirs, viz. Alianore, the wife of Hugh le Despencer the younger, and afterwards of William de la Zouch, lord of Glamorgan and Morgannock; Margaret, then wife of Hugh

^{/g} Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 215 and 217. Cott. Rec. p. 4.
^{/h} Willis's Mitred Abbeyes, vol. i. p. 176.

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de Audley, who was her second husband, she having been first married to Piers de Gaveston, created earl of Cornwall, by whom she had a daughter, who died without issue, and Elizabeth, formerly the wife of John de Burgh, son and heir of the earl of Ulster, afterwards of Theobald, lord Verdon,^{/i} and then of Roger Damory.

On the partition of their inheritance, in the 11th year of king Edward II. anno 1317, the castle and manor of Tunbridge, with other estates in these parts, were allotted to Hugh de Audley, in right of Margaret his wife; at which time it appears, there were six knights fees held of this castle. But he soon afterwards confederating with the discontented lords, this castle, among others belonging to him, was seized on by the king, and the custody of it was committed to Bartholomew de Badlesmere, who soon afterwards going over to the earl's party, the king conferred this trust next year on Henry de Cobham, whose deputy, of the name of Crevequer, having conspired to seize the castle for the use of the enemy, the king ordered it to be demolished, and Crevequer was hanged,^{/k} but it appears by a writ of king Edward II. in his 16th year, that Tunbridge castle was still preserved, being one of the four places then appointed by the king for keeping the records and charters of the realm.

In the 1st year of king Edward III. anno 1326, upon his allegation in parliament, that there were several errors in the prosecution had in the former reign against him, he had restitution granted him of all his castles, manors and lands, then in the king's hands. And in the 11th year of it, in consideration of his services and wife's descent, was in parliament created earl of Gloucester. He died in the 21st year of that reign, leaving by Margaret his wife, who was buried in Tun-

/i Sandford, in his Gen. History, p. 142.

/k Cott. Libr. MSS. Vesp. A. 5, fol. 69, No. 22.

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bridge priory, beside her husband) an only daughter heir Margaret, then married to Ralph, lord Stafford. The arms of Audley, Gules, a fret or, and likewise of Stafford impaling Audley, are carved on the roof of the cloysters of Christ-church, Canterbury, as are those of Stafford singly, being, Or, a chevron gules.

Ralph, lord Stafford, was descended from Robert de Stafford, who in the Conqueror's reign was possessed of great estates in different counties, particularly in Staffordshire, and was the eldest son of Edmund, lord Stafford, by Margaret his wife, daughter of Ralph, lord Basset, of Drayton. In the 18th year of king Edward II. he was knighted and made a banneret, after which he became an active person in king Edward the III'd's wars, who conferred upon him that great office of Seneschal of Aquitane, and next year he had an eminent command in the van of the army, under the black prince, in the famous battle of Cressy, where the English obtained a glorious victory, for after it, he with Sir Reginald de Cobham, and three heralds, being sent to view those slain on the part of the enemy, they were found to be, eleven great princes, eighty banners, twelve hundred knights, and more than thirty thousand common soldiers. In the 21st year of that reign, he obtained, in consideration of his services, a special possession of all those lands which Hugh de Audley, earl of Gloucester, deceased, held of the inheritance of Margaret his wife, one of the daughters and coheirs of Gilbert, earl of Gloucester, and soon afterwards was elected one of the knights of the garter at the first institution of it by king Edward III. and in the 25th year of it, was advanced to the title of earl of Stafford.

This great earl died, far advanced in years, at Tunbridge, in the 46th year of that reign, and was buried in the priory here, with Margaret his wife, at the

/l Dugdale's Baronetage, vol. i. p. 160.

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feet of her father and mother, being in right of his wife possessed of the manor and castle of Tunbridge, with its members, Datchurst and Hadloo. His character is thus expressed by an old writer, Homo quondam, validus, fortis, audax, bellicosus, in armis strenuus, senio confectus, longo squalore maceratus – Obiit Nob. Comes Staffordiæ Radulphus nomine.

Ralph, earl of Stafford, his only son, succeeded him in this castle and manor, with its appendages, which on his death descended to his three sons, Thomas, William and Edmund, in succession, and likewise earls of Stafford.

Upon the death of Thomas, earl of Stafford, the eldest above-mentioned, earl William, his brother and heir, being in his minority, king Richard II. committed the custody of all the castles and lands, of which he died possessed, to Thomas of Woodstock, duke of Gloucester, notwithstanding the claim of archbishop Courtenay, to the custody of this of Tunbridge. On

archbishop Arundel's succeeding to the see in the 20th year of that reign, earl Edmund being then in ward to the king, he complained highly of the injustice done to himself and the church of Canterbury, in depriving it of its just rights and prerogatives; by which and his intreaties, he so far prevailed, that in the parliament summoned that year, the king granted, that the archbishop and his successors, should in future have the keeping of all lands holden of him in chief, and thereupon caused to be delivered to him the castle of Tunbridge, holden of him in chief, during the minority of the heir of the earl of Stafford.

Edmund, earl of Stafford above-mentioned, was succeeded by his only son and heir, Humphry, earl of Stafford, who afterwards bore the title of earl of Buckingham, Hereford, Stafford, Northampton and Perch, and lord of Brecknock and Holderness.

/m Dugdale's Baronetage, vol. i. p. 162, 163.

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In the 23d year of it, in respect of his near alliance in blood, and of his eminent services, both in France and England, as well in the time of king Henry V. as afterwards, he was advanced to the title of duke of Buckingham, to hold in tail male, and was made constable of Dover and Queenborough castles, and warden of the cinque ports. He was slain in the 38th year of king Henry VI. anno 1549, in the battle of Northampton, fighting there on the king's part, being found by the inquisition, taken after his death, to die possessed of this manor and castle, with those of Hadlowe, Dachehurst, Brastede, and others in this county, and that Henry, son of Humphry his eldest son, who was slain in the battle of St. Albans, anno 33 king Henry VI. was his next heir.

Henry, duke of Buckingham, after the death of king Edward IV. became one of the chief confidants of Richard, earl of Gloucester, and a principal abettor of his designs; for which he had several considerable offices conferred on him, and great presents, with the promise of much more, by which, being corrupted, he stopt at nothing, which tended to establish the crown on the protector's head: and having accomplished this, he pressed the performance of what had been privately promised, and the new king signed a bill for his having possession of those lands, which were of great extent in different counties, and which he laid claim to by descent from Humphry Bohun, earl of Hereford.

After which king Richard advanced him to the post of great chamberlain, and to that great and high office of constable of England, with several other lucrative ones; but whether it was through a troubled conscience, or a supposition of the king's neglect of him, is uncertain; but he soon afterwards confederated with the bishop of Ely, and others, to advance the earl of Richmond to the throne; the king at first sought to

/n Harl. MSS. No. 433, 16, 19, 72, 88, &c.

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regain the duke by fair promises, and at last by threats, which caused him to put himself in arms, and with a power of the Welsh to advance towards the Severn;

but an extraordinary flood hindered his passage so long that the Welsh, for want of money and victuals, dispersed themselves. The duke being thus fortaken, sought refuge in the house of an old servant not far from Shrewsbury, whose gratitude he imagined, would be his security. This servant's name was Banister, whom the duke had tenderly brought up, and above all men trusted; but a reward of one thousand pounds being proclaimed for the discovery of him, the fellow betrayed him to the sheriff of Yorkshire, who apprehended the duke, dressed in a piled black cloak, in a grove near Banister's house, and conveyed him to Salisbury, where he was on the following day, without arraignment or judgment, beheaded in the open market-place, and an act passed for his attainder. Soon after which the king, by writ under his sign manual, commanded the inhabitants of the honor and lowy of Tunbridge, &c. to attend upon Sir Marmaduke Constable, whom he had deputed to make his abode amongst them, and that they should in no wise presume to take cloathing, or be retained with any manner of person or persons whatsoever, and he afterwards, as appears by his ledger-book, appointed his trusty friend, Robert Brakenbury, esq. constable of Tunbridge castle, with the fee of ten marcs./o

In the 1st year of the next reign of king Henry VII. an act passed for the restitution of his son and heir Edward, duke of Buckingham, who in the 14th year of it, had possession granted of all his father's lands, and continued in great favor with the king during the remainder of his reign; but in the beginning of the next, growing eminent and powerful, as well for his high blood, as ample revenue, he drew on himself a suspi=

/o Strype's Stow's Survey, book i. p. 70.

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cion of aspiring higher; which was not a little fomented by cardinal Wolsey, who hated him for some expressions he had made use of relating to his low parentage. Upon which he was committed on a charge of high treason, and being found guilty, was beheaded on Tower-hill, anno 13 king Henry VIII. After which an act passed for his attainder, and the same year another for the restitution of his son Henry in blood, but not to his honors and lands.

The castle and manor of Tunbridge, with its appendages, thus coming to the crown by the attainder of the duke of Buckingham, remained during that reign in the king's hands, and till king Edward VI. in his 4th year, granted them to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, among other premises, by the description of his lordship, manor, and castle of Tunbridge, and his two parks, called the Posterne and Cage, (the former being situated southward, and the latter northward of the town) and his forests and chases of North-frith and South-frith, with their members and appurtenances, to hold in capite by knight's service./p He was afterwards created duke of Northumberland, and in the 7th year of that reign, by deed inrolled in the Augmentation-office, re-conveyed all these estates to the king, in exchange for other premises. After which queen Mary granted the whole of them to cardinal Reginald Pole,

archbishop of Canterbury, for his life, and one year after, as the should by his will determine. He died possessed of them on Nov. 17, 1558, the same day that the queen died, and, as it seems, without any particular devise of them; upon which they came to the crown, and queen Elizabeth, by her letters patent, in her first year, granted this castle and manor, with the park called North frith, and other large demesnes belonging to them, to her kinsman Henry Carey, lord

/p Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 3. Augtn. off. deeds of Purch. and Exch. box G. 18.

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Hunsdon, and his heirs male, to hold in capite by knights service, with remainder to the crown; to bar which, he prevailed on the queen, in her 29th year, to grant the fee of them to lord Burleigh and Sir Walter Mildmay, after which he suffered a recovery of them, and at his death in the 38th year of that reign, gave them by will to his eldest son George, lord Hunsdon, who died in 1603, leaving an only daughter and heir Elizabeth, married to Sir Thomas Berkeley, K. B. eldest son and heir of Henry, lord Berkeley, who soon afterwards alienated this estate to Sir John Kenedie, who quickly afterwards passed it away by sale to Ferrers, Gosson, and Johnson, and they, by mutual consent, conveyed their joint interest in it in the beginning of James I.'s reign, to Sir Peter Vanlore, a wealthy merchant, who had been naturalized by parliament in the 7th year of it, and he in 1627 settled it, together with the bulk of his very large estate in this county, Gloucester and Hertford, on his son Peter Vanlore of Tilehurst, in Berkshire, esq. and his issue male, with remainder to his own five daughters, (of whom Anne married Sir Charles Cæsar, son and heir of the master of the rolls; another married Mr. Vander Bempde, and Katherine married Sir Thomas Glemham, of Suffolk) and to his son's three daughters./q

Peter Vanlore, the son, was, after his father's death, in 1628, created a baronet. He bore for his arms, Or, an orle or garland of woodbines, alias honeysuckles, proper, and dying without issue male, left his three daughters his coheirs.

After this, the above settlement of Sir Peter Vanlore's father, occasioned many suits in law and equity, between the different claimants under it, for near thirty years, with divisions and sub-divisions of the estates mentioned in it; in one of which the North-frith being part of the demesne lands of this manor, was allotted to one

/q Atk. Glouc. p. 155, 184, 300, 427.

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of the five daughters of Sir Peter Vanlore the elder, (the shares of the other four being allotted to them elsewhere) married to Mr. Vander Bempde, whose descendant John Vander Bempde, esq. of Westminster, gave it in marriage with his daughter Charlotte, who became the second wife of William Johnston, marquis of Annandale, who had by her two sons; George, and John.

The marquis died in 1724, and was succeeded in his titles by his only son and heir, by his first wife, (by

whom he had likewise a daughter Henrietta, married to Charles, earl of Hopeton) and in this estate of North-frith by his eldest son, by his second wife before-mentioned, lord George Johnston, who, in pursuance of the will of his grandfather John Vander Bempde, took on him that name, /r and on the death of James, marquis of Annandale, his half-brother, without issue, succeeded to his titles; but being in 1745 declared a lunatic, this estate remained in the hands of the commissioners appointed for that purpose, till his death in 1792, when this, among his other estates, devolved to James, earl of Hopeton, the grandson of Charles, earl of Hopeton, by his wife Henrietta, half sister as above-mentioned, to the late marquis; and this, I believe, was the last and only part of the vast estate of Sir Peter Vanlore the elder, remaining in the possession of any of his numerous descendants.

THE MANOR, CASTLE, and other part of the demesne lands of the manor of Tunbridge, came, by virtue of the above settlement, to the three daughters of Sir Peter Vanlore, bart. the son, married to Henry Alexander, earl of Stirling; Sir Robert Cook, bart. and Henry Zinzan, esq. alias Alexander, who in right of their respective wives, became entitled to them; this occasioned another division of this estate, which was made by a commission from the court of chancery in

/r See Acts anno 18 and 33 George II.

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1674, by which the manor and castle of Tunbridge, and some of the demesne lands, were allotted to Jacoba, the wife of Henry Zinzan, alias Alexander, esq. and her heirs, in fee, and fines were accordingly levied by the respective parties. One of her descendants, in the year 1739, sold the castle, manor, and demesne lands to John Hooker, esq. afterwards of Tunbridge. He was descended of a family which came originally out of Hampshire, and bore for their arms, Party per pale and fess, four escallops counterchanged sable and argent. They at first settled in this county at Oldberry-hill, in Ightham, whence they removed to West Peckham, where John Hooker, esq. kept his shrievalty in 1712. He left two sons; Thomas, of whom hereafter; and John, from whom the Hookers of Brenchley are descended. Thomas, the eldest son, left a son, John Hooker, esq. the purchaser of the manor and castle of Tunbridge as above-mentioned, whose eldest son, Thomas Hooker, esq. succeeded him in this estate, and was of Tunbridge. In 1793 he built a handsome stone mansion for his residence, adjoining to the castle, but that year, before it was quite finished he sold the whole of this estate to William Woodgate, esq of Somerhill, in this parish, who had married Frances his sister, and he is the present owner of it.

A court leet and court baron is regularly held for this manor. There were formerly some payments made for castle-guard to it; but they have been long since disused, a few payments excepted, which seem to be made for encroachment on the lord's waste.

HILDENBURGH is a large district, comprehending all the north-west part of the lowy of Tunbridge, and containing within it the manors of Hilden, Dachurst,

Martin abbey, Lamport, Nizell, Hadloe, and the district of Hollenden, the small manor of Leigh, alias Hildenborough, in Leigh, and the manor of Penshurst Halymote; over all this district the honor of Otford has jurisdiction, the high steward of which, by his de-

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puty, holding annually a court leet in this borough, for the election of a constable, borsholder, &c. Thus this district is under the jurisdiction of two different manors, which, strange as it may appear, is not at all uncommon. There are many instances where the military and civil jurisdiction of manors (if I may be allowed to make that distinction) are separated; the land or house holding of one manor by heriot, relief, rent, &c. and the occupier of the same land or house amenable, by reason of his resciancy, to a second manor at its court leet, the reason of which is too obvious to need explanation.

THE MANOR OF DACHURST lies at the western part of the lowy, and was always accounted an appendage to the castle and manor of Tunbridge, and consequently, continued in the same owners, as has been already related, till the attainder of Edward Stafford, duke of Buckingham, in the 14th year of Henry VIII. when it came into the hands of the crown, where the manor itself continued (though the demesnes of it were granted away, as will be mentioned hereafter) at the death of king Charles I. in 1648. After which the powers then in being, passed an ordinance to vest the royal estates in trustees, to survey and sell them, to supply the necessities of the state, and this manor of Dachurst, alias Hildenburgh, was in 1652 surveyed for that purpose, by which it appears that there were quit rents due to the lord in this parish, holden of the manor in free socage tenure, and the like from the freeholders in the boroughs of Nisell hoath and Lambert, and from the freeholders in the parishes of Lye and Tunbridge in the like tenure, and heretofore reserved from the manor of Martin abbey, the total of all which, with courts, fines, &c. was 24l. 10s. 6d. And that there was a court leet and court baron belonging to it./s

/s Parliamentary Surveys, Augmentation office.

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After the above survey, this manor, and those of Martin abbey, Lamport, and Nizell, were sold by the state to colonel Robert Gibbon, with whom they remained till the restoration of king Charles II. in 1660, when the possession of them returned again to the crown.

King Charles II. alienated the fee-farms of these manors of Mr. George Dashwood, a younger son of a family of this name in Somersetshire, descended from the second marriage of one of the Dashwoods, of Dorsetshire, whose eldest son, Robert, in the 36th year of king Charles II. was created a baronet, and his descendant Sir Henry Dashwood, bart. of Kirtlington, in Oxfordshire, is the present owner of these manors, and the fee-farms belonging to them.

THE DEMESNES of the manor of Dachurst, alias

Hildenburgh, were granted by king Henry VIII. the same year that the duke of Buckingham was attainted, to Sir William Skeffington, in tail male, to hold by knights service. After which he was in that reign, made master of the ordnance in England, and twice lord deputy of Ireland, in which office he died in 1535, and was buried in St. Patrick's church, Dublin, bearing for his arms, Argent, three bulls heads erased, sable./t

In his descendants resident here, most of whom lie buried in this church, this estate continued down to John Skeffington, esq. who died in 1661, without issue, and left his interest in it to his uncle, Francis Skeffington, esq. after whose death, his relations and heirs, after one or more suits at law, agreed to divide this estate among them; after which it was gradually sold in several parcels to different persons. Part of it was sold to Children, and is now in the possession of George Children, esq. of Tunbridge; another part of it was alienated to Weller, and afterwards became the property of Mrs. Catherine Weller, the widow of Nicholas Weller, esq. who has lately alienated her interest

/t Vistn. co. Kent, anno 1619. Pedigree Skeffington.

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in it to George Children and William-Thomas Harvey, esqrs. the present owners of it, and there were other small parts of it sold to others: but who is possessed of them at this time, it is almost impossible to ascertain. At a small distance southward from Hilden green, the foundations of a large house are yet visible, which are supposed by many to be those of Dachurst-place. The scite of it was lately the property of Thomas Harvey, esq. and now belongs to his widow, Mrs. Harvey, of Tunbridge.

HILDEN is a manor situated at about a mile's distance from Tunbridge town, and was antiently part of the possessions of the family of Vane, written a-Vane in antient deeds, before the reign of king Edward III. one of them, John Vane, esq. had two sons of the name of Henry; the eldest of which left an only daughter and heir, married to Sir Peter Blondevil; the youngest Henry Vane, was of this place, esq. and had three sons; John Vane, esq. of Hilden, and afterwards of Tudeley, ancestor of the several branches of this family since enobled; Thomas, whose son Humphry died without issue; and Henry, who was father of Sir Ralph Fane, attainted in the reign of king Edward VI./u

By his will in the 34th year of king Henry VI. he devised this manor to his eldest son John, and the parsonage of Hilden to his youngest son Henry. John Vane, esq. sold the manor in the 10th year of king Henry VII. to Tattersal, one of whose descendants possessed it at his death in the 6th year of king Edward VI. anno 1551, when it was found that he died possessed of this manor, and five hundred acres of land, in Hilden and Tunbridge, held of the honor of Tunbridge, by knight's service, and that John Tattersal was his son and heir. He alienated it to Humphry Dixon, who in that reign had purchased the parsonage

/u Coll. Peer. last edition, vol. iii. p. 173.

of Hilden of Elizabeth, lady Vane. He was the second son of Thomas Dixon, esq. of North-frith, in this parish, descended of a family of good account of this name in Scotland, who bore for their arms, Or, a cross formee or patee throughout the shield, gules, between four eagles displayed, sable./w

John, the eldest, succeeded him in this manor, and resided here, he left two sons; Henry, who was of Hilden, esq. and justice of the peace; and William, who was of Darent, in this county. Henry Dixon, esq. the eldest son of Humphry, resided here, as did his grandson of the same name, who died in 1669, leaving two daughters his coheirs, who possessed this manor in undivided moieties. Jane, the eldest, married Nathaniel Booth, esq. and Sarah, the youngest, Percival Hart, esq. of Lullingstone.

Percival Hart, esq. died in 1738, leaving an only daughter and heir Anne, then married to Sir Thomas Dyke, bart. of Horeham, in Sussex, who became possessed of one undivided moiety of this manor, as he did likewise of the other moiety on the death of Mrs. Jane Booth, widow, above mentioned, without issue, in 1743. Sir Thomas Dyke died in 1756, leaving his widow surviving, who possessed the whole of this manor till her death in 1763, when it descended to their only son and heir Sir John Dixon Dyke, bart. of Lullingstone, who procuring the authority of parliament,^x sold it, in 1767, to Thomas Harvey, esq. of Tunbridge, the son of Thomas Harvey, of Deal, descended of the family of Harvey, settled so early as king Edward the IVth.'s reign, at Tilmanstone, in East Kent, and afterwards dispersed over the several parishes in that neighbourhood, in the description of which parish a full account of them may be seen, whose

/w Visitation county of Kent. Pedigree Dixon.

^x See more of the Harts and Dykes, under Lullingstone, vol. ii. of this history.

arms being, Argent, on a chevron gules, three crescents or, between three lions gambes erased, sable, are likewise borne by this branch of it. Mr. Harvey, of Tunbridge, married Charlotte, youngest daughter of the Rev. William Davis, vicar of this parish, by whom he had two sons, Thomas, now of Redleaf, in holy orders, and William-Thomas; and three daughters, Charlotte, Sophia, and Frances. He died in 1779, leaving his widow Mrs. Harvey, surviving, who is by his will possessor of this estate for her life, after which it will devolve, by his devise, to this eldest son, the Rev. Thomas Harvey.

At a small distance from Hilden-green, stood the manor-house, the ruins of which were entirely erased some years ago, by Sir Thomas Dyke.

A court baron is held for this manor.

PHILIPOTTS is an estate in this parish, about three miles from Tunbridge town, adjoining to Lyghe, which was once reputed a manor, the memory of which has been long since obliterated, and the house and estate now so called dwindled almost to nothing, there being at this time only thirty acres of land belonging to it.

It formerly gave surname to the family who owned it, as appears by a deed dated in the 28th year of king Edward I. in which John de Philipott, of Philipotts, (who bore for his arms, Sable, a bend ermine) demised lands to Robert Charles, bailiff of Tunbridge forest. But after this place had remained many generations in this family, Thomas Philipott, leaving an only daughter and heir, Christiana, about the middle of king Henry VIII's reign; she carried it in marriage to John Petley, esq. of Downe, who likewise died without male issue, leaving four daughters his coheirs, of whom the youngest was married first to Smith, and afterwards to Children, and became on the division of their inheritance, entitled to it. /y His descendant, William

/y MSS. Pedigree of Petley. Philipott, p. 215.

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Children, resided at this seat, and died about the latter end of king Charles I.'s reign, leaving an only daughter and heir Sindonia, who carried it in marriage to Mr. Richard Polhill, son of William, the fifth son of Thomas Polhill, alias Polley, of Detling, in whose descendants it has continued to the present time, being now the property of Mr. Richard Polhill, of Chatham, in this county.

There is a tradition in this family, that one of them was bowbender to queen Elizabeth; and not many years ago there hung up in this house a bow, curiously enamelled and studded, which was said to have belonged to the queen.

BARDEN lies at a small distance south-westward from Tunbridge town, and was, no doubt, formerly a manor of no small consequence, as it gives name to a borough here of considerable extent.

In the 20th year of the reign of king Edward III. the prior of Tunbridge, Roger de Bardenham, and John Barden, held this estate, and then paid aid for it as one knight's see, which the prior and Simon de Barden before held of the earl of Gloucester. /z

The family of Barden continued in possession of this manor till the reign of king Henry IV. when it was alienated by one of them to Hadlow, in which name it did not continue long; for John Hadlow dying without issue, Alice, his sister, became his heir, and entitled her husband, John Woodward, to the possession of it; she survived him, and afterwards sold it to John Hopday, who in the 38th year of Henry VI. alienated it to William Hextall, of Hextalls-court, in East Peckham, and he dying without issue male, Margaret, his daughter and heir, entitled her husband, William Whetenhall, commonly called Whetnall, esq. citizen and alderman of London, to the possession of it. Their descendant, William Whetenhall, esq. of Hex-

/z Book of Knights Fees, anno 20 Edward III.

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tall-court, about the middle of king Henry VIII.'s reign, alienated it to Fane, alias Vane, from which name it passed away by sale, in the 24th year of queen Elizabeth, to Sir Andrew Judde, Citizen and skinner of London, and lord-mayor in the 5th year of king Edward VI. who bore for his arms, Gules, a fess ra-

gule between three bears heads, erased fessways argent. He was the eldest son of John Judde, of Tunbridge, by his wife Margaret, daughter of Valentine Chiche, and widow of Clovel, and dying in 1558, was buried in St. Helen's church, London, having founded a school in this parish, and other charities elsewhere, which he endowed with lands, and intrusted them to the care of the Skinners company.^{/a} He left an only daughter and heir Alice, married to Thomas Smith, esq. of Westenhanger, commonly called Customer Smith, who in her right became entitled to a part of this estate, called Barden-house farm, with the lands belonging to it, and several other lands and tenements adjoining, and elsewhere in this parish, (in which the manor was not included) all which he devised by will to his second son, Sir Thomas Smith, of Sutton-at-Hone, in whose descendants they continued down to Robert Smith, esq. of Sutton and Bidborough, who died in 1695, leaving by Katherine his wife, who survived him, two sons, Henry and William, to whom this estate descended as heirs in gavelkind; after which, anno 10 king William III. she obtained an act for vesting them in trustees, to sell the same: who accordingly conveyed them by sale to Thomas Streatfeild, esq. whose descendant, Thomas Streatfeild, esq. now of Sevenoke, owns this estate.

The other part of Barden, containing the manor, seems to have passed, on the death of Sir Andrew Judde, to one of his brothers, who in the 33d year of

^{/a} Strype's Stow's Survey, book i. p. 263, book ii. p. 101, book v. p. 187.

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queen Elizabeth, anno 1590, alienated it to Johnson, and he in the 9th year of king Charles I. sold it to John Polhill, esq. of Otford, the son of David, grandson of another David, the third son of Thomas Polhill, the second son of Thomas Polhill, of Detling, by Alice Buckland, and from him it has descended down to his great-grandson, Charles Polhill, esq. of Chepsted, in Chevening, the present owner of this manor.

HADLOW is a small manor adjoining to that of Barden, last-mentioned, being called, to distinguish it from the manor of the adjoining parish of Hadlow, by the name of the manor of Hadlow Tunbridge. It had antiently owners of the same name, in which it remained till about the reign of king Henry V. when John Hadlow dying without issue, Alice, his sister, married to John Woodward, became his heir; their son, John Woodward, who bore for his arms, Argent, a chevron sable, between three grasshoppers vert, in the 37th year of king Henry VI. conveyed his interest in this manor to William and Henry Hextall, the latter of whom, that year, released all his right in it to his brother William above-mentioned, who dying a few years afterwards without male issue, his daughter and coheir Margaret, entitled her husband, William Whetenhall, esq. citizen and alderman of London, to the possession of it, and his descendant, William Whetenhall, esq. about the middle of king Henry VIII.'s reign, sold this manor to William Waller, esq. whose son,

Richard Waller, in the 26th year of queen Elizabeth, anno 1583, sold it to Mr. George Stacy, and he in 1590, alienated it to Robert Byng, esq. of Wrotham, whose two grandsons, George and William Byng, in 1623, passed it away by sale to David Polhill, esq. of Otford, whose descendant, Charles Polhill, esq. of Chepsted, in Chevening, is the present possessor of this manor.

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A court baron was called for this manor about ten years ago, but no one attended at it; so it is not probable there will be one held again for it.

THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH, alias SOUTHBOROUGH, is a district comprehending the southern part of the lowy of Tunbridge, in which the manor of that name first claims our attention. It was antiently part of the possessions of the great family of Clare, earls of Gloucester, and lords of the castle and manor of Tunbridge, from whom, in like manner it passed to the Audleys and Staffords, in which last name it continued till Edward Stafford, duke of Buckingham, being found guilty of high treason, anno 13 king Henry VIII. forfeited this manor, among the rest of his possessions to the crown, after which an act passed for his attainder, and the king in the 14th year of his reign, granted to Sir Thomas More, the manor of South, late Edward, duke of Buckingham's, to hold in capite by knight's service.

Being a man of great abilities and learning, he was in the 22d year of that reign, made lord chancellor, which high office, after two years and an half, he resigned, not being willing to be instrumental in the king's rupture with the pope. Afterwards, refusing to take the oath of supremacy and succession, he was arraigned, and being found guilty of high treason, was executed on Tower-hill six days afterwards. He was the only son of Sir John More, one of the justices of the king's bench, and had one son John, attainted after his father's death, and then pardoned by the king; and three daughters, of whom Margaret, was a woman of great wisdom, piety, and learning, and married William Roper, esq. of Eltham. After his death his body was first buried in the Tower chapel, and afterwards removed to Chelsea church, and there deposited on the south side of the chancel. His head was set upon London bridge, where it continued about fourteen days, and was then privily bought by his daughter,

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Mrs. Margaret Roper; after which it was inclosed in lead and deposited in the vault of the Ropers, in St. Dunstan's church, near Canterbury, where the box now remains placed on the coffin of his daughter above-mentioned./b

This manor, thus coming to the crown, was granted by the king that year, being his 26th, to George Bulleyn, viscount Rochford, son of Thomas, earl of Wiltshire and Ormond, and brother of queen Anne Bulleyn, to hold in capite by knights service. But the king's affections being changed from her, the lord Rochford was next year committed to the tower, on pretence of too great familiarity with his sister, and

being found guilty of high treason, was beheaded, by which this manor came again into the hands of the crown, and was next year granted to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, who, together with Joane his wife, by indenture, in the 3d year of king Edward VI. granted this manor of Southborowe, with its appurtenances, in the parishes, townships, and hamlets of Southborowe, otherwise called South Tunbridge, Capel, Speldhurst, and Pepenbury, to the king, in exchange for other premises./c

In the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign, it was in the possession of Sir Richard Sackvyle, who in the 19th year of that reign, alienated it to Thomas Smith, esq. of Westenhanger, commonly called Customer Smith, and he gave it by will to his second son, Sir Thomas Smith, of Sutton at Hone, in whose descendants it continued down to Sir Sydney Stafford Smythe, late chief baron of the exchequer, who died possessed of it in 1778, s. p. as did his widow, lady Sarah Smythe, in 1790, and by her will devised this manor, among her other estates, to trustees, for the benefit of her nephews and nieces, and they afterwards sold

/b Chauncy's Hertfordshire, p. 331 et seq.

/c Inrolm. Augmentation-office, box C. 8.

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it to the right hon. John, earl of Darnley, the present owner of this manor. A court baron is regularly held for it.

A fair is held in this manor yearly on the 24th of March.

HAYSDEN, alias East Haysden, is a small manor, which lies at the south-west extremity of the lowy, and was some years ago in the possession of the name of Turner, whence it was, not long since, sold to Mr. John Groombridge, whose widow re-marrying with Henry Goodwyn, esq. of Enfield, he is in her right entitled to the possession of it.

A court baron is held for this manor.

AS THERE WAS a large district, comprehending a manor, forest, or chase, with a park inclosed with pales within it, at the northern part of the lowy, called North-frith; so there was a like district, though of much larger extent, called SOUTH-FRITH, at the opposite or southern side of it, with a park likewise inclosed with pale within the bounds of it.

THIS DISTRICT was, no doubt, part of the demesnes of the family of Clare, earls of Gloucester and Hertford, possessors of the castle and manor of Tunbridge, with whom it continued till Gilbert de Clare, the only son and heir of Gilbert, earl of Gloucester and Hertford, dying without surviving issue, in the 8th year of king Edward II. his three sisters became his coheirs; and upon the division of their inheritance, though Hugh de Audley, in right of his wife Margaret, the second daughter and coheir, had the castle and manor of Tunbridge allotted to him, yet Elizabeth, the youngest of them, widow of John de Burgh, seems to have possessed this district of South-frith, and the honor of Clare, in Suffolk, as part of her share of it. She had by her husband, above-mentioned, a son, named William, who on his grandfather's death be-

came earl of Ulster, bearing for his arms, Or, a cross gules, and on his mother's death inherited this estate.

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He left an only daughter and heir Elizabeth, who married Lionel, third son of king Edward III. and duke of Clarence, and was in her right created earl of Ulster, and lord of Conaught and Trime.

The duke died in the 43d year of that reign, at Alba Pompeia, in Italy, being then possessed of this estate of South-frith, leaving an only daughter and heir Philippa, who, about the time of her father's death, by the king's command, was married to Edmund Mortimer, the third earl of March, and lord of Wigmore, who died in Ireland in the 5th year of king Richard II. anno 1381, /d possessed of this estate, which afterwards descended to his grandson Edmund, earl of March, who dying in the 3d year of king Henry VI. without issue, /e his nephew Richard, duke of York, the only son of Richard, earl of Cambridge, by Anne Mortimer, his eldest sister, became by his uncle's will heir to his estates, and to this chase of South-frith among them, which he did not gain possession of till the countess's death, anno 10 Henry VI. He had become on the death of his father's elder brother without issue, anno 3 king Henry V. duke of York, and being both on his father's and mother's side, descended from king Edward III. he began to think of aspiring to the crown; and to crush the house of Lancaster. But in the 37th year of king Henry VI. being deserted by his army, he fled to Ireland, and was soon afterwards, in the parliament attainted, with his son the earl of March; upon which this estate became forfeited to the crown, where it did not remain long, for on the turn of fortune, which happened to him soon afterwards, the duke of York regained the possession of it, and died possessed of this chase with its appendages, in the 3d year of king Edward IV. After which Cecillie,

/d Sands. Gen. History, p. 219 et seq.

/e See a full account of the Mortimers, earls of March, under Erith, vol. ii. p. 237.

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dutchess of York, his widow, mother of king Edward IV. continued in the possession of it till her death, which happened in the 10th year of king Henry VIII. when this estate reverted to the crown, after which king Henry VIII. granted to George, lord Cobham, the office of master, manager, and supervisor of all the beasts, of what sort soever, of his park of South-frith, and of keeper of all his ponds and waters within them; in the original, Magistr'. deduct', & supervis omn & omndm ferar, pci de S. frith & Custod' omn Vivar aquar. & stagn infra pcum de S. frith; but the fee of it remained in the crown till king Edward VI. in his 4th year granted the manor of South-frith, with the forest or chase, and the park of it, to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, together with the manor and castle of Tunbridge, and other premises, as has been already noticed before, to hold in capite by knights service./f

All which the earl, by the title of duke of Northumberland, he having been so created, re-conveyed in the

7th year of that reign, to the king, this estate in exchange. After which queen Mary granted them to cardinal Reginald Pole, archbishop of Canterbury, to hold during his life, and one year after as he should by his will determine. He died in 1558, without any particular devise of them; upon which they came to the crown, whence this forest or chase, manor, &c. were granted by queen Elizabeth, in her 14th year, to one of her chief favorites, Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester, for a term of years, at the expiration of which she granted the fee of them to Frances, widow of Robert Devereux, earl of Essex, who was the sole daughter and heir of that great statesman, Sir Francis Walsingham, and had first married Sir Philip Sydney; the countess of Essex, afterwards re-married Richard Burgh, earl of Clanrickard, and it is no wonder this lady married him

/f Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 3. Augtn. off. Deeds of Purchase and Exchange, box G. 18. and Inrolm.

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when Smollet says he was a very handsome gallant young nobleman, and very like the late earl of Essex; insomuch, that the queen, then far advanced in years, made some advances to him, which he declined. He became by this marriage possessed of this estate, and built a noble mansion at a very large expence, on a pleasant eminence on the northern part of it, which he did not finish till the latter end of king James I.'s reign, and gave it the name of SOMERHILL. In the 22d year of that reign he was created baron of Somerhill, viscount Tunbridge; and in the 4th year of king Charles I. earl of St. Albans, at which time he had likewise other Irish honors conferred on him, as baron of Imaudy, in Conaught, and viscount of Galloway, bearing for his arms, Or, a cross gules, in the dexter canton, a lion rampant sable. He resided much at Somerhill, and dying in 1636 was buried in Tunbridge church. Ulick, his son and heir, was long in arms for king Charles I. in Ireland, whence being obliged to fly, he took refuge in England, with the king, who in 1645 created him marquis of Clanrickard. His attachment to the king was a sufficient reason for the parliament to declare him a delinquent, and to sequester his estate, which they did, and by their ordinance of that year granted, among other premises, the manor, lands, &c. parcel of the estate of the earl of St. Albans, before seized and sequestered into the hands of the parliament, as being a papist, called Somerhill, alias Tunbridge, and all his goods there, to Robert, earl of Essex, in recompence of his heroic valour, prudent conduct, and unspotted fidelity in that high and important command of captain-general of their army, to hold during his life, in part of the yearly sum of 10,000l. which they had voted to him. The earl of Essex died possessed of this estate, with the seat belonging to it, in 1646, not without suspicion of poison,

/g Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 450.

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and had a most magnificent funeral, at the charge of the parliament, with a grand procession of state to the place of his burial, in St. Paul's chapel, in Westminster

ster abbey. Upon which it came again into the hands of the parliament, who, soon after the king's death, granted it to John Bradshaw, serjeant at law, president of their high court of justice, for his great service, as they termed it, to his country./h He died possessed of it in 1659, and was buried with much solemnity in St. Peter's church, in Westminster; but next year his body was taken up again, and hanged on the gallows at Tyburn, under which it was afterwards buried, and the head being cut off was set on Westminster-hall. He was succeeded in it by a natural son, but the restoration of king Charles II. happening a few months afterwards, this estate of South-frith, with the seat and park of Somerhill, returned to its lawful owner in the person of Margaret, only daughter and heir of Ulick, marquis of Clanrickard, above-mentioned, who had deceased in 1659, and was buried in the church of Tunbridge, and there were several antient people, not many years since alive, who remember an old man in this neighbourhood, who was reputed to be a natural son of John Bradshaw, and reported to have been once possessed of Somerhill.

The above lady was then the wife of Charles M'Carty, viscount Muskerry, eldest son of Donough, earl of Clancarty, who in her right became entitled to this seat and estate. He was killed in the great engagement with the Dutch in Solebay, in 1665, being then in the duke of York's ship, by a cannon ball, which at the same time killed the earl of Falmouth, and Richard Boyle, second son of the earl of Burlington. He died without issue, and she afterwards re-married John Villiers, viscount Purbeck, eldest son of Sir John Villiers, viscount Purbeck, the elder brother of George

/h In 1649. See Hist. Independ. pt. ii. p. 250.

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Villiers, duke of Buckingham, the great favorite of king James and king Charles I.

John, viscount Purbeck, the son, possessed this estate in his wife's right, and on the death of his mother Mary, countess of Buckingham, claimed the title of earl of Buckingham before the house of lords in 1667; which was not allowed, notwithstanding which he continued to take the title, and always subscribed himself, Buckingham. He died, leaving by Margaret his wife, one son John, who on his death, assumed likewise the title of earl of Buckingham. Which Margaret, surviving her husband, again possessed this estate in her right, and afterwards re-married for her third husband, Mr. commonly called Beau, Fielding; having by her expensive way of life wasted her estate, she by piece-meals sold off a great part of the demesne lands, lying mostly on the southern side of South-frith to different persons, and dying in great distress, was buried accordingly, about the year 1698.

On her death, her son John Villiers, calling himself earl of Buckingham, became possessed of Somerhill house and park, which last had been let to a warrener, and those demesnes of South frith which remained unsold by his mother. Soon after which, he alienated the manor of South-frith, with the seat and

park of Somerhill, and all the lands whatever inclosed within the pales of it to Dekins; and all the rest of the demesne lands whatsoever possessed by him here, which amounted to upwards of twelve hundred acres of land and wood ground, adjoining to the high road from Tunbridge to Rye, opposite to Somerhill park-pales, and extending from thence almost to Pembury church), to Abraham Hill, esq. of Sutton at Hone, in whose name and family they continued till William Hill, esq. of Carwithenick, in Cornwall, about the year 1768, alienated them to Mr. Edward Whatmore, of Salisbury, who quickly afterwards sold them

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to James Templer, esq. of the city of Westminster, since deceased, whose son the Rev. John Templer, is the present possessor of them. But THE MANOR OF SOUTH-FRITH, with the house and park of Somerhill, was devised by Dekins, who died without issue, to Cave, who about 1712 conveyed this estate to Mr. John Woodgate, of Chepsted, in Penshurst. The ancestors of whose family resided at Stonewall, in Chidingstone, and bore for their arms, On a chevron, three acorns between three squirrels sejant. The first of them that I have any account of, married Joane, daughter of Robert Combridge, of Coldharbour, in Penshurst, whose son William, of Stonewall, was father of John Woodgate, the purchaser of Somerhill, as above-mentioned, to which seat he removed from Penshurst, soon after his purchase of it. His eldest son William, was of Stonewall, and died unmarried; Francis, the third and youngest, was of Mountfield, in Sussex, clerk, and left three sons, William, of whom hereafter; Stephen, now of Sevenoke, gent. and Henry, of Serjeant's-inn; and six daughters, of whom Mary was married to John Acton, esq. of London, and Alice to William Ashburnham, esq. son of the late bishop of Chichester.

Henry, the second son of John, succeeded him in this estate of Somerhill, but resided at Tunbridge-town, where he died unmarried in 1787, and by will gave this estate to his eldest nephew William, son of the Rev. Francis Woodgate, of Mountfield, as above-mentioned. He resided at Somerhill during his uncle's life-time, and married Frances, the youngest sister of Thomas Hooker, esq. late of Tunbridge, by whom he had three sons, William-Francis, esq. now of Tunbridge, who married Miss Alnutt, daughter of Richard Alnutt, esq. of South-park, in Penshurst; Henry and John, and three daughters, Frances, married to Richard Alnutt, esq. of South-park, Anne

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and Maria. He now resides at Somerhill, of which he is the present owner.

There is a court baron held for this manor, several of the tenants of which hold by copy of court-roll, which is not very frequent in this part of the county.

NEW, or LITTLE BOUNDS is a seat in this parish, situated at the southern bounds of it, and was so called to distinguish it from the adjoining seat of Old Bounds, in the next parish of Bidborough. It was built by the lord chief baron Bury, on a piece of

ground, part of that estate, granted to him by one of the family of Smith; and passed from one of his descendants, Dorothy, daughter of William Rokeby, esq. of Shellow, in Yorkshire, by Emma his wife, eldest daughter of Sir William Bury, of Grantham, in Lincolnshire, in marriage, about the latter end of the last century, to Sir Thomas l'anson, who died possessed of it in 1707. His son, Sir Thomas l'anson, likewise resided here, and dying in 1764, was buried near his father in this church. On the monument erected to their memories, they are stiled baronets, but I cannot find when the patent was granted; he left two sons, Thomas and John, and several daughters; of whom Sir Thomas l'anson, the eldest son, resided here at times, and was gentleman porter of the tower of London. He died in 1773, leaving his widow surviving, on whose death in 1774, it descended to their son, Mr. John l'anson, and he alienated it to chief baron Smythe, who died in 1778, as did his widow the lady Sarah Smythe, in 1790, and by her will devised it to trustees, for the benefit of her nephews and nieces, and they have since sold it to the right hon. John, earl of Darnley, the present owner of it.

CALVERLEY is another seat, situated likewise near the southern bounds of this parish, at no great distance from Tunbridge-wells, which was many years ago the property of William Strong, esq. from whom

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it came into the possession of Thomas Panuwell, esq. who died unmarried in 1750, and was buried in this church. By his will he gave this seat to his friend Thomas Smith, esq. who took on him the name of Panuwell, and dying in 1786, was succeeded in it by his eldest son of the same name, who is the present owner, and resides in it.

THE PRIORY OF TUNBRIDGE was founded about the latter end of the reign of king Henry II. by Richard de Clare, the first earl of Hertford, and lord of this place, for monks of the Premonstratensian order, commonly called white canons, and it was dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen./i

Richard de Clare, by his foundation-charter to this priory, situated within his manor of Tonebrigge, gave to the canons regular in it, ten marcs, to be received yearly from his manor of Tonebrigge; and 51s. 5d. to be received from all the assarts, old as well as new, of his land called Dennemanneshrock, in Yalding; and likewise yearly one hundred and twenty hogs in his forest of Tunbridge, free from pannage; and that the canons should have two horses (summarios) every day, to carry the dead wood home to them, from out of his woods nearest and most convenient to them; and one stag yearly to be taken by the earl's men.

All which they enjoyed afterwards uninterrupted, as appears by an inquisition taken in the 19th year of king Edward II./k

In the year 1351, a sudden and dreadful fire happened in this priory, which consumed every part of it to the foundations, together with all their habits, ornaments, jewels, and furniture; but these were soon afterwards re-edified, in aid of which the church of

Leghe was appropriated to it, in the instrument for which, the church, chapter-house, dormitory, refec=

/i Stev. Mon. vol. ii. p. 145. Tan. Mon. p. 212.

/k Dugd. Mon. vol. ii. p. 258.

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tory, library, and vestry, of this priory, then de= stroyed, are said to have been edificia splendida et nobilia.

This priory remained afterwards without any cir= cumstance happening to it worth mentioning, till the reign of king Henry VIII. when cardinal Wolsey, being desirous of founding two colleges, one at Ips= wich, and the other at Oxford, and finding there were several mean monasteries in England, where both the revenues and the number of religious were too small to keep up regular discipline, church service, and hos= pitality, obtained a bull from the pope, in 1524, for suppressing, with the king's leave, as many small mo= nasteries as were requisite to raise a revenue not ex= ceeding three thousand ducats per annum. To which the king having consented, this priory, with seventeen other small ones in different counties, was suppressed; at which time it appears, the spiritualities of it were valued at 48l. 11s. 4d. and the temporalities at 120l. 18s. 11d. in the whole 169l. 10s. 3d. per an= num; which revenues lay in the several counties of Kent, Cambridge, Suffolk, Norfolk, and Surry./l

After which the king, in his 17th year, granted the several suppressed monasteries, and this of Tunbridge among them, together with all their manors, lands, and possessions, to the cardinal, for the better endow= ment of his college, called Cardinal college, in Ox= ford; which letters patent were confirmed by others soon afterwards./m But this great prelate being cast in a præmunire, about four years afterwards, all the possessions of that college, which for want of time had not been firmly settled on it, were forfeited to the king, and became part of the royal revenue of the crown.

/l Inquisition in the Cardinals bundle, in the Chapter-house, at Westminster. /m Rym. Fœd. vol. xiv. p. 156.

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King Edward VI. in his 4th year, granted among other premises in this parish, as has been mentioned already before, the late priory of Tunbridge, and the manors, lands, and possessions of it in this county, to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, to hold in capite by knights service. All which premises the earl, by the title of duke of Northumberland, he having been so created, re-conveyed in the 7th year of that reign, to the king, in exchange for other premises./n Queen Mary granted the priory, with the possessions in this county, late belonging to it, and the rest of the pre= mises above-mentioned, to cardinal Reginald Pole, archbishop of Canterbury, to hold during his life and one year after, as he should by his will determine. He died in 1558, and, as it seems, without any particular devise of them; upon which they again became part of the revenues of the crown.

Queen Elizabeth granted the scite of this priory to

Sir Henry Sidney, and afterwards to Dame Ursula Walsingham. It afterwards passed into the possession of the lady viscountess Purbeck, who sold it to one of the family of Poley, in which it continued till it was devised by will to George Weller, esq. of Tunbridge, who bore for his arms, Sable, two chevronels between three roses argent. He took on him the name of Poley, and afterwards resided at Boxted-hall, in Suffolk, and his son, George Weller Poley, esq. of that place, afterwards possessed it and died in 1780, on which this estate became the property of his next brother, the Rev. John Weller Poley, clerk.

The buildings of this priory appear to have been very extensive, from the foundations still visible; what remains of them seem to have been some part of the great hall, and the chapel, which is at present made use of as a barn and oast-stowage, and such

/n Augmentation off. Inrolm. and Deeds of Purch. and Exch. box H. 17.

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like uses. Messrs. Buck, in 1735, engraved a south view of the ruins of this priory.

About sixty years ago, there was dug up among these ruins a stone coffin, containing a skeleton, which, on being exposed to the air, quickly mouldered into dust.

In the priory grounds, at a small distance from the scite of it southward, is a well dedicated to St. Margaret, which was formerly walled round, and had great resort to it before Tunbridge Wells came in vogue. It appears by the ochreous sediment to be strongly impregnated with mineral, but does not sparkle like the water of those wells.

THE FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, which stands at the north end of the town of Tunbridge, is of the foundation of Sir Andrew Judde, a native of this town, citizen and skinner of London, and lord-mayor in the 5th year of king Edward VI. He erected the school-house with some other buildings belonging to it, and intending to endow it he purchased lands in the name of himself, and Henry Fisher entrusting the management of them and the school to the Skinners company in London. After which he procured the king's letters patent, anno 7 Edward VI. for the founding of it; and that the master, wardens, and company of skimmers should be governors of the possessions, lands, and goods of the school, to be called the free grammar school of Sir Andrew Judde, in the town of Tunbridge.

Sir Andrew Judde died in 1558, and by his will bequeathed the lands so purchased, to that company, for the purpose of this school; and they were assigned accordingly by Henry Fisher, above-mentioned, but after his death Andrew Fisher, his son, endeavoured to impeach those conveyances; but the whole being examined in parliament, in the 14th year

/o Journals of House of Commons, anno 15 Elizabeth, 1572.

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of queen Elizabeth, an act passed for the assurance of the lands to this school; and again afterwards, upon

a solemn hearing in the house of commons, upon the petition of the company, with the consent of Fisher, the former act was confirmed that year, anno 31 queen Elizabeth, by another act, for the better as= suring of the lands and tenements of this school, those left by the will of Sir Andrew Judde, for the maintenance of this school and other charities, to the Skinners company, amounted then to 56l. 0s. 4d. per annum, and were situated in different parishes in the city of London, and in St. Pancras near it./p

About which time, the master of this school had twenty pounds per annum, and the usher of it eight pounds per annum, the reparations of the buildings of it, and the charges at the examination of the scholars amounted yearly to 50l. 2s. 3d. and there were six scholars maintained at Oxford and Cambridge, which cost the company yearly thirty pounds.

Since which, the company of skinners have executed this trust with great liberality, having both improved and augmented the original foundation. They have doubled the salary of the master, allowed a handsome annual gratuity to the usher, besides his stipend, and have usually given annuities for life to such superan= nuated masters, who have stood in need of them, and have sometimes continued them to their represen= tatives.

The original building of this school extends in front upwards of one hundred feet in length. It is con= structed in a plain, but neat and uniform stile, with the sand-stone of the neighbouring country. At the back part of it, there is a considerable addition to the master's habitation, erected by the Skinner's company in 1676, together with a hall or refectory, for the use of the scholars; and a small, yet elegant library built

/p Strype Stow's Survey, book v. p. 61, 187, 188.

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at the joint expence of the patrons of the school, and of the Rev. Mr. Cawthorn, late master of it. There are also detached offices, a garden, and a play-ground belonging to it.

By the charter of king Edward VI. the college of All Souls were appointed visitors, in case any dispute should arise; indeed, in the charter it is written, Collegium omnium Sanctorum; but as there is no such college, and the founder of this school being of con= sanguinity to archbishop Chichele, the founder of that college, the late learned Sir William Blackstone was of opinion, that the word sanctorum was a mistake of the transcriber for animarum, and that the college of All Souls was meant by the founder for this part of the trust; though it is not upon record, that these vi= sitors have at any time been appealed to.

The statutes of the school were perused, approved, and subscribed by archbishop Parker and Dr. Nowell, dean of St. Paul's. Among other matters contained in them, it is ordained, that the master of the school shall be a master of arts, if it may be, and that the usher shall be chosen by him; and that the master shall have authority to reject such as apply for gratis instruction, or day boys, unless they can write com= petently, and read Latin and English perfectly. But

disputes having arisen concerning the extent of the freedom of the school, in 1693 an appeal was made from the town of Tunbridge to the Skinners company, who thereupon limited its freedom according to the words of the charter to the emolument, *Juvenum in villa et patria adjacenti*, of the boys inhabiting the town and adjacent country; and this, according to the opinion of the late lord chancellor Yorke, was a very fair and reasonable construction. Notwithstanding which, another warm dispute on this subject arose again in 1764; when after consulting the most learned men of the law, viz. Yorke, Norton, De Grey, Blackstone, and Hussey, it was resolved at a court holden

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by the Skinners at their hall in 1765, that the children of the town and parish of Tunbridge, who could write competently, and read Latin and English perfectly, should be instructed on proper application to the master, without payment of any consideration excepting the statutable entrance-money; but judge Blackstone was of opinion, that the college of All Souls ought to have been consulted.

The greatest benefactor to this school, next to the founder, was Sir Thomas Smith, second son of Cusomer Smith, by Alice, daughter and heir of Sir Andrew Judde before-mentioned, who bequeathed lands to the Skinners company in trust, among other purposes, to pay to the master of this school ten pounds per annum; to the usher of it five pounds; to six scholars to be elected to the university from it sixty pounds per annum; to the Skinners company towards the expence of their annual visitations, an account of which will be given hereafter, 6l. 13s. 4d. per annum; and also the sum of twenty-four pounds per annum, to buy a piece of cloth, to be distributed to twenty-four poor persons, one piece of it to each of them, at the annual visitation above-mentioned.

There are several exhibitions appropriated to this school, besides those of Sir Thomas Smith above-mentioned, which were to be paid in exhibitions of ten pounds a year each, for seven years, to six poor scholars, who should go immediately from it to either of the universities.

Mr. Fisher, Sir Andrew Judde's executor, in 1562 endowed an exhibition for a scholar, who should go to Oxford from this school. Mr. Lewis endowed an exhibition for one scholar, going from hence to Cambridge. Sir James Lancaster, in 1620, endowed four more exhibitions, for such as should go to either of the universities. /q Mr. Worrall gave two exhibitions

/q Strype's Stow's Survey, book v. p. 61.

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of six pounds a year each to scholars, who should have spent two full years in the upper class. The will directs, that the person chosen by the Skinners company to one of their own exhibitions may also enjoy one of these, or if there should be any one scholar recommended by the master, as qualified in an eminent degree above others, he may enjoy both Mr. Worrall's exhibitions as they fall, if the head and se=

nior fellows of the college signify their concurrence. Thomas Lampard, in 1593, gave an exhibition of four marcs, to be paid quarterly to a poor scholar of Tunbridge parish and school, who should be preferred to St. John's college, in Oxford, upon Sir Thomas White's foundation of a fellowship there, for the first five years after his going there.

Robert Holmedon bequeathed by his last will four pounds a year in the disposal of the Leathersellers company, to be given to a scholar of this school on failure of a claimant from another school, at the time of vacancy. Sir Thomas White directed by his will, that in the choice of a bible clerk, or Aedituus of his college of St. John, in Oxford, a preference should be given to the candidates educated at either of the schools which supply that college, of which Tunbridge is one. The salary and emoluments are thirty pounds per annum, and it is compatible with any of the above-mentioned exhibitions, and is now enjoyed by a scholar of this school, together with one of Sir Thomas Smith's exhibitions. Sir Thomas White was lord-mayor of London in 1554, and of the Merchant Taylors company. His charities were most liberal and extensive. He was an intimate friend of Sir Andrew Judde, and propter eximium amorem in eum, as the statutes of his college of St. John tell us, gave one of his fellowships to Tunbridge school, which was founded but a little while before that college. The probationary, fellow, or scholar, when nominated, must be sent immediately from the school;

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that is, he must not have left the school before the vacancy; for the statute expressly says, that the electors ex suis scholis mittendos curent, and it directs that the nomination of the fellow shall be made by the Prætores vel Seniores of the several corporate towns from which fellows are sent to St. John's college, but as Tunbridge is not a corporation, nor has either mayors or aldermen or any such, who answer the above description in it, there have been great debates to whom the election properly belongs. The nomination has always hitherto been signed by the master and a few of the principal inhabitants of the town, and the college has invariably admitted its validity, though opponents have more than once endeavoured to set it aside.

Lady Margaret, relict of Sir William Boswell, in 1692, by will, bequeathed a farm, called Halywell, at Burnham, in Essex, to trustees, to dispose of the yearly rents to several charitable uses; among which, to Jesus college, in Cambridge, for two scholarships, twelve pounds per annum each; the scholars to be called Sir William Boswell's scholars, and to be chosen out of Sevenoke school, and for want of lads fitting there, then from this school of Tunbridge, and upon every vacancy, three pounds a piece to two of the fellows of that college, to come over and prove the capacities of the lads. Mr. John Strong left by will a sum of money in trust, for the apprenticing to some marine business, a scholar, educated at the great school at Tunbridge; but it does not appear, that this bequest has ever been claimed by any scholar of

this school.

This school continues under the management of the company of Skinners, who, in pursuance of the statutes, visit it annually in the month of May, at a very considerable expence, when they are attended, as the statutes direct, by a very respectable clergyman of London, whose business it is to examine the several

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classes of the school. On the arrival of the company, &c. in their carriages, at the gates of the school, a congratulatory oration in Latin is spoken by the head boy. The company then proceed to church, where they distribute bread, money, and cloaths to a number of poor persons of the parishes of Tunbridge, Bidborough, and Speldhurst, according to the will of Sir Thomas Smith. On their return, after a cold collation, they survey the buildings, and give orders for all necessary repairs. They next proceed to the school, where, after a few Latin orations, the examination begins; at the close of which the whole company, which consists, besides the visitors and their friends, of the neighbouring gentry and clergy, retire to dinner, which is served up in the library, and in other rooms in the master's house. At five o'clock they return to the school, and the grammatical dis=putations, a very antient exercise, are commenced by the six senior scholars. These exercises conclude with the repetition of English or Latin verses. The exa=miner then distributes, according to the statutes, as an honorary reward, a silver pen gilt, to each of the six senior scholars, who on that day walk in procession to the church, before their patrons, with garlands of fresh flowers on their heads, such is the form which has been constantly observed ever since the foundation of the school.

It has always maintained a good reputation, as well for the learning of the scholars educated in it, as the eminent abilities of the masters who have had from time to time the care of it. But the register of the school having been irregularly kept, I have not been able to obtain a complete list of the latter; the following are the only names of the masters that I have met with.

John Proctor, A. M. first master in the reign of queen Elizabeth.

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Thomas Horne, A. M. about 1636, resigned about 1646./r

Nicholas Grey, D. D. about 1650, resigned 1660./s

John Goad, B. D. in 1660, resigned 1661./t

— Wasse, A. M. obt. 1700.

Thomas Roots, A. M. in 1730, obt. 1714.

Richard Spencer, A. M. in 1714, resigned 1743.

James Cawthorn, 1743, obt. in 1761./u

Johnson Towers, A. M. 1761, obt. 1770.

Vicesimus Knox, LL. B. in 1771, resigned 1778./w

Vicesimus Knox, D. D. 1778, the present master./x

CHARITIES.

SIR THOMAS SMITH, of London, in 1624, gave by will to the poor of Tunbridge and Bidborough, twelve fourpenny

loaves of wheaten bread weekly for ever; and also to each of the said poor yearly, cloth for winter garments of the value of 20s. payable by the Skinners company, now of the annual amount of 22l. 8s.

JOHN BRIGHTLING, of Tunbridge, in 1648, gave by will six two-penny loaves of bread to six poor housholders of this town; and to the poor of the town, two houses in Mill, alias East-lane, for alms-houses. The former bequest is vested in Martha Summersham, who pays for the bread of 2l. 12s. per annum produce; the latter have been exchanged for two houses of a greater value, and are inhabited by the poor.

WILLIAM SULHAM, citizen and merchant taylor of London, in 1578 gave by will an annuity of 3l. 2s. to the poor of this parish for ever, issuing out of lands belonging to Thomas Hooker, esq.

MRS. SARAH WARD, of London, widow, in 1664, gave by will 50s. per annum for ever to the poor of this town, payable out of tithes.

/r He resigned on being advanced to the mastership of Eton school. Wood's Ath. vol. ii. p. 178.

/s He was first master of the Charter-house school; after which he was successively master of Merchant Taylors and of Eton schools, from which last, as well as from his fellowship and living, he was ousted by the Presbyterians, and was put to great distresses, till at length he obtained this school at or before the rule of Oliver. Wood's Ath. vol. ii. p. 252.

/t He resigned on being made master of Merchant Taylors school. Wood's Ath. vol. ii. p. 838.

/u He was buried in this church.

/w He retired after his resignation to Penshurst, where he died in 1780, and was buried in the chancel of Tunbridge church.

/x Late fellow of St. John's college, Oxford, and author of several learned and well written publications.

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ROBERT GOODHUGH, of Tunbridge, in 1662, gave by will to the poor of this parish 40s. per annum for ever, paid out of lands belonging to Richard Hills and others.

THOMAS LAMPARD, of Tunbridge, in 1593, gave by his will to the poor of this parish, a house in the town called the White-horse, near the Market-cross, now of the annual produce of 9l.

FRANCIS SKEFFINGTON, esq. of Tunbridge, in 1684 gave by will 210l. to purchase an annuity to provide twelve four-penny loaves of wheaten bread weekly for ever, for twelve poor people of this town and Hilden borough, constant frequenters of the church; and in 1695 his trustees purchased an annuity of 10l. 10s. issuing out of the Rose and Crown inn in this town, to the uses of his will.

JOHN PETLEY, gent. of Tunbridge, in 1705, gave by will, six four penny loaves of wheaten bread to six poor people of this town, to be paid out of lands in Brenchley, now vested in John Hooker, esq. and of the annual produce of 5l. 4s.

GEORGE PETLEY, gent. of Tunbridge, gave by will 200l. to be laid out in building six alms-houses, which was afterwards done in Tunbridge town; and the yearly sum of 5l. 4s. for six four-penny loaves to be distributed weekly to the poor; and the sum of 3l. for ever, for the repair of the houses, and if there were no repairs wanting, then to the poor therein placed; and 3l. per annum to the minister, to preach a sermon on Good-Friday; the monies to be paid out of the tithe-wards of Haysden and Little Barden in this parish.

CAREW HOLFORD, gent. of Tunbridge, in 1732 gave by

deed an annuity of 50s. per annum, to be paid out of lands vested in Samuel Mills, to provide six poor people of this town with six two-penny loaves of wheaten bread, and of the annual produce of 2l. 12s.

THOMAS DEAKINS, gent. of Tunbridge, in 1707, gave to this parish 50l. to put out ten poor boys apprentices; and 50l. more to the poor, which was laid out in building two alms-houses.

GEORGE CHILDREN, esq. of Tunbridge, in 1713 gave by will to the poor of Hilden borough, in Tunbridge, twelve four-penny loaves of wheaten bread weekly for ever, to be paid out of lands in Tunbridge and Lyghe, vested in George Children, esq. and of the annual produce of 10l. 8s.

JOHN WILLARD, of Tunbridge, in 1719, gave an annuity of 6l. per annum for ever, issuing out of lands in this parish, to the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of Tunbridge, to be employed in the schooling and instructing eight poor children of this parish, none to continue longer at school than three years.

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HENRY BRISTOW, of Tunbridge, gave by his will to six poor people of this parish, six two-penny loaves of bread weekly for ever, to be paid out of lands in this parish, vested in Thomas Oliver.

WILLIAM STRONG, esq. gave by will in 1713, for putting out poor children apprentices, and the surplus, if any, to be lent to them, when out of their times, for five years, without interest, about forty acres of land in Tunbridge, the trustees are all dead, and the trust not renewed, but the churchwardens receive the rents, and employ them for the above purpose, now of the annual produce of 14l.

GEORGE PUTLAND gave in 1740 by deed, for putting children to school, in and of a charity school, whilst any such shall be supported by voluntary subscriptions, but when that fails, then to feed the needy poor, an annuity of 2l. 12s. issuing out of lands in Tunbridge, which sum is paid to the schoolmaster of the charity school.

ELIZABETH WELLER, of Tunbridge, spinster, in 1677, gave by will an annuity of 6l. per annum for ever to the minister of Tunbridge, and his successors, to preach a sermon on every Ascension-day.

GEORGE HOOPER, of Tunbridge, scrivener, gave one dozen and a half of leathern buckets for the use of this town, and in 1720, gave a brazen sconce to this church; and by his will in 1759, gave a sum of 500l. to new pew and pave it, which was expended accordingly by his trustees.

SIR THOMAS DYKE, bart. of Lullingstone, in 1750, settled by deed an annuity of 9l. to be expended in instructing so many boys and girls as could be taught for it; the boys to be taught to read and write English, and cast accounts; the girls to read English, knit, and sew plain work. The children to be found from Tunbridge and Eynsford, of which Eynsford to find two, and the rest from Tunbridge, two of which last to be out of Hilden borough, if there to be had. The objects of this charity are, such poor children only, whose parents are not able, of their own such substance, to have them so instructed.

There is a charity school in this parish, supported partly by the above-mentioned legacy of 9l. of Sir Thomas Dyke, bart. and partly by the voluntary contributions of the inhabitants of this parish.

TUNBRIDGE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURIS-

DICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is a large handsome building, having a square tower at the west end. It was much orna=

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mented and new pewed some years ago, by Mr. Hooper's legacy before-mentioned.

There are many monuments in the different parts of it for the owners of estates and principal inhabitants of this parish, most of whom are mentioned before in the descriptions of their seats and estates, as having been buried in it, but much too numerous to be repeated here; in the church-yard there are many altar tombs of them likewise.

At the south-east corner is a handsome tomb of white marble, with a well carved urn standing on it, erected to the memory of the celebrated Anne Elliot, the actress, a native of this parish, whose remains are deposited in the vault underneath it. She was the daughter of Richard and Mary Elliot, and died in 1769, æt. 26. The following elegant verses are on the north side of it.

Of matchless form, adorn'd with wit refin'd,
A feeling heart, and an enlighten'd mind;
Of softest manners, beauty's rarest bloom,
Here ELLIOT lies and moulders in her tomb.
Oh blest with genius! early snatch'd away;
The muse that joyful mark'd thy op'ning ray,
Now, sad reverse! attends thy mournful bier,
And o'er thy relics sheds the gushing tear.
Here Fancy off' the hallow'd mould shall tread,
Recall THEE living, and lament THEE dead:
Here Friendship off' shall sigh till life be o'er;
And Death shall bid thy image charm no more.

Gilbert de Clare, earl of Hertford, is said to have given this church to the monks of Lewes, in Sussex; however that be, on his death without issue in 1151, his brother and heir Roger de Clare, earl of Hertford, resumed the property of it, giving the monks the church of Blechingley in exchange for it, and in the next reign of king Henry II. by his charter, gave to the brethren of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem,

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the church of Tunbridge, with the chapel and appurtenances belonging to it, to the use of the poor of that hospital, in pure and perpetual alms. And by another grant, he gave and confirmed to them the advowson of this church, and the right which he had in it. Pope Clement IV. anno 1267, granted licence to the prior and brethren of the hospital to take possession of this church as an appropriation on the first vacancy of it, provided, that a fit portion from the income of it was assigned to a perpetual vicar serving in it, for his maintenance and the support of the burthens of the church, and they were that year admitted into possession of it.

In the 52d year of king Henry III. it was affirmed that the bishop received an annual pension of three marcs from the parish church of Tunbridge towards

the revenues of his table. In the 7th year of king Edward II. it was certified to the king's treasurer, in obedience to the king's writ, that the prior of the hospital possessed the appropriation of this church, with the chapels of Schiburne and St. Thomas Martyr of Capel, worth yearly ninety marcs. In the 24th year of king Henry VII. it appears, the bishop received from the vicarage of this church an annual pension of forty shillings. In the 18th year of king Henry VIII. the prior, and the brethren of the hospital demised to Richard Fane, gent. of Tudeley, their parsonage of Tunbridge, with all its appurtenances, excepting the advowson, and the woods and underwoods, at the yearly rent of fourteen pounds./y

In which state the church continued at the dissolution of the hospital in the 32d year of Henry VIII. when this order was suppressed by an act specially passed for the purpose, and all their lands and revenues were given by it to the king, and the fee of it continued in the crown till king Edward VI. in his first

/y Reg. Roff. p. 126, 128, 142, 675.

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year, granted both the rectory and advowson to Sir Ralph Fane, and lady Elizabeth Fane his wife, to hold in capite by knights service./z

On Sir Ralph Fane's death, lady Elizabeth Fane, his widow, became possessed of them, and in the 2d and 3d year of Philip and Mary, alienated the rectory, with its appurtenances, to Henry Stubberfield, yeoman, of Tunbridge, who sold it to Alexander Culpeper, by the description of the rectory of Tunbridge, with its appurtenances, and all messuages, lands, tenements, tithes, &c. in the parish of Tunbridge, in the wards of Tunbridge, Southborough, and Brombridg, and in the great park of South-frith, and in the park and lands inclosed, called North fryth, the Postern, and the Cage, parcel of the rectory.

He passed it away by sale in the 7th year of queen Elizabeth, to William Denton, esq. descended from Cumberland, whose eldest son Sir Anthony, possessed it at his death, in the 25th year of that reign, it being then held in capite by knights service. He was one of the gentlemen of the band of pensioners, as well to that queen as to king James I. and dying in 1615, s. p. was buried in this church, where his monument still remains, with the figures at large of himself and Elizabeth his wife, both reclining on cushions, the former in armour, and the latter in the dress of that time. She afterwards married Sir Paul Dewes, of Suffolk. On his death it descended to his nephew, William Denton, esq. and his three brothers, Anthony, Walter, and Arthur, sons of Sir Alexander Denton, by Anne, grand daughter of lord Windsor, who sold this parsonage, in different parcels, at times, to several persons; to some in districts, or tithe-wards, and to others as to their own lands only, which accounts for the several lands in this parish which are now, and

/z Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 6. Rolls of Particulars Augtn. off. box F. 8.

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have from that time, been exempt from the payment of the rectorial tithes.

At present, this parsonage consists of the tithe-wards of Haisden and Little Barden, formerly the property of John Petley, esq. of Oldbery-hill, in Ightham, who probably purchased them of the Denton's. He lived in the reign of king Charles I. and at his death devised them to Gilbert Wood, gent. of Market-cross, in Sussex, who had married Elizabeth his daughter. Their son, J. Wood, of Tunbridge, left issue an only daughter and heir Elizabeth, who married John Hooker, esq. of Tunbridge, father of Thomas Hooker, esq. of Tunbridge, the late possessor of them.

Hilden, by Matthew Smith, esq.
Postern, by Mr. James Eldridge;
Town, by Sir John Honywood, bart.
Barn Mill, by Henry Goodwin, esq. and
Southborough, by Mr. Broadhurst.

But the advowson of the vicarage of this church continued in the family of Fane, or as they afterwards wrote themselves, Vane, seated at Hadlow-place, in the adjoining parish of that name, in which it continued down to William, viscount Vane, who dying s. p. in 1789, gave this advowson, among the rest of his estates in this county, to David Papillon, esq. of Acrise, the present owner of it./a

The vicarage of Tunbridge is valued in the king's books at twenty pounds three shillings and four pence, and the yearly tenths at two pounds and four-pence.

/a See Hadlow and Shipborne, vol. v. p. 47.

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CHURCH OF TUNBRIDGE.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Prior and convent of Tunbridge William de Ver, in the reign of
king Henry II. the last rector, resigned./b

VICARS.

Sir Thomas, anno 1393./c

Family of Vane. Edw. Ashburnham, A. M. 1630,
sequestered 1642./d

John Stileman, A. M. 1649, ob.
1685./e

Richard Higgins, obt. Sept. 30,
1705.

John Tristam, obt. Oct. 29,
1712.

William Davis, instit. 1712,
obt. Jan. 29, 1747./f

Henry Hemington, 1748, resig.
1756.

Henry Harpur, A. M. 1756,
obt. Oct. 1790.

David Papillon, esq. J. R. Papillon, A. M. present
vicar.

/b Reg. Roff. p. 666.

/c Ibid. p. 468.

/d Coll. Bar. vol. iii. p. 285. Wal=ker's Sufferings of the Clergy, pt. ii. p. 183.

/e Kennet's Chron.

/f He was also curate of Shipborne, and lies buried in this church.

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THE HUNDRED OF WACHLINGSTONE.

THE hundred of Wachlingstone encompasses the lowly of Tunbridge on the east, west, and south sides of it. It is written in the survey of Domesday, Warchelestan.

The king and the archbishop of Canterbury were lords of this hundred in the beginning of king Ed=

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ward II's reign. How the latter came to be divested of his property in it, I have not found; but in the 15th year of that reign, the king was possessed of the intire fee of it, for he then granted it, by the consent of parliament, among other estates of greater value, to Edmund, of Woodstock, his half-brother, whom he at the same time made earl of Kent, and he died possessed of it in the 4th year of king Edward III.

After which it passed in like manner as the hundred of Littlefield, described before, till on the attain of Henry, lord Cobham, in the first year of James I. they became forfeited to the crown, and were confirmed to it by an act passed specially for that purpose, two years afterwards; since which, these hundreds have continued among the possessions of the crown, where they remain at present.

THIS HUNDRED CONTAINS THE PARISHES OF

1. TUDELEY in part;
2. PEMBURY in part;
3. BIDBOROUGH; and
4. ASHURST;

And the churches of those parishes; and also part of the parishes of CAPEL, PENSHURST, LYGHE, SPELDHURST, and so much of FANT as lies within this county, the churches of which parishes are not within this hundred.

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TUDELEY

LIES the adjoining parish eastward from Tunbridge. It is called in Domesday, TIVELELE, and in the Textus Roffensis, THUDELEI.

It is a very obscure and unfrequented place, lying between the parishes of Tunbridge and Capel. The situation and soil is much the same as the latter, lying low, the soil a moist stiff clay, with abundance of large spreading oaks throughout it in the hedge rows, which are broad and thick, the village with the church is near the western boundary of it; at some distance southward is the hamlet of Crookhurst, be=

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yond which this parish stretches along the southern

boundary of Capel, where it is crossed by two small rivulets which flow from hence into the Medway, to the edge of this hundred, where the manor and house of Badsell is situated in a very wet and unpleasant country.

THIS PLACE was part of those vast possessions, with which William the Conqueror enriched his half-brother Odo, the great bishop of Baieux, and earl of Kent, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the survey of Domesday:

In Wachelestan hundred Richard de Tonebridge holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Tivedele. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is one carucate, and there is . . . in demesne, and a church, and wood for the panage of two hogs. It is and was worth fifteen shillings. Eddeva held it of the king.

The survey of Domesday was taken about the year 1080; four years after which, the bishop of Baieux's possessions were, on his disgrace, seized on by the king.

BADSELL is the principal manor in this parish, lying at the south-east end of it, which formerly gave both residence and surname to a family, who were some time possessors of it. At length, by a daughter and coheir, Marian Badsell, it was carried in marriage to Thomas Stidulf, from whom the family of that name in Surry were descended; he resided at Badsell, and was only son and heir of Robert, and heir likewise of his uncle Henry Stidulf. He died anno 36 Henry VI. and lies buried with his wife in this church. They left an only daughter and heir Agnes, who carried this manor in marriage to Richard Fane, esq. of Tudeley, who died possessed of it in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. and was buried in the chapel of this church, which he himself had caused to be made. His son, George Fane, esq. resided at Badsell, as did his son, Sir Thomas Fane,

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which last having married lady Mary, daughter and sole heir of Henry Nevill, lord Abergavenny, became possessed of the castle and manor of Mereworth, where afterwards he resided much, as his son, Sir Francis Fane, earl of Westmoreland, did entirely; since which this mansion has been made use of only as a farm house, and in his descendants, earls of Westmoreland, this manor continued to John Fane, earl of Westmoreland, who dying s. p. in 1762, it has now at length by the limitations of his will come, with the rest of his Kentish estates, into the possession of the right hon. Thomas, lord le Despencer, the present owner of it.

There are no parochial charities. The poor relieved yearly are about twenty.

TUDELEY is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Malling.

The church, which is a small building, has been lately rebuilt of brick, having a square tower at the west end, with a small pointed spire on it. It is dedicated to All Saints.

The patronage of this church was, about the year

1239, given by Richard de Theudele, Richard de Sardenne, and Alicia, Agnes, and Cecilia, daughters of John Teudeley, patrons of it, to the prior and canons of Tunbridge; which gift was confirmed by the bishop, who soon afterwards granted licence to them, to appropriate it to their own use, on the death or resignation of John, then rector of it, and in the mean time, that they should receive yearly half a marc from it; but the vicarage was not endowed till the year 1398.

The appropriation of it, together with the advowson of the vicarage, remained with the priory of Tunbridge, till its final dissolution, which happened in the 17th year of king Henry VIII. when being one of those smaller monasteries, which cardinal Wolsey

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had obtained of the king by his letters patent, dated February 8, that year, for the endowment of his colleges, it was surrendered, with all the possessions belonging to it, into the cardinal's hands, and afterwards by the king's letters patent granted to him for the better endowment of his college, called Cardinal's college, in Oxford.^g

But this church staid with the college only four years; when the cardinal being cast in a præmunire in 1529, all the estates of it were forfeited to the king, and became part of the revenue of the crown.

King Edward VI. in his 1st year, granted this parsonage and advowson to Sir Walter Hendley, at the yearly rent of 6s. 3½d. to hold in capite by knights service. He died without male issue, leaving three daughters his coheirs.

On the division of their inheritance, this parsonage and advowson were allotted to the second daughter Helen, who entitled her third husband, Sir Thomas Fane, of Burston, in Hunton, to the possession of them. After which they passed in like manner as Burston to Vere, Thomas and John Fane, three brothers, successively earls of Westmoreland, the last of whom dying s. p. in 1762, they are at length come by the limitations of his will, among the rest of his estates in this county, to the right hon. Thomas, lord le Despencer, the present owner of them.

The parsonage of Tudeley pays a fee-farm rent to the crown of 6s. 3½d. yearly.

The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 4l. 16s. 0½d. and the yearly tenths at 9s. 7¼d.

The vicar of Tudeley is instituted to this vicarage, with the chapel of Capel annexed.

^gDugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 1037. Tan. Mon. præf. p. xxxv. Rym. Fœd. vol. xiv. p. 156.

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CHURCH OF TUDELEY.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Family of Fane. Thomas Tharry, A. M. 1630.

William Walleys, about 1643.^h

Samuel Vanderlure, 1660, obt.

Feb. 21, 1699.ⁱ

..... Lion.

Edward Dering, A. M. 1702,

obt. Dec. 26, 1715./k

Oliver North.

Stephen Cowper, A. B. 1726,

obt. 15, 1750./l

John Hedges, A. M. 1750.

Sir Thomas Stapylton, bart. John Loop, A. B. instit. Dec.

29, 1787.

/h See Walker's Sufferings of the
Clergy, part ii. p. 399. Wood's Ath.
vol. ii. 885.

/i He lies buried in this church,
having been prebendary of Lincoln,
and vicar of this and the adjoining
parish, as his epitaph informs us, near
forty years.

/k Son of Henry Dering, and vicar
of Thurnham. He lies buried in this
church.

/l He lies buried in this church.

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PEMBURY.

LIES the next adjoining parish southward from
Tudeley. It is called in the Textus Roffensis, PEP=
PINGEBERLIA, and in antient deeds, Pepenbery. It
seems always to have been pronounced Pembury, and
is now usually written so.

THE PARISH of Pembury, though of small breadth,
extends the length of four miles from north to south,
that is from Tudeley to the stream at Fant, which se=
parates this county from that of Sussex, the surface
of it consists of various hill and dale. The whole has
a very woody appearance, and the outer parts every
way, excepting towards Tudeley, are greatly covered
with coppice woods and quantities of large spreading
oaks throughout them; the soil consists on the higher
grounds, especially towards the west and south, of

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sand, and much of the rock stone underneath; and
in the valleys mostly of clay, and having plenty of
marle for manure, it produces good corn, and the
land is of course well let. It is watered by several
little streams which rise here, and run either towards
the north into the Medway, opposite to Hadlow, or
southward towards the stream which separates the two
counties, and runs by Beyham-abbey towards Lam=
berhurst. The church stands pretty high and con=
spicuous, the principal village is about a mile south=
ward from it, standing round Pembury Upper, and
Lower Greens, below which there are several smaller
hamlets, built in like manner round the greens. The
high road from Tunbridge towards Lamberhurst and
Sussex, runs through Southfrith woods on the western
side of the parish, and at the thirty-fifth mile stone
crosses it, but at Kipping's cross, so called from its
having been the early residence of that family, it takes
its direction along the eastern bounds of the parish, till
it enters Lamberhurst, in the hundred of Brenchley.
In the southern part of this parish, about a mile further

than the thirty-fifth mile stone of the Tunbridge-road is Bay-hall, pleasantly situated on the southern side of a hill, and just below it the small rivulet, which runs from thence till it joins the larger stream near Beyham abbey. A fair is held in this parish on Whit-Tuesday yearly for cattle, toys, and pedlary.

THE MANORS OF PEPENBURY MAGNA, and PEPENBURY PARVA, alias BOWRIDGE, with the appendant advowson of the church, the land of Crockherst, and other premises, were given by Simon de Wahull to the abbey of Begham, in Sussex; which gift was confirmed by Walter de Wahull, his son and heir, and by Richard de Clare, earl of Gloucester and Hertford. And king Edward III. in his 2d year, granted to the abbot and convent for ever, free warren in all their demesne lands in this parish, among others.

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These manors continued in the possession of this abbey till its final dissolution, in the 17th year of king Henry VIII. when being one of those smaller monasteries, which cardinal Wolsey had obtained of the king, for the endowment of his college, called Cardinal's college, in Oxford, it was surrendered, with all the possessions belonging to it, into the Cardinal's hands.

But that great prelate being cast in a *præmunire*, about four years afterwards, before he had firmly established his college, these manors, among the rest of its revenues, were seized into the king's hands, and became part of the royal revenue of the crown, where they remained till king Henry VIII. in his 25th year, granted them to Sir Edward Guildford, warden of the cinque ports, &c. to hold by fealty only, and his daughter, and at length sole heir Joane, entitled her husband, Sir John Dudley, to the possession of them; they, in the 30th year of that reign, joined in the conveyance of these manors, with their appurtenances, to Sir Thomas Cromwell, lord Cromwell, who next year procured his lands to be disgavelled by the act then passed, and was in the same year created earl of Essex, and quickly afterwards made knight of the garter, and lord high chamberlain of England. But this hasty rise was succeeded by as sudden a ruin; for on the king's displeasure, he was arrested at the council-table, and being afterwards tried and convicted of high treason, he was condemned and executed in the 32d year of that reign. On his attainder these manors came again to the crown, whence they were granted, anno 37 king Henry VIII. with other premises in this parish, to William Wybarne, to hold in capite by knights service. He bore for his arms, Sable,

/m Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 1037. Tan. Mon. præf. p. xxxv. Rym. Fœd. vol. xiv. p. 156.

/n See more of him in vol. iii. of this history, p. 533.

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a fess between three swans argent, and in his descendants these manors continued down to John Wybarne, esq. who left two daughters his coheirs, Anne, married to Robert Berkeley, esq. of Spetchley, in

Worcestershire, and Catherine, to Philip Jones, esq. who in right of their respective wives, on his death, inherited these manors and estates in undivided moieties. Robert Berkeley, esq. above-mentioned, was descended from Sir Robert Berkeley, who was a judge in king Charles I's reign, whose grandson, Robert Berkeley, esq. of Spetchley, married the eldest daughter of Sir Richard Blake, a lady eminent for her exemplary life and conversation. He died in 1693, and his widow, seven years afterwards, married Dr. Burnet, bishop of Salisbury. The pedigree of the Berkeleys, of Spetchley, is inserted in Nash's history of Worcestershire, where there are many curious particulars relating to them. They bore for their arms, Gules, a chevron between ten crosses patee argent; on the chevron within a crescent sable a mullet, or, quartered with the coats of Brotherton, Mowbray, Brewose, Segrave, Fitz-Alan of Clun, Albani, or Arundel, and Warner, as may be seen on their monuments in Spetchley church.

These manors continued afterwards in the situation above-mentioned, and in 1777 an act passed to enable Robert Berkeley and Philip Jones, esqrs. to sell them, among others in this county and Sussex, but nothing was done in consequence of it till about the year 1788, when these manors, with the parsonage and appendant advowson of the church of Pembury were sold by Robert Berkeley and John, son and heir of Philip Jones, then of Lanark, in Monmouthshire, to William Woodgate, esq. of Somerhill, the present owner of them.

/o See Biog. Brit. vol. ii. p. 1041. note K. K.

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HALKWELL, commonly called Hawkwell, is a manor on the eastern side of this parish, which consists at present of two farms called Great and Little Hawkswells, and is held of the superior manor of Tipperidge, in this parish likewise. This estate was once the property and residence of a family of that name; after which, it appears by the register of Begham abbey, to have become part of the possessions of that abbey, with which it remained till its dissolution in the 17th year of king Henry VIII. when it was obtained by cardinal Wolsey, towards the endowment of his college, called Cardinal's college, in Oxford; but on his being cast in a præmunire, about four years afterwards, before he had firmly established his college, this manor, among the rest of his possessions, became forfeited to the crown, from whence it was presently granted to John Wybarne, of Culverdens, in this parish, who had been tenant to the abbey for this manor before the suppression of it, being descended of a family seated near Crofton, in Orpington, about the end of king Henry III.'s reign, whence they removed to Culverdens, some generations before the reign of king Henry VIII. and it continued for several generations in his descendants, being the mansion in which they resided so long as they remained in this county, until it devolved, in like manner as the manors of Pembury above-described, to Robert Berkeley and John Jones, esqrs. by whom it

was conveyed about the year 1786 to Pollard, since which it has become the property of James Lewin, esq. the present owner of it.

THE MANOR OF BAYHALL, which lies in the southern part of this parish, was part of the antient possessions of the eminent family of Colepeper, whose demesnes spread over the whole face of this county, but more especially the western parts of it.

The two principal branches of it were seated at this manor of Bayhall, and at Aylesford, from the

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latter descended those of Oxenhoath, and of Preston, in Aylesford, barts. both now extinct; and from the former, those of Bedgbury, which terminated in the lords Colepeper, of Leeds castle; those of Losenham, in Newenden, afterwards of Hollingborne, the heir male of which branch is John Spencer Colepeper, esq. late of the Charter-house, and those of Wakehurst, in Sussex, barts. now extinct.

The first of the family of Colepeper, eminent on record, is Thomas de Colepeper, who, as appears by the bundles in the pipe-office, was one of the *recognitores magnæ assisæ*, or justices of the great assise, in the reign of king John, an office of no small trust and consequence, before the establishment of conservators of the peace.

His descendant, Sir Thomas Colepeper, was possessed of the manor of Bayhall, where he resided, and seems to have left two sons; Thomas, of whom hereafter; and Walter, who was ancestor of the Colepepers, of Oxenhoath, and of Preston, in Aylesford, baronets./p

Sir Thomas Colepeper, the eldest son, inherited Bayhall, and was castellan of Leeds castle under the lord Badlesmere, in the reign of king Edward II. in the 15th year of which he was executed, for refusing queen Isabel entrance into his castle, upon which this manor became forfeited to the crown, whence it was soon afterwards restored to his son, but whether by that prince's indulgence, or by any family entail, I do not find.

John Colepeper, esq. the son, kept his shrievalty at Bayhall in the 39th, 40th, and 43d years of king Edward III. and married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Sir John Hardreshull, of Hardreshull, in Warwickshire, by whom he had a son, Sir Thomas

/p See Lamb. Per. p. 601, and Aylesford, vol. iv. p. 436.

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Colepeper, who succeeded him in this manor, and resided at Bayhall. He was sheriff in the 17th and 18th years of king Richard II. from whom he procured licence to inclose fifty acres of land into a park at Pembury.

He left by Alianor his wife, daughter and coheir of Nicholas Green, esq. of Exton, in Rutlandshire, three sons; Sir Thomas Colepeper, Walter Colepeper, of Goudhurst, ancestor of the branches of this family settled afterwards at Bedgbury, Losenham, Leeds, Hollingborne, and Wakehurst, and Nicholas, who ended in a daughter, married to Walter Lewknor, esq. and

also a daughter Alianore, married to Sir Reginald Cobham, of Sterborough. Sir Thomas Colepeper, the eldest son, who was of Exton, in Rutlandshire, /q seems to have alienated this manor in the reign of king Henry VI. to Humphry Stafford, duke of Buckingham, whose grandson Henry, duke of Buckingham, became one of the chief confidants of Richard, duke of Gloucester, afterwards king Richard III. and the principal agent in advancing him to the throne, but being attainted in the 1st year of that reign, his possessions became forfeited to the crown, and the king made a grant of this manor, to the value of one hundred shillings, to John Water, alias Yorke Heralde; but on the accession of the earl of Richmond to the crown soon afterwards, by the title of king Henry VII. an act passing for the restitution of Edward, son and heir of Henry, duke of Buckingham, he became entitled to the inheritance of all the estates of the late duke, his father, and he had accordingly possession granted him of this manor among the rest of them, but this duke being likewise accused and found guilty of high treason in the 13th year of king Henry the VIIIth's reign, an act passed for his attainder, and though another passed likewise for the restitution in blood of

/q Called Jehn by Dugale, in his Baronage, vol. ii, p. 416.

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Henry, his eldest son, yet it did not extend to his honors and lands, which remained forfeited to the crown, where the fee of this manor remained till Edward VI. in his 1st year, granted it to William Parr, marquis of Northampton, who that year conveyed it to Sir Anthony Browne, knight of the garter, who had been master of the horse to king Henry VIII. and of his privy council; and he, in the very beginning of the next year, alienated it to William Wybarne, one of whose descendants sold it, in the 7th year of James I. to Robert Sackville, earl of Dorset, who died possessed of it within a few months after his purchase. His eldest surviving son Richard, earl of Dorset, alienated this manor, with the seat belonging to it, to Richard Amherst, esq. serjeant-at-law, who afterwards resided at Bayhall. He was the son of Richard Amherst, esq. who left three sons; Richard, serjeant-at-law, as above-mentioned; Jeffry, rector of Horsmonden, ancestor of that branch of the family settled at Riverhead, in Sevenoke, and William, who left an only daughter. This family of Amherst bear for their arms, Gules, three tilting-spears, two and one, erected in pale, or, headed argent; which coat was confirmed to Richard Amberst, esq. by William Camden, clarencieux, in 1607. /r Sergeant Amherst died possessed of this estate in 1632.

His grandson, Charles Amherst, esq. was of Bayhall likewise, and died s. p. in 1709, and by his will devised this manor and seat, together with all his other lands and possessions, to his nephew and heir-at-law, Charles Selby, esq. son of Sir Henry Selby, serjeant-at-law, and recorder of London, (the second son of George Selby, esq. of Ightham) by Elizabeth his eldest sister, at the same time enjoining him to take on him the surname and arms of Amherst.

/r Harl. MSS. No. 1084-12. See more of this family under Riverhead, vol. iii. p. 93.

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Charles Selby Amherst, esq. accordingly inhabited Bayhall, where he resided, but dying s. p. he by his will gave this manor and seat of Bayhall, with the rest of his estates, to his nephew Charles Browne, esq. counsellor-at-law, son of Dorothy his sister, by John Browne, esq. of Salop. He resided at Bayhall, where he died in 1753, and was buried in this church, leaving no issue by Elizabeth Mittel his wife, who survived him, and afterwards resided here, where she died in 1790, soon after which this estate was sold to Thomas Streatfield, esq. the present possessor of it.

A court leet and court baron is holden for this manor.

DENCROUCH, HIGHLANDS, and PRIGLES, are three small manors in this parish, which formerly belonged to the Cistercian abbey of Robertsbridge, in Sussex, with which they remained till the final dissolution of it, when that abbey was surrendered into the king's hands, with all its lands and possessions; all which were confirmed to the king and his heirs by the general words of the act, passed in the 31st year of his reign, for that purpose.

Soon after which, the king granted them to George Guldeford, esq. (son of Sir Richard, knight banneret, and of the garter) who quickly after conveyed them by sale to Sir Alexander Colepeper, of Bedgbury, who had a confirmation of them from the crown, about the 35th year of that reign. His great-grandson, Sir Anthony Colepeper, of Bedgbury, alienated these manors in the beginning of king James I.'s reign, to Nicholas Miller, esq. of Horsnells-crouch, in Wrotham, when they passed from his descendants I have not found, only that they afterwards went into the possession of Pollard, and in 1766 they were the property of Elizabeth Pollard, widow, since which they have come into the possession of James Lewin, esq. who now owns them.

TIPPERIDGE is a manor in this parish, which has been many years in the possession of the family of Ne-

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vill, lords Abergavenny, the present proprietor being the right hon. Henry Nevill, earl of Abergavenny.

CHARITIES.

CHARLES AMHERST, esq. of Bayhall, by will in 1702, directed that the several persons to whom he had devised the manor of Bayhall, with its appurtenances successively, under the limitations therein expressed, should build an alms house, for six old, blind, or impotent persons of this parish, within one year after his death, and the death of his sisters, dame Elizabeth Selby, and Mrs. Dorothy Amherst, and should allow each of them twenty shillings a month for ever. The said persons to be appointed from time to time by those to whom that manor, with its appurtenances, should remain, after the house should be built.

The poor who receive constant relief yearly from this parish are about twenty-five.

PEMBURY is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURIS-

DICTION of the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Malling.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter, has a spire steeple at the west end. It was built by one of the family of Colepeper, patrons of it, and most probably by John Colepeper, esq. in the reign of king Edward III. for on the three buttresses on the south side of the chancel, there remain three shields of coat armour, each carved on an entire stone of about two feet and an half in depth, and the breadth equal with that of the buttress, which shews them to be coeval with that of the building itself. On the first is a rectangular cross; the second is the coat armour of Har-dreshull, A chevron between eight martlets, viz. five and three, the above-mentioned John Colepeper having married the coheir of that family; the third is that of Colepeper, a bend engrailed. On a very antient stone on the pavement of the chancel, is an antient inscription in old French, for Margaret, the daughter of Sir Thomas Colepeper, which seems as early as the above mentioned reign. There are several monuments and memorials in it of the family of Amherst and their re-

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latives; an inscription and figure in brass for Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Rowe, esq. of Hawkwell, anno 1607; a tomb for George Bolney, esq. who married a Wybarne; and in the porch are two antient stones with crosses on them.

The advowson of the church of Pembury was given with it, by Simon de Wahull, to the abbey of Begham, in Sussex, in pure and perpetual alms, as has been already mentioned.

Pope Gregory IX. anno 1239, granted licence to the abbot and convent to hold this church, then of their patronage, and not of greater value than ten marks, as an appropriation upon the first vacancy of it, reserving, a competent portion for a vicar out of the profits of it. Notwithstanding which, it was not appropriated till the year 1278, when Richard Oliver, the rector, resigned it into the hands of John de Bradfield, bishop of Rochester, who granted his letters mandatory, for the induction of the abbot and convent into the corporal possession of the church, with its appurtenances, according to the tenor of the above-mentioned bull./s

The parsonage of the church of Pembury, with the advowson of the vicarage appendant to the manor, continued with the abbey of Begham till the dissolution of it in the 17th year of king Henry VIII. when it was surrendered into the king's hands, after which it passed in the same tract of ownership as the manor of Pembury, and appendant to it, till it became the property of William Woodgate, esq. lord of that manor, and the present patron of it.

It is a discharged living, of the clear yearly certified value of 46l. 10s. the yearly tenths of which are 12s. 8d.

/s Reg. Roff. p. 517. Where see the confirmations of this church to the abbey.

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Charles Amherst, esq. of Bayhall, by his will in 1702, gave as an augmentation to this vicarage, the sum of ten pounds to be paid yearly by such persons to whom the manor of Bayhall, with its appurtenances, should come and remain after his death.

In 1733 the Rev. George May, vicar, augmented it with the sum of 100l. 17s. 6d. to entitle it to the benefit of queen Anne's bounty.

There is an annual pension of forty shillings paid out of the parsonage to the vicar, which was settled on him and his successors, at the time of the appropriation of this church. The tithes of corn and grain of which this parsonage consists are now worth about one hundred and twenty pounds per annum.

The vicarage is now worth about one hundred and fifty pounds per annum.

KING EDWARD III. in his 28th year, in consideration of twenty marcs paid to him by John Colepeper, of Bayhall, granted licence to him to found a perpetual chantry for a chaplain to celebrate daily for his soul, and those of his ancestors in the chapel of St. Mary, in the cemetery of this church, and to endow it with lands and rents in this and the adjoining parishes; and in his 38th year, in consideration of one hundred shillings paid to him by the prior and convent of Rochester, he granted licence for them to assign an annual rent charge of ten marcs out of their manor of Woldeham, to the before-mentioned chaplain.

This chantry remained till the general suppression of such foundations, by the act of the 1st year of king Edward VI at which time it appeared by the survey then taken of it, that the total revenues of it were 11l. 15s. 4³/₄d. per annum. Soon after which the building itself was pulled down, and the materials sold, and the lands belonging to it were granted in parcels to different persons. The chapel was situated in the church-yard, without the church, being covered with lead, and was in length thirty feet, and in breadth

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eighteen feet. In 1553, there remained a pension of 6l. 13s. 4d. in charge to Richard Hill, the last incumbent of this chantry./t

CHURCH OF PEMBURY.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Abbot and convent of Begham. Richard Oliver, last rector, resigned 1278./u

VICARS.

Lords of the manor of Pembury Charles Hutchinson, in 1630.
James Plate, sequestered about
1640.

..... Barrisford.

..... Woodward, 1702.

George May, A. M. instit. May
4, 1731, obt. Dec. 1738.

..... Elcock, instit. Dec. 29,
1738, obt. 1752.

John Whitaker, A. M. 1752,
the present vicar.

/t Willis's Mitred Abbeyes, vol. ii.
p. 104.
/u Reg. Roff. p. 516.

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BIDBOROUGH.

LIES westward from Pembury, and the adjoining parish to Tunbridge southward.

THIS PARISH is situated both pleasant and healthy, it is but of small extent, and is incircled on three sides by the parish of Tunbridge, and on the fourth by Speldhurst; it lies mostly on high ground, the soil is in the higher parts a sand covering the quarry rock stone. The low lands extend westward along the stream by Barden furnace to Pound's bridge, which separates this parish from that of Tunbridge, and here the soil is of clay and very wet, but the whole of it is rather an unfertile soil. The high road from Tun=

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bridge town towards the Wells, runs along the eastern side of this parish, close to the west side of which is the seat and grounds of Bounds, the residence of the countess dowager of Darnley; adjoining is the hamlet of Southborough, which is within the parish of Tunbridge.

IN THE REIGN of king Edward I. George le Chaun was in possession of this place; w but before the 20th year of king Edward III. the property of it seems to have been divided, for that year, on the levying the aid of forty shillings, on every knight's fee, for making the black prince a knight, Thomas Chaune, the prior of Tunbridge, and John Bounde, junior, paid aid for it as one knight's fee, which George le Chaun before held in Bitberg, la Leigh, Ealding, and Bokingfold, of the earl of Gloucester.

The manor of Bidborough continued in the name of Chaun till the reign of king Edward IV. when, together with an antient seat in this parish, now called BOUNDS, (though formerly, as appears by the antient deeds of it, Boons tenement, perhaps a contraction from the name of Bohun, a family who might have been the early owners of it) it passed into that of Palmer, one of which, Thomas Palmer, died possessed of them in the 23d year of king Henry VII. holding them of the duke of Buckingham by knights service. John Palmer was his son and heir, who in the beginning of king Henry VIII.'s reign alienated them to the family of Fane, alias Vane, one of whom, Sir Ralph Fane, knight banneret, in the 6th year of king Edward VI. espousing too zealously the interest of the duke of Somerset, was found guilty of high treason, and executed on Tower-hill. On his attainder, this manor and seat became vested in the crown, where they remained till queen Elizabeth, by letters patent in her first year, granted them to her kinsman Henry Carey, lord

/w Book of Knights Fees in the Exchequer.

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Hunsdon, who at his death in the 38th year of that reign, devised them by his will to his eldest son and successor, George, lord Hunsdon, who died in 1603,

leaving an only daughter and heir Elizabeth, married to Sir Thomas Berkeley, K. B. eldest son and heir of Henry, lord Berkeley, who in her right became possessed of this manor and seat, which he soon afterwards alienated to Sir Thomas Smith, second son of Customer Smith, of Westenhanger, in this county, /x who bore for his arms, Azure, a chevron ingrailed between three lions passant, guardant, or. He afterwards resided at Sutton at Hone, where he died, and was buried in 1625; his grandson Robert Smythe, esq. resided at Bounds, but his son Robert Smythe, esq. removed to Sutton, and died in 1695, possessed of this manor and seat, leaving Katherine his wife surviving, and two sons, Henry and William, to whom this manor and seat of Bounds descended as heirs in gavelkind.

In the 10th year of king William III. an act was obtained to vest this manor and seat, and all other their estates in this parish, among others in this county, in trustees, to discharge incumbrances, for sale, but the other estates elsewhere being found sufficient to discharge those incumbrances, this manor, with Bounds, and all their other estates in Bidborough, still continued unalienated. On the death of William Smythe, the second son above-mentioned unmarried, Henry Smythe, esq. possessed the whole fee of this manor and seat, and resided at Bounds. He died in 1706, and was buried in Sutton church, leaving by Elizabeth his wife, only daughter of Dr. John Lloyd, canon of Windsor, (afterwards married to William Hunt, esq.) an only son and heir, Sir Sydney Stafford Smythe, late chief baron of the exchequer, and of the privy council, who married Sarah, eldest daughter of Sir Charles Farnaby, bart. of Kepington, and died s. p. in 1778,

/x See more of him under Sutton, vol. ii. p. 349,

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as did his widow, the lady Sarah Smythe in 1790, and by her will devised this estate, among others, in trust, to be sold for the benefit of her nephews and nieces, which it accordingly was soon afterwards to the right hon. John, earl of Darnley, in whom the fee of it is now vested, but his mother the countess dowager of Darnley now resides at Bounds.

A court baron is held for this manor.

CHARITIES.

SIR THOMAS SMITH, who died in 1725, gave by will certain tenements in London, charged with the yearly payment of 5l. 10s. to this parish, to be disposed of 5l. 4s. for six four-penny loaves weekly to six poor persons of this parish, and the remaining 6s. to be disposed of, 2s. to each church-warden, and 2s. to the clerk. The same estate is likewise charged by him with the payment of 6l. yearly for providing a piece of cloth of 20s. value for the cloathing of six poor persons; an additional two-penny loaf is likewise given yearly by the same charity to each of the said six poor persons, vested in the Skinners company, in London, and now of the annual produce of 11l. 10s./y

BIDBOROUGH is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling.

The church is dedicated to St. Laurence, there are

no memorials in it. It is a rectory, and was always esteemed as an appendage to the manor, till lady Smythe gave it by will in 1790 to the Rev. Mr. Venn, who is the present patron of it.

It is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of forty pounds, the yearly tenths of which are 10s. 5¹/₄d.

This rectory has been augmented by queen Anne's bounty, with which some adjoining land has been purchased, which now makes a very considerable addition to the glebe.

The present rector, Mr. Brock, has new built the parsonage house near the church, in a handsome style, after a design of Mr. Wyatt's.

/y Strype's Stow's Survey, book v. p. 61.

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CHURCH OF BIDBOROUGH.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Lords of the manor of Bidborough, Hugo Wilcox, A. M. in 1630.

Nath. Bounds. obt. 1716.

Richard Davis, obt. Dec. 1731.

Edmund Latter, A. M. Jan. 5,

1731, obt. May 11, 1788./z

John Brock, A. M. 1788, the

present rector./a

/z In 1737 he had a dispensation for holding the rectory of Burstow, in Surry, with this of Bidborough.

/a And vicar of Great Stukeley, in Huntingdonshire.

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ASHURST.

LIES southwestward from Bidborough on the confines of this county next Sussex, from which it is separated both on the south and west sides by a small stream.

This place is written in the Textus Roffensis, AIS=CHERST. It took its name from the Saxon word, æsces, ash trees, and the British hyrst, i. e. the wood of ashes.

ASHURST lies at the southern boundaries of this county, a stream of the Medway separating it from Sussex, and bounding the western and southern sides of this parish. It is in the hundred of Wachlingstone, which here joins the rest of it by a narrow slip running eastward by Tophill and Mitchel's farms, towards Rusthall common and Bishopsdown in Speldhurst. The northern part of it joins both to Penshurst and Speldhurst, in the hundred of Somerden, a part of which joins the western part of this parish, separated from the rest of that hundred, and containing the hamlet of Groombridge, in Speldhurst. This parish consists of hill and dale, the western part is woody, the soil a stiff clay, wet and miry, and rather unfertile. The church is situated on the west side of the parish, about a quar-

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ter of a mile from the river, which here separating, forms a small island, on each side of which there is a bridge, over which the road leads into Sussex; there

is no village, the houses being interspersed at different spots throughout it. In this parish is a seat and estate, called Ashurst-place, formerly admiral Forbes's, now the property and residence of Peter Lefevre, esq./b

THE MANOR OF ASHURST, with the manor of Buckland appendant, was part of those lands assigned to Jeffry de Peverel, for his assistance in the defence of Dover-castle, and with other lands made up the barony of Peverel, as it was then called, being held of that castle in capite by barony.

Nicholas de Gerund afterwards held this manor, and its appendage of Buckland, and the advowson of the church of Ashurst, of the king in capite, and died possessed of them in the 52d year of king Henry III. His descendant, Richard Gerund, in the reign of king Edward III. leaving an only daughter Maud; she carried them in marriage to Sir Henry de Chalfhant, who bore for his arms, three bends ermine, and he died possessed of them in the 45th year of it, anno 1370, holding them in capite, and performing ward to the castle of Dover.

They continued in his descendants till Henry V.'s reign, when by the heir general of this family they came to Robert le Hadde, who was afterwards of Frinsted, in this county;/c his descendant, Rob. Hadde, esq. of Frinsted, in the beginning of the reign of king Henry VIII. conveyed this estate to William Waller, esq. of Groombridge, who died in the 18th year of that reign, and it continued in his descendants till Sir Thomas Waller, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, alienated it to Thomas Sackville, earl of Dorset,

/b This seat in Additions to vol. iii. p. 559, is by mistake mentioned as in Speldhurst parish.

/c Philipott, p. 57. Vistn. co. Kent, 1619, pedigree of Hadde. See more of this family under Frinsted.

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and lord treasurer of England, who died possessed of it in 1608. His grandson, Richard, earl of Dorset, conveyed the manor of Ashurst, with its appendages, to Sir George Rivers, of Chafford, whose eldest son, John Rivers, esq. was created a baronet in the 19th year of king James I. two years after which his lands, as well as those of his father, were disgavelled by an act then particularly passed for that purpose. On his father's death he succeeded him in this estate, which continued in his descendants until Sir George Rivers, bart. dying in 1734 without issue male, by his will devised it, with his seat of Chafford, among his other real estates, to his five natural children, but his surviving legitimate daughters, and the heirs of those deceased, filed a bill in chancery to set this devise aside, and after a process at law, and several decrees, the court ordered the estates to be sold in 1743,/d which this of Ashurst, together with Chafford, accordingly was to Mr. William Saxby, gent. of Horsted Cayns, in Sussex, who died possessed of it in 1783, in which it was afterwards sold in pursuance of his will to Robert Burges, esq. of Lyghe, who died in 1794, since which his widow, Mrs. Sarah Burges, re-marrying James Harbroc, esq. he is become in her right the present possessor of this estate.

A court baron is held for this manor, a heriot is paid on the death of a tenant of the best live beast.

There are no parochial charities. The poor relieved yearly are about eleven.

ASHURST is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling.

The church is a low mean building, with a wooden steeple, over the porch are the arms of Sir John Rivers, who gave the dial. There are no memorials in

/d See more of the family of Rivers, and the title of this estate under Chafford, vol. iii. p. 250.

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it. In this church, before the reformation, was a famous rood, or crucifix, which was much resorted to for its supposed miraculous powers.

This rectory is a discharged living, of the clear yearly value, as certified, of thirty-five pounds, the yearly tenths of which are 10s. 5½d.

The church of Ashurst was antiently esteemed as an appendage to the manor, and continued so till the reign of king James I. when Richard, earl of Dorset, alienating the manor, reserved the church to himself; since which it has continued in his descendants, the present patron being his grace, John, duke of Dorset.

CHURCH OF ASHURST.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Lords of the manor of Ashurst. Thomas, about the time of king Edward III.

Theophilus Beck, A. M. obt.

1715./e

Thomas Winterbottom, 1715, obt.

1717./f

..... Penneton, 1721.

Thomas Reves, instit. 1723.

Richard Onley, A. M. 1772, ob.

1780./g

C. Davis, 1788, the present rector.

/e And vicar of Birling.

/f He likewise succeeded Mr. Beck in the vicarage of Birling.

/g In 1772, a dispensation passed for his holding this rectory with Speldhurst.

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THE HUNDRED OF BRENCHLEY AND HORSMONDEN

LIES next southward from that of Wachlingstone, it is not mentioned in the general survey of Domesday. In the 7th year of king Edward I. as well as in the 20th year of king Edward III. it was called the hun-

dred of Brenchesley only. The addition since of the name of Horsemonden, being in fact no more than the name of one of the two half hundreds into which this hundred was then divided.

In the 7th year of king Edward I. the king and the archbishop of Canterbury were lords of this hundred.

IT CONTAINS PART OF THE PARISHES OF

1. BRENCHLEY;
2. LAMBERHURST, and
3. HORSEMONDEN;

And the churches of those parishes.

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BRENCHLEY

WRITTEN in old deeds BRANCHESLE, and in the Textus Roffensis, BTÆNCESLE, lies the next parish eastward from Pembury. The village of it is, almost all of it, within this hundred, though the hundred of Twyford extends itself over a narrow district of the north-east part of this parish into the town of Brenchley, some of the houses of which on the eastern side are within the jurisdiction of it.

The boroughs of Stoberfield and Roeden, in this parish, are within the manors of East Farleigh and

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East Peckham, of which the lands in them are held in free socage tenure./h

THIS PARISH is of large extent, being upwards of four miles from north to south, and about three in width. It consists of hill and dale, the soil is various, on the hill on which the village stands, it is a sand, intermixed with much of the rock or sand stone, which soil continues mostly over the northern part of it, and towards Horsemonden green, the rest of it is a stiff miry clay in winter, excepting the high road, hardly passable, and in summer has a cakey surface, as hard as iron.

This parish is very woody, especially on the skirts of it, the whole of it has a dreary gloomy aspect, as well from that as from the quantities of large spreading oaks throughout it. The houses, which are mostly old-fashioned timbered buildings, are situated in general round the different small greens or fostals; the bye roads here are broad, and covered on each side with green swerd, and in wet weather, as well as the country round them very deep and miry; the farms are but small, and of moderate rents, and there are several plantations of hop-ground belonging to them.

The village, or town of Brenchley, as it is frequently stiled in antient writings, is situated pleasant enough on a hill, the turnpike road leading through it towards Horsemonden, Goudhurst, and the southern parts of the Weald. The houses in it are mostly large well-timbered buildings, and of antient date; at the south end of it is the church and parsonage; at a small distance eastward is a seat called BROADOAK, which was in queen Elizabeth's reign purchased of several persons, by George Paine, citizen of London, whose heirs in 1698 alienated it to Mr. John Hooker, of West-Peckham, younger brother of Thomas, the grandfather

of Thomas Hooker, esq. late of Tunbridge, his son of
/h Augmentation-office, Parliamentary Surveys.

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the same name, died in 1717, whose third son Stephen at length became possessed of it, and left one son, John Hooker, esq. now of Broadoak, which he rebuilt. He married Mary, daughter of Thomas Cooke, of the county of Salop, by whom he has one son Stephen, and now resides in it.

About a mile westward of the village, among others round Matfield-green, is a modern house belonging to Mr. Bowls Merchant, whose father Thomas Merchant, built it about sixty years ago, and he resides here as his ancestors have done for some generations. At no great distance eastward from Broadoak, at Castle-hill, just at the point of the eminence, stands the remarkable toll of trees, called Brenchley toll, which from their high situation, are a remarkable object for many miles round.

In the adjoining wood there are the remains of a square mote, containing between three and four acres of ground, probably the scite of some manor. This wood, and the farm belonging to it, are the property of Mr. John Monckton, they have now no particular name, but have the reputation of having had a very extensive manor once belonging to them.

There are the remains of another mote or intrenchment in this parish, of great width and depth, undoubtedly inclosing a building of considerable strength; the area of which is, I think, not quite so large as that above-mentioned. There is no name used either to the wood or farm adjoining to it. The family of Daffy, of Rumford, in Essex, were formerly owners of it, and continued so till one of them alienated it to Mr. Thomas Outeridge, the present possessor of it.

THE MANOR OF BRENCHLEY was antiently part of the possessions of the noble family of Clare, the descendants of which were afterwards earls of Gloucester and Hertford, an ample account of whom and their descendants has already been given in the description of the manor and castle of Tunbridge, with which this manor conti=

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nued in like manner down to Edward, duke of Buckingham, who being found guilty of high treason, and beheaded in the 13th year of king Henry the VIIIth's reign, an act passed for his attainder, and another for the restitution of his son Henry in blood, but not to his honors and lands. After which the manor of Brenchley rested in the crown, till the king, in his 31st year, granted it, with other premises in this parish, to Paul Sydnor, esq. whose son William Sydnor, in the 20th year of queen Elizabeth, passed it away by sale to William Lambarde, esq. of Greenwich, the perambulator, who settled it on the alms-house he had founded in that parish, called queen Elizabeth's hospital, with this limitation, that the heirs male of his line should hold it in lease for ever, and in case they failed, the last of them should have power to dispose of his interest in it, by will. By virtue of which reservation, the lease of this manor has passed in direct successions to Multon

Lambard, esq. of Sevenoke, in this county, the present possessor of it.^{/i}

CRIOLS is another manor here, lying about a mile and a half south west from Brenchley village, which in the reign of king Henry III. was in the possession of the eminent family of Criol, in which reign Bertram de Criol held it, as half a knight's fee, of Alicia de Waltham, as she again did of the earl of Gloucester. He resided at Ostenhanger, in this county, which seat he rebuilt, and being much in the king's favor, among other offices of trust, was made sheriff of Kent in the 16th and 26th years of that reign, and had the custody of the castles of Dover and Rochester committed to him. His great grandson, John de Criol, died in the 34th year of king Edward the 1st's reign, leaving Joane his sister his next heir, married to Sir Richard de Rokesle, who in her right inherited this manor. His eldest daughter and coheir Agnes, married Thomas

^{/i} See Sevenoke, vol. iii. p. 89.

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de Poynings, and intitled him to this manor, in whose name and descendants it continued down to Sir Edward Poynings, a man much in favor with king Henry VII. and VIII. being governor of Dover-castle, lord-warden of the cinque ports, and knight of the garter, and he died possessed of it in the 14th year of the latter reign, anno 1522, not only without legitimate issue, but without any collateral kindred, who could make claim to his estates; so that this manor, among others, escheated to the crown, where it seems to have remained till that king, in his 31st year, granted it, with other premises in this parish, to Paul Sydnor, esq. his agent to the court of Spain, who died in the 6th year of king Edward VI. and his son William, who had not possession of it till the 5th year of queen Elizabeth, passed it away in the 20th year of that reign, with the manor of Brenchley as above-mentioned, to William Lambarde, esq. of Greenwich, the perambulator, who settled it on his new-founded alms-house in that parish, called queen Elizabeth's hospital, with the like limitation as that which he had made in respect to the manor of Brenchley. By virtue of which, the lease of this manor has passed in direct succession to Multon Lambard, esq. of Sevenoke, in this county, the present possessor of it.

THE MANOR OF MASCALS, antiently called Marescals, with the two appendant ones of COPGROVE and CHEKESWELL, are situated near the northern boundary of this parish.

The first of them, as appears by antient writings, in the reign of king Edward II. was owned by the family of Colepeper; one of whom, Walter Culpeper, died possessed of it in the last year of that reign, holding in gavelkind, as appears by the inquisition then taken, certain tenements in the parish of Brenchley, called Marescales, of the lord Hugh de Audley, as of his honor of Tunbridge, by the service of paying yearly

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at his larder eight hogs and an half, value fifteen shillings, and that his sons, Thomas, Geoffry, and John,

were his heirs and next of kin.

COPGROVE was in possession of a family of the same name, who afterwards became likewise owners of Chekeswell, which in the preceding reign of Edward I. had been in the possession of the family of Hoese, of whom Henry de Hoese died possessed of it in anno 18 Edward I. leaving Henry his son and heir, who, anno 22 of that reign, was summoned to parliament among the barons of this realm. From one of this family of Copgrove, as is supposed, was descended, though some time afterwards, John Capgrove, the famous friar Eremitic, of St. Augustine, S. T. P. of Oxford, and at length provincial of his order in England. He was probably born at this place, and became provincial of his order, and the most learned man of it. Humphry, duke of Gloucester was his patron, under whose protection he published those works, which shew how great his abilities were, he died at Lynn, in 1484. One of them, John de Copgrove, some time about Edward the 1st.'s reign, sold both these manors to John de Vane, who was likewise become owner of the manor of Marescals, or Mascals, as it was then called; his heir, Robert de Vane, paid respective aid for them all three, in the 20th year of king Edward III. as half a knight's fee, which John de Copgrave held in Brenchesley, at Chekeswell, of the earl of Gloucester. /

These manors continued in the name of Vane, till the latter end of king Henry VI. when one of that family alienated them to Humphry Stafford, duke of Buckingham, from whom they afterwards passed in succession to his great-grandson Edward, duke of Buckingham, who being found guilty of high treason in the reign of king Henry VIII. was beheaded in the 13th

/k Tan. Bib. Brit. p. 152. Stev. Mon. vol. ii. p. 219.

/l Book of Aid. anno 20 Edward III.

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year of it, and an act passed for his attainder, and another soon afterwards for the restitution of his son Henry in blood, but not to his honors and lands.

Soon after the duke's attainder, the manors of Mascalls and Copgrave, for I find no further mention of Chekeswell, were granted to John Lyghe, who died possessed of them in the 15th year of that reign. After which they came into the possession of Sir Edward Ferrers, of Badsley Clinton, in Warwickshire, (son of Sir Henry, by Margaret Hextall, of East Peckham, in this county,) who died in 1535, these manors being then held of the king as of the honor of Warbilton, parcel of the possessions of the late duke of Buckingham attainted, by knights service. His great-grandson, Henry Ferrers, seems to have passed them away by sale in the 16th year of queen Elizabeth's reign to Whetenhall, commonly called Whetnall, of East Peckham, and he sold them about the beginning of king James I's reign to Ouldsworth, who not long after conveyed them to Bartue, and he in the reign of king Charles I. transmitted them by sale to Mr. Charles Tucker, whose son of the same name owned them at the restoration, anno 1660. How they passed afterwards, I do not find; but in the beginning of this century they were in the name of Putland, one of whom,

Mr. George Putland, of Tunbridge, by will devised them to Mr. Thomas Barton, of Sevenoke, his nephew, for life, remainder to Mr. Thomas Barton, his great-nephew, son of Mr. Walter Barton, of Court-lodge, in Hadlow, whose son John is the present owner of these manors.

PARROCKS is a manor, which lies at the northern extremity of this parish, within the hundred of Twyford, and was antiently a manor appendant to that of West Malling, which was given by Gundulph, bishop of Rochester, in the 4th year of William Rufus, to the benedictine nunnery founded there by him about that time.

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This manor remained part of the possessions of the abbey of Malling till the dissolution of it in the 30th year of king Henry VIII. when it was, with all its revenues, surrendered into the king's hands, who that year granted it, with the rest of the possessions of the abbey, in exchange for other premises, to Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury. These estates were again exchanged with the crown in the beginning of the reign of queen Elizabeth, where the fee of the manor of Parlock lay, till king James I. in his 21st year, granted it to John Rayney, esq. which grant was confirmed by king Charles I, in his 2d year, to Sir John Rayney, bart. his eldest son, who was of Wrotham-place, in this county, who, though he had then a grant of the fee of the manor of Parrocks, yet he never gained possession of it till about the time of the death of king Charles I. for it had been leased out by the abbess and convent, for many years to the family of Hextall, of East Peckham; one of whom, William Hextall, dying without male issue, his only daughter and heir Margaret, carried his interest in it in marriage to William Whetenhall, esq. whose descendant, Sir Richard Whetenhall, sold the remainder of his term in it to George Brooke, lord Cobham, who died possessed of it anno 5 and 6 Philip and Mary. His son, Sir William Brooke, lord Cobham, succeeded him in it, and in the 12th year of queen Elizabeth, procured a fresh term in this manor, and then alienated it to Sir Thomas Fane, of Badsell, whose grandson, Mildmay, earl of Westmoreland, afterwards became possessed of it, in whose time the lease expired, about the time of the death of king Charles I. when the fee of this manor came to Sir John Rayney, as above-mentioned. Soon after which it was alienated to Bosville, in which name it continued till Henry Bosville, of Bradborne, in Sevenoke, dying in 1761 unmarried, devised it among the rest of his estates, in tail male, to his kinsman, Sir Richard Betenson, bart. who died s. p. in

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1786, on which it came by the limitations of the same will, to Thomas Lane, esq. of Sevenoke, the present possessor of this manor./m

A court baron is regularly held for it.

IT APPEARS by the escheat rolls, that there was an estate here called MOATLANDS, which was formerly part of the possessions of the eminent family of Pimpe. Reginald Pimpe died in the 16th year of Henry VI. pos=

sessed of a messuage in Brenchley, called Le Moat, with the lands and appurtenances belonging to it. Soon after which it appears to have come into a family, called, from their residence in this parish, Brenchley, one of whom was Sir William Bruchelle, or Brenchley, one of the justices of the common pleas, who died May 20, 1446, without issue, and lies buried with Joane his wife, in the nave of Canterbury cathedral. They bore for their arms, A cross patent engrailed, as may be seen carved on the roof of the cloysters of that cathedral.

John Brenchley, esq. was owner of it in Henry VI.'s reign, and left an only daughter and heir Margaret, who, in the 21st year of it, carried it in marriage to William More, esq. of More-court, in Ivechurch, who was succeeded in it by his son, Walter More, esq. of Benenden, who died in the 19th year of Henry VII. leaving two sons, Thomas, of Benenden; and William, of Bettenham, in Cranbrooke; between whom this estate became divided, the line of separation crossing the Mote and the foundations of the old mansion of it. That part of Moatlands to which the manerial rights were annexed, was allotted to the former, whose son John, about the reign of queen Mary, alienated Moatlands to Thomas Robert, alias Robertes, gent. who lies buried, with his three wives, Elizabeth, Joane, and Agnes, in this church; whose descendants resided here till George Roberts, leaving a son Walter, and a

/m See Bradborne, in Sevenoke, vol. iii. p. 85.

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daughter Margaret, married to Walter Roberts, son and heir of Sir Thomas Roberts, bart. of Glassenbury, she on the death of her brother without surviving issue, entitled her husband to this estate; and from him this estate descended in direct succession to Sir Walter Roberts, bart. of Glassenbury, who died in 1745, leaving one only daughter and surviving heir Jane, who carried this estate in marriage to George, duke of St. Albans, who survived her, and afterwards possessed a life estate in it. He died in 1786, on which it devolved by the dutchess's will, who had the power of disposing of the fee of it to her father's heir male, of the family of Roberts, of Ireland, of whom John Roberts, esq. is the present owner of it.

The other part of Moatlands seems to have been alienated from the descendants of William More, of Bettenham, about the reign of queen Elizabeth, to George Payne, of London, by whose heirs it was sold in 1698, with Broadoak in this parish, as has been already mentioned before, to John Hooker, esq. the present owner of it.

CATT'S-PLACE, with the manor belonging to it, called Catlets, alias Salmon, is likewise situated in this parish, about a mile northward from Brenchley town, but within the hundred of Twyford, being held of the manor of Yalding. The mansion of it was anciently the residence of Hugh de Catt, who implanted his name on it; his descendants continued in the possession of it till the reign of king Henry VI. when it was passed away to Tilden, of Marden, one of whose descendants, after the death of king Charles I. alienated

it to Bassage, in which name it continued till William and James Bassage sold it to James Turvin, esq. of Hertfordshire, whose son of the same name leaving two daughters his coheirs, one of whom marrying Robert Buttery, esq. he is at this time entitled to the possession of it.

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STOCKSHILL AND STUDMORE are two manors here which had antiently owners who assumed their surnames from them, and continued thus distinguished till the time of king Henry VI. and then the latter was likewise by purchase come into the family of Stock. In the reign of king Henry VIII. both these manors were in the possession of Paul Sydnor, who was owner of other principal estates in this parish, and his son, William Sydnor, in the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign, conveyed them by sale to Robert Berney, and he, about the year 1584, alienated them to Robert Byng, esq. who died possessed of Stockshill and Studmerhill manors, in Brenchley and Yalding, in 1595, as appears by the inquisition then taken; after which they continued in his descendants to his great-grandson John Byng, esq. who soon after the restoration alienated both these manors. Since which, after several intermediate owners, they passed into the name of Monckton, in which they still continue, Mr. John Monckton being the present proprietor of them.

CHARITIES.

RICHARD BISHOP gave by will to the poor of this parish, the sum of 10l. the interest of it to be distributed yearly among five poor and impotent parishioners, vested in Mr. Solomon Norris, and now of the annual amount of 10s.

JOHN DOWNER, late of Brenchley, gave by will in 1578, the sum of 2l. per annum, to be paid out of certain lands in this parish, called Pucksted fields, now vested in Mr. Edward Monckton.

GEORGE PAIN, ESQ. formerly of Broadoak, in 1682 gave by will to the poor of this parish the sum of 10l. per annum, to be distributed in such manner as the minister, churchwardens, and substantial inhabitants should think fit, to be paid out of that estate.

CAPTAIN STEPHEN WOODGATE, gave by will in 1672, 1l. 10s. per annum, to be paid out of a messuage and orchard near Broadoak, in this parish, vested in John Hooker, esq.

JOHN PORTER, late of Brenchley, gave by deed in 1763, 3l. per annum, to be paid out of lands in this parish, to be applied towards the teaching of two or more poor children to read, if a school here, and if no school, then 1s. to be given weekly in bread, and 1s. a piece on St. Thomas's day to six

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poor persons, and the other 2s. to be laid out in wine for the trustees, by whom the poor and children should be nominated, vested in John Botten, and now of the above annual amount.

The poor who receive constant relief yearly are in number about eighty, those casually 180.

BRENCHLEY is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Malling.

The church is dedicated to All Saints. In it there

are monuments and inscriptions for the families of Roberts and Courthope, and an inscription for Elizabeth, wife of George Fane, esq. of Tudeley, in 1566.

This church seems antiently to have been esteemed but as a chapel to the adjoining parish church of Yalding; Richard de Clare, earl of Hertford, gave that church, with this chapel, and all its appurtenances, in pure and perpetual alms, to the priory of Tunbridge, lately founded by him there.

After which I find it no longer mentioned as a chapel, but as an independent parochial church. Bishop Henry de Sandford, who came to the see of Rochester in 1227, confirmed the church of Brenchley to the prior and canons before-mentioned, to be possessed by them as an appropriation for ever; saving, a perpetual vicarage for a priest, to be presented to it by them, who should for the time being personally serve in it; and that he should, in the name of a perpetual vicarage, have the whole altarage, and all small tithes, obventions of the altar, and tithes of curtilages, and all the tithes of corn and pulse, and hay of Westroterinden, (now called Witherenden) which was of the fee of the abbess of Malling, and lay between the way which leads from Yalding towards Condingebery and the land of Hamon de la Downe, and extended itself in length from Badeshulle to Matefeld; and that he should have, in the name of a glebe, four acres of land, which lay adjoining to the messuage of Simon de Wahull, towards the north, between the road which

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leads to the house of the parson of Brenchley and the house of Fulk; and that he should have yearly from the barns of the prior and canons of Brenchesle, two seams of oats, and two seams of crowe for his palfry, paying yearly to the prior and canons from the vicarage, two wax tapers of four pounds each; but that the vicar should sustain all episcopal burthens, and all others due and accustomed. As to the two seams of crowe as above-mentioned, in the Latin deed it is, duas Summas de Crowe, the meaning of which, I own, I do not understand, but think it is most probably a mistake of the transcriber. At present the payment is made to the vicar in two seams of oats.

In which state this rectory, with the advowson of the vicarage, and THE MANOR OF BARNES likewise appendant to the rectory of Brenchley, remained till the dissolution of the priory of Tunbridge in the reign of king Henry VIII. who in the 17th year of it, granted that priory, with all its possessions, among which was this church and the manor of Barnes, with the land and appurtenances belonging to them, to cardinal Wolsey, for the better endowment of his college, commonly called Cardinal's college, in Oxford. /o But that great prelate being cast in a præmunire, all the estates of the above-mentioned college, which had not been firmly settled on it, were forfeited, and came into the king's hands, where this rectory, manor, and advowson remained, till the 31st year of that reign, when the king granted them to Paul Sydnor, gent. to hold in capite by knights service. His son, William Sydnor, esq. succeeded to these premises in the 5th year of queen Elizabeth, and not long afterwards alienated

them to William Waller, esq. of Groombridge, who married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Sir Walter Hendley, by whom he had three sons and three daugh=

/o Rym. Fœd. vol. xiv. p. 173. Strype's Eccles. Memoirs, vol. i. Append. No. 28.

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ters. She survived him, and appears to have possessed these premises in Brenchley, and afterwards married George Fane, esq. of Badsell.

Her eldest son, by her first husband Sir Walter Waller, succeeded her here, and his son Sir Thomas Waller, of Groombridge, alienated the manor of Barnes, and the rectory of Brenchley, with the advowson of the vicarage, to John Courthope, esq. afterwards of Brenchley, youngest brother of Sir George Courthope, of Whileigh, in Sussex, who died possessed of them in 1649, in whose family they have continued down to George Courthope, esq. now of Uckfield, in Sussex, the present owner of them.

This family is supposed by some to have been originally seated at Courthope-street, commonly written Court-at-street, near Limne, in this county. One branch of them settled at Goddards green, in Cranbrook, whence descended those of Danny, in Sussex, and of Horsemonden, in this county, both now extinct. Another branch settled at Stodmarsh, near Canterbury, now likewise extinct; and another at Whileigh, in Sussex, the only one now remaining of it, who now reside at Uckfield, in Sussex; of which branch is George Courthope, esq. the present possessor of this rectory, whose father and grandfather, both of the name of George, intermarried into the family of Campion, of Danny, in Sussex. The present Mr. George Courthope, (whose younger brother Henry was vicar of this parish, and died unmarried), married Francis Barbara, daughter of William Campion, esq. of Danny, and has two sons, George; and William now vicar of this parish, and a daughter Frances. They bear for their arms, Argent, a fess between three estoils azure.

The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 12l. 18s. 9d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 5s. 10¹/₂d.

In 1608 there were 664 communicants.

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CHURCH OF BRENCHLEY.

PATRONS, &c.

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

John Ferral, in 1581./p

Edrus Henshall, about 1630./q

John Monkton, obt. 1709.

Josiah Strother, A. M. instit.

May 4, 1709, obt. March 8, 1744.

George Courthope, esq. William Courthope, obt. 1773.

Henry Courthope, A. M. instit.

April 1773, the present vicar.

/p A noted story of him is related in Scott's Discourse on Witchcraft, p. 5.

/q He was afterwards driven out by

the rebels of those times.

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LAMBERHURST.

THE next parish southward from Brenchley is Lamberhurst, which probably takes its name from the soft clay on which it is situated, and the woods with which it so plentifully abounds. Lam, in the Saxon language signifying a soft loam or clay, and hurst a wood; which name of Lamburst by the vulgar corruption of it, and the succession of time, has been long changed into its present one of Lamberhurst.

THE STREAM which rises in Waterdown forest, in Sussex, being one of the principal heads of the Medway, runs through this parish, and separates this county from that of Sussex, in which the larger part of this parish lies. That part on the northern side of the stream, in this county, is about two miles across in extent, the surface of it is a continued hill and dale, the soil near the village is a sand, but the most part of it is a very stiff clay, especially in the large tracts of coppice wood, which extend over by far the greatest part of the parish; in these and the adjoining woods there are several furnaces for melting and manufacturing the iron ore, with

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which they abound, the only one of them in that part of this parish, within this county, is called Lamberhurst, alias Gloucester furnance, being named in honor of the duke of Gloucester, queen Anne's son, who in the year 1698 visited it from Tunbridge-wells. The iron-rails round St. Paul's church-yard, in London, were cast at this furnance. They compose the most magnificent balustrade perhaps in the universe, being of the height of five feet and six inches, in which there are at intervals seven iron gates of beautiful workmanship, which, together with the rails, weigh upwards of two hundred tons; the whole of which amounted to the sum of 11,000*l.* and upwards.

These woods are mostly oak coppice, sometimes, though but rarely, intermixed with hazel, and interspersed with oak trees, which are much sower in them than formerly, owing to the great increase of the price of timber, and the consumption made of them for these furnances.

There are plenty of little springs among them, of a browner colour than is common to ordinary waters, which leave in their passage tinctures of rust. The iron ore is found in great abundance in most parts of these woods, but different in colour, weight, and goodness. That which is not so fit for common use, on account of its being short and brittle when melted, is mingled in due quantity with cinder, being the refuse of the ore after the metal has been extracted from it, which gives in that temper of toughness as makes it fit for use. Great quantities of cannon, as well for the use of government as the merchants, are cast at these furnances, besides backs for stoves, and such like, as well as bars from the best sort of the ore, after having been worked in the forges for that purpose.

The village, or town of Lamberhurst, as it is sometimes called, is situated about forty miles distance from

London, on each side of the stream above-mentioned, over which there is a bridge of three arches, and stands

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partly in Kent, and partly in Sussex. On the western side of the street, within this county, there is a large well-timbered house, which from its appearance seems to have long been a gentleman's house, it was for several generations in the possession of the family of Thomas; one of them, Alexander Thomas, esq. resided here, and died possessed of it in 1657, in whose descendants it continued down to Richard Thomas, who about the year 1740 sold it to Mr. Bridger, of Sussex, and he again alienated it to Mr. John Foster, in which name it still continues. The two principal roads, the one from London through Tunbridge, and the other from Maidstone through Yalding, having joined just above the village, leads through it into Sussex. At a small distance westward from the spot where these roads meet is the antient mansion of the parsonage, and at a like distance on the opposite side, the Court-lodge, situated with the church near it on the rise of a hill.

About a mile westward, close to the southern side of the stream within Sussex, are the ruins, and the seat of Beyham, great part of which are in the parish of Fant, and on the other side of it within Kent, though at a little further distance, the estate of Hoadley, within that part of this parish called Linderidge quarter, in the upper part of which, near the thirty-seventh mile-stone, on the Tunbridge road, is an estate, formerly called from the antient possessors of it, Dunks, but now Old Farm. It was for some generations afterwards owned by a branch of the Hendleys, of Cranbrooke, of these, Thomas Hendley died possessed of it in 1716, leaving several sons, of whom Peter and Alexander lived at Goudhurst, and were clothiers there a few years ago; Walter, an intermediate son, became on his father's death possessed of this estate, and afterwards sold it to Pattenen, who alienated it to Spence, as he did soon afterwards to Gibbs Crawford, esq. of East Grinstead, the present owner of it.

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The part of this parish within Sussex is separated from this county and the parish of Goudhurst by a stream, called the Bewle, across which, over a bridge of the same name, the high road from Lamberhurst passes towards Flimwell, Hawkhurst, and towards Rye in Sussex. About half a mile below Bewle bridge, near the east bank of the stream, is the mansion of Scotney, situated in a deep vale, and so surrounded with woods, as to give it a most gloomy and recluse appearance; it is a handsome stone building, and appears to be only the half of what was first intended to be built. It was moated round, and had, till the late Mr. Darell pulled them down, a strong stone gate-way, with towers, &c. seemingly intended to guard the approach to it. The river, which here divides the two counties, once ran through the centre of the ground plat, on which the house stands; about a mile below Scotney it joins the Beyham stream, with which it flows on to Yalding, where it meets the main stream of the Medway.

There is in this parish a family of the name of

Wimshurst, in old writings spelt Wilmshurst, formerly of considerable property in it, but they have lately alienated it all.

A fair is held in this parish on Old Lady-day yearly, for cattle, &c. the profits of which belong to the owners of the parsonage, and there is another fair held in the village yearly on the 21st of May.

THIS PARISH was antiently part of the possessions of the eminent family of Crevequer, and was a limb of their barony of Leeds in this county; one part of it was held of them by the family of Lenham; one of whom, Nicholas de Lenham, obtained a charter of free warren for his lands here in the reign of king Henry III. they were succeeded by the Chidcrofts, who resided here for some generations, and bore for their arms the same coat as that of the family of Colepeper, viz. a bend engrailed. This was a frequent custom at that time, many using the coat of their superior lord, of

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whom they held in fee, or in whose service they were, and others procured a grant from them of it, but hardly any were borne without some difference to distinguish one from the other. Thus as the earl of Chester bore garbs or wheatsheaves, many gentlemen of that county bore wheatsheaves likewise. The old earls of Warwick bore Chequy, or and azure, a chevron ermine, from which many of that county bore ermine and chequy. In Leicestershire, many bore cinquefoils, in imitation of the antient earls of that county; and in other counties the same. But to return to this county; the Guises bore the arms of Hugo de Burgh, earl of Kent, with a canton for difference. The Hardres's bore the chevron of the family of Clare, with the addition of the lion rampant debruised. The Everings, the Hougham's, the Criols, and others, did the same, with their respective differences. The Shurlands, Rokesleys, and Kirkbys bore the six lions rampant used by Leyborne, of Leyborne. The Peckhams, Parrocks, and St. Nicholas's bore the arms of the Says, quarterly, or and gules, but placed it, for difference, in chief. Nor was this family of Chidcroft the only one in this county, which bore the arms of Colepeper; for the Haldens, of Halden, and a branch of the Malmains, did the like. Tutsham, of Tutsham, bore the like arms to those of Eastangrave, of Eastangrave, in Eatonbridge; Brenley, of Brenley, in Boughton, to those of Ratling, of Ratling, in Nonington; Perforer, of Eastling, to those of Lenham, of Lenham; and lastly, Watringbury, of Watringbury, to those of Savage, of Bobbing. There are many instances of the grants of the coat armour from a lord to his inferior, among others, Humphry, earl of Stafford, in the reign of king Henry VI. granted to Robert Whitgrave the bearing of the chevron gules, in such manner as is expressed in the grant./r

/r See Philipott, p. 210. Camden's Remains, p. 209 et seq.

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But to return; one of this family, Thomas de Chidcroft, died possessed of this estate in the 1st year of king Edward III. The other part, in which the manor was included, was held of the Crevequers, as half a

knight's fee, in the reign of king John, by Nicholas de Kenith, nomine dotis, who gave it to the abbot and convent of Robertsbridge, in Sussex.

Hamo de Crevequer, grandson of Robert, confirmed this gift of the manor of Lambhurst, &c. for which the abbot had paid him thirty-five marcs of silver, of the goods of his church. Soon after the abbot's coming into possession of this manor, there arose great disputes between him and the archbishop concerning it, which were finally settled anno 1266, 51 king Henry III.

In the 21st year of king Edward I. upon a quo warranto, the abbot and convent claimed view of frankpledge, and other liberties, to their manor here, against the king, who laid claim to it. But the abbot producing the king's charter, his claim was allowed before J. de Berewicke and others, justices itinerant, and in the 8th year of king Edward II. the archbishop had a grant for a market and fair in this parish.

In which situation this manor continued till the suppression of the abbey of Robertsbridge, in the reign of king Henry VIII. when the abbey, together with all its possessions, (this manor being then devised by the abbot and convent at the yearly rent of fourteen pounds) came into the king's hands, and was confirmed to him and his heirs, by the general words of the act, passed in the 31st of that reign for this purpose.

After which, the king, by several indentures and letters patent, in his 30th, 32d, and 33d years granted the abbey, with this manor and the rest of its possessions, to Sir William Sydney and Anne his wife, and their heirs male, to hold in capite by knights service,

/s Tanner, p. 559. Harris's History of Kent, p. 173.

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all which he surrendered up. In consideration of which, and a sum of money paid upon a new agreement, the king, in his 33d year, sold to Sir William Sydney and his heirs, the manor of Lamberhurst, together with all lands and possessions belonging to the monastery in Lamberhurst, and elsewhere, the scite of the late abbey, and all other possessions belonging to it, to hold by the suit of one whole knight's fee, and the annual rent of 26l. 12s. 4d. His grandson, Sir Robert Sidney, who was created earl of Leicester, obtained new letters patent of this manor, anno 5 James I. to hold it of the king as of his manor of East Greenwich, in free socage tenure, by fealty only in lieu of all other rents and services, and then alienated it to John Porter, esq. who rebuilt the courtlodge, where he afterwards resided. He was son of Richard Porter, of Begeham, in this parish, descended from Wm. Porter, of Markham, in Nottinghamshire, of whose sons, John, the eldest surviving, succeeded his father at Markham, and was ancestor of the branch settled at Belton, in Lincolnshire; Stephen was ancestor of those of Begeham and Lamberhurst, of whom was John Porter, the purchaser of this manor, and Robert was dean of Lincoln. They bore for their arms, Sable, three bells argent, a canton ermine. John Porter, esq. above-mentioned, in the 3d year of king Charles I. obtained a confirmation of free-warren made to Nicholas de Lenham as above-

mentioned, within all the demesne lands of this manor, not being within the bounds of the king's forests. His two grandsons, John and Richard, dying s. p. his daughter Elizabeth, married Sir John Hanby, of Lincolnshire, became their heir, and he in her right became possessed of this manor, and died without male issue, leaving an only daughter Elizabeth, who carried it in marriage to John Chaplin, esq. of the same county,

/t Augtn. off. Deeds of Purchase and Exchange, box A. 46, C. 7-7. Rot. Esch. ejus an.

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whose grandson, John Chaplin, esq. left three daughters his coheirs, of whom Elizabeth, married to Edward Ayscough, esq. entitled her husband to the possession of it, and then joining with him alienated it to William Morland, esq. who resided at the court-lodge. He was descended from ancestors seated at Morland, in Westmoreland, and bore for his arms, Azure, a griffin rampant, or. He married Ellen, daughter of Sir Thomas Johnson, of Liverpool, by whom he had Thomas Morland, esq. of the court-lodge, which he much improved, and dying in 1784, was brought hither and buried in this church. By Anne, daughter and coheir of William Matson, esq. of Lancashire, he left several children, of whom the eldest son, William Alexander Morland, esq. succeeded him in this manor, and is the present owner of it.

There is a court leet and court baron held regularly for this manor.

HODLEIGH is a reputed manor, situated at the western part of this parish, which antiently belonged to the college of St Peter, at Lingfield, in Surry, which seems to have been suppressed in the reign of king Henry VIII. for that king in his 38th year, granted this manor among other premises belonging to the college, to hold in capite by knights service, to Thomas Cawarden, or Cardan, as he was sometimes called for shortness, /u one of whose descendants, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, passed it away by sale to Edward Filmer, esq. afterwards knighted by that queen, and of East Sutton, in this county, and from him this manor at length descended down to Sir John Filmer, bart. of East Sutton, who died s. p. in 1797, being then the possessor of it.

IN THAT PART of this parish which lies in the county of Sussex, there are two capital places, which though not strictly within the description of this county,

/u Tan. Mon. p. 545. Philipott, p. 209.

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must not be omitted in it. The first of them is BEGEHAM, usually called Bayham abbey, situated about three quarters of a mile distant south-westward from Hodleigh, and close on the opposite side of the stream which separates the two counties. It was founded at a place here called Beaulieu, about the year 1200, by Robert, nephew of Michael de Turnham, for monks of the Præmonstratensian order; some of whom he removed from Brockley, in Deptford, hither for that purpose.

These religious had been first settled at Ottham, in Sussex, by Ralph de Dene; but finding that place in-

convenient for the purpose, they began an establishment at Brockley, where they remained a very small time, before they quitted both those places, and removed hither, with the consent of Ella de Sackville, the daughter of their founder Ralph de Dene, and of Robert de Turnham above-mentioned. For the above purpose Robert de Turnham had granted with the assent of Richard, earl of Clare, his lord, to these canons all his land of Begeham, with its appurtenances, in pure and perpetual alms, free from all service and secular exaction, to build an abbey here in honor of St. Mary./w

Pope Gregory IX. anno 1266, exempted them de decimis novalium, and likewise from the mills they had built anew, and of the hay of all their lands. In the 15th year of king Edward I. the temporalities of the abbot in Canterbury diocese, amounted to 2l. 6s. 8d. per annum; in which year, the abbot being summoned on a quo warranto, to shew cause why he claimed pleas of the crown, and free-warren, a market, fair, gallows, and waif in Begeham, &c. answered, that he had not, nor claimed to have any of those liberties: but that he had view of frank-pledge, and by reason of that assize of bread and ale, &c. and the jury found for the abbot, for that he and his predecessors had always used the same beyond memory.

/w Chartulary of Begeham abbey, Surrenden-lib. cart. 168.

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King Edward III. in his 2d year, granted to the abbot and convent free warren in their demesne lands in the parishes of Lamberhurst, in Kent, and in Begeham, in Sussex, among others.

This abbey continued much in the same state till the reign of king Henry VIII. when cardinal Wolsey, being desirous of founding two colleges, one at Ipswich, and the other at Oxford; obtained in 1524 the pope's bull for suppressing, with the king's leave, as many small monasteries as were needful to raise a revenue, not exceeding three thousand ducats per annum, upon which the king having granted a commission for this purpose, this monastery was suppressed, with seventeen other small ones in different counties; when it appears that its spiritualities were valued at 27l. 6s. 8d. its temporalities, at 125l. 2s. 8½d. and the whole at 152l. 9s. 4½d. per annum.

Richard Bexley was the last abbot of it, at which time there were ten religious in this monastery./x

From their descent from the founder of this abbey, as well as from their benefactions to it, the family of Sackville were reputed likewise founders of it: two of them are recorded to have been buried in the church of this abbey, Sir Thomas, son of Sir Andrew Sackville, by Joane Burgese, his second wife, who was sheriff of Sussex and Surry anno 8 king Henry IV. and in the chapel of the Virgin Mary, in this church, Richard Sackville, esq. who died anno 1524. There is a register of this abbey in the Cottonian library in the British museum, marked Otho A II.

After the suppression of this abbey, the king by his letters patent, in his 17th year, granted the several dissolved monasteries of Begeham, Lesnes, Tunbridge, and Calcote, together with all their lands, manors and

possessions, to cardinal Wolsey, for the better endowment of his college above-mentioned in Ox=

/x Willis's Mitred Abbeys, vol. ii. p. 96, 327.

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ford; which letters were again confirmed by others, that year. But four years afterwards, on the Cardinal's being cast in a *præmunire*, all the estates of the college, which had not been firmly settled on it, were forfeited to the king, in whose hands the manor of Begeham, together with the scite of the abbey, seems to have remained till queen Elizabeth made a grant of it to Anthony Brown, viscount Montague, who, though a strict Romanist, was held in great esteem by that princess, as a person of experienced loyalty, who was attached to that religion from principles, and not from faction. He died in 1593, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Anthony, viscount Montague, by his first wife Jane, daughter of Robert Ratcliffe, earl of Sussex, who not long afterwards alienated this manor and estate to Benedict Barnham, alderman of London, sheriff of that city in 1592, who died in 1598, leaving four daughters his coheirs; of whom Alice, the second daughter, inherited this manor and the scite of the abbey of Begeham, after the death of her first husband, Sir Francis Bacon, lord Verulam, viscount St. Albans, and lord chancellor, by whom she had no issue, she remarried with Walter Doble, gent. of the county of Sussex, who in her right became possessed of this estate, in whose family it remained at the restoration of king Charles II. anno 1660; after which it passed into the name of Brown, in which it remained in the 12th year of queen Anne, when an act passed to enable Ambrose Brown, esq. and others, to make sale of this manor; in consequence of which it was sold to John Pratt, esq. of Wilderness, serjeant-at-law, and afterwards chief justice of the king's bench. On whose death in 1725, John Pratt, esq. of Wilderness, his eldest surviving son by his first wife, succeeded him in this manor, of which he died possessed in 1770, as did his son John Pratt, esq. first of Wilderness, but afterwards of Sevenoke, where he died in 1797, and by his will gave this estate to his half brother Thomas Pratt, esq. (the elder bro=

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ther of the late Charles, earl Camden) and he is the present possessor of this manor, with the scite of the abbey and the lands belonging to it.

There are great remains of the ruins of this abbey; within the walls of the church. on which the roof was remaining till lord chief justice Pratt had it taken off, for the sake of the materials, there are several flat grave stones, one of which has a crosier on it; and three tombs or coffins of stone, one of which is decorated with the sculpture of a cross pomel pierced, on the top of it. The inside of the church is laid out as a pleasure-garden, with flowers and gravel walks, for the use of the adjoining seat, which was built some years ago by the late proprietor, in the gothic stile, and in which he frequently resided.

There are two views of the ruins of this abbey, one published by Buck in 1737, and the other by Grose, in

his Antiquities of England and Wales, drawn in 1760.

SCOTNEY is the other manor in this parish, within the county of Sussex likewise; the mansion of it is situated close on the western side of the stream, called the Bewle, which, as is reputed here, divides the two counties. It was so called from a family, which were proprietors of it in very early times, as they were of another seat of the same name at Lid; one of whom, Walter de Scoteni, held it in the reign of Henry III. and was a person of no small account, for he held fourteen knights fees and a half of Alice, countess of Ewe, in Sussex; but being sound guilty of poisoning Richard, earl of Gloucester, and his brother, William de Clare, he was drawn through Winchester to the gallows, and hanged. Notwithstanding which this estate seems to have continued in the same name and family till about the middle of the reign of king Edward III. when it passed into the possession of the family of Ashburnham, of Ashburnham, in Sussex; one of whom, Roger Ashburnham, was a conservator of the peace in the 1st year of king Richard II. and resided at this mansion,

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which was then castellated. His successor alienated it in the beginning of king Henry V's reign, to Henry Chicheley, archbishop of Canterbury, who appears to have resided here at times, one of his mandates being dated from Scoteneye, in 1418. The archbishop settled this manor on Florence, his niece, widow of Sir William Peche, and one of the daughters of William Chicheley, his youngest brother, on her marriage with John Darell, esq. third son of William Darell, of Sesay, in Yorkshire, whose second wife she was, from whose first wife Joane, daughter and heir of Valentine Barrett, of Pery-court, descended the Darells, of Calehill. He died in 1478, and was succeeded in this estate by his only son by her, Thomas Darell, esq. of Scotney, whose only son Henry, and grandson Thomas, were both likewise of Scotney, the latter was twice married. Thomas, his eldest son, succeeded him here, and Stephen, his second son, was ancestor of the Darells, of Pageham, Fullsmere, Hampden, and of Middlesex; and Stephen, his third son, was of Spelmonden, and ended in two surviving daughters, who became his coheirs.

In the descendants of Thomas Darell, the eldest son, who succeeded his father at Scotney, and whose lands were disgavelled by the act of the 2d and 3d of king Edward VI. this estate continued down to his great grandson, Arthur Darell, esq. of Scotney, who died possessed of it in 1720 unmarried; on which this estate came by an old family settlement to the second brother of the branch of this family settled at Calehill, in this county, and was accordingly claimed by George, the second son of John Darell, esq. of Calehill, by Olivia his wife, daughter of Philip, viscount Strangford, and next brother to Philip Darell, esq. of that place.

He took possession of it, though not without some suits at law, instituted by the three sisters and heirs-at-law of Arthur above-mentioned, in which, how=

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ever, he at last prevailed, and afterward resided here. He was succeeded in it by his eldest son and heir, John Darell, esq. who resided at Scotney, and in 1774 conveyed this manor and seat, with the manor of Chingley and other lands adjoining in the parish of Goudhurst, to Mr. John Richards, of Roberts=bridge, who in 1779 again passed away these manors, the mansion of Scotney, and the farm adjoining called Little Scotney, to Edward Hussey, esq. the eldest son of Thomas Hussey, esq. of Burwash, in Sussex, and afterwards of Ashford, in this county, by Anne his wife, daughter of Maurice Berkeley, esq. of London, by whom he had Edward above-mentioned, John, and William, both clerks, and five daughters, of whom Frances was married to Sandiford Streatfeild, mer=chant; Philadelphia, to Mr. T. Rutton, of London, son of the late Isaac Rutton, of Ashford, M. D.

Edward Hussey, esq. the eldest son, and purchaser of these estates, married Elizabeth-Sarah, since de=ceased, only daughter and heir of Robert Bridge, esq. of Bocking, in Essex, by whom he has several chil=dren. He resides at Scotney, and is the present owner of these estates.

CHARITIES.

LADY HANBY gave by will in 1712, 6l. per annum, for teaching poor children in this parish to read English, and charged the same upon the quitrents of Lamberhurst manor.

MR. WOODGATE gave by will 40s. per annum, to be distri=buted yearly to forty of the poorest people of this parish, not receiving alms, now vested in Russell Hickmott.

JOHN ALLEN, of Pullens, in Horsemonden, who was buried in this parish in 1751, left 10s. yearly, for a sermon on cha=arity, on St. Thomas's day, and 25s. to twenty poor persons annually on that day, now vested in William Hook.

The poor constantly relieved here are about forty yearly; those casually about eighteen.

LAMBERHURST is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling.

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The church, which has a spire steeple, stands on a hill at a small distance from the court-lodge. It is dedicated to St. Mary. In the porch of it lies the body of one Lindridge, who was born anno 1566, and lived in an house adjacent. He made an handsome stone causeway here, which from him was called Lin=dridge causeway./y

John, bishop of Rochester, in 1461, changed the feast of the dedication of this church from the feast of St. Michael, on account of the floods which fre=quently happened here about that time of the year, and hindered its being celebrated with due solemnity, and transferred it to the Wednesday next following the feast of the sacred relics; to be held yearly on that day.

Robert de Crevequer, the founder of Leeds abbey, about the year 1137, gave to the canons there, in free and perpetual alms, all the churches on his estates, with the advowsons of them, and among them this of Lamberhurst, with two acres of land in this parish./z

Lambert de Scotene confirmed to the church of Leeds whatever his ancestors had granted to it, viz. all the ecclesiastical dues of his tenants, and lands of Curthope, and the oblations and legacies of the vassals of his lordship.

Archbishop Theobald confirmed this church to the priory, together with all the tithes, both great and small, of Curthope and Ewehurst, as did archbishop Hubert, by his letters of inspeximus.

John, bishop of Rochester, at the time of the gift of this church to the priory of Leeds, appropriated the same to it; notwithstanding which, the canons do not seem to have gained possession of it till about ten years afterwards. About which time, by the

/y Harris History of Kent, p. 172.

/z Regist. of Leeds abbey, f. 3. See the confirmations of it in Reg. Roff. p. 209, 210.

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mandate of Richard, archbishop of Canterbury, an inquisition was taken, by which it was found, that all those the archbishop's tenants, inhabiting the district of Curthope and Ewehurst received all ecclesiastical rights in the church of Lamberhurst, and paid all their tithes beyond the memory of man to that church, and that their ancestors lay buried there; which was attested by Walter, bishop of Rochester; upon which the archbishop confirmed the same to it.

The vicarage of this church does not seem to have been endowed till the time of bishop John Lowe, about the year 1448, in whose register the particulars of this endowment may be seen.

After which the appropriation, as well as the advowson of this church, continued part of the possessions of the priory till the dissolution of it in the reign of king Henry VIII. when it was, with all its revenues, surrendered into the king's hands; after which, the king by his dotation charter, in his 33d year, settled the appropriation and advowson of the vicarage of this church on his new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, where they both remain at this time.

In 1719 the lessee of this parsonage was William Dewe, esq. who resided in it. He was son of William Dewe, gent. one of the six clerks in the Prerogative-office, in London, and bore for his arms, Gules, a chevron argent, between nine bezants. After which the interest in it descended down at length to his grandson Butler Dewe, esq. who dying in 1762, without issue, it came to his sisters; Elizabeth Wilson, widow; Amphilis Whitfield, widow; Mary, Anne, and Catherine Dewe, who are the present lessees of this parsonage.

The advowson of the vicarage is reserved to the use of the dean and chapter, who present to it.

The vicarage is valued in the king's books, at 12l. 10s. 5d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 5s. 0¹/₂d.

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In 1447, it appeared, on the presentation of William Blackborne to this vicarage, that it was endowed of old time in all tithes, excepting those of sheaves and grain; that it was by estimation, one year with

another, of the annual value of ten pounds, and that the vicar had not any written composition, but took his endowment by antient custom.

CHURCH OF LAMBERHURST.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Prior and convent of Leeds. William Blackborne, presented
in 1447./a

Dean and Chapter of Rochester Mr. Robert Stede, 1627./b
..... Pratt, 1720.

Robert Pickering, obt. May
1733.

Tobias Swinden, A. M. instit.
July 11, 1733, obt. March
1754./c

Samuel Denne, resigned 1767./d

Chardin Musgrave, S. T. P.
1767, obt. March 1768./e

John Newcombe, S. T. P. 1768,
obt. 1775./f

John Clarke, S. T. P. pre=
sented Nov. 1775, resigned
1776./g

Charles Tarrant, S. T. P. Nov.
1776, resigned 1783./h

John Eveleigh, S. T. P. 1784,
the present vicar./i

/a Reg. Roff. p. 458.

/b MSS. Twysden. One of this name
was ejected from this vicarage in 1662,
by the Bartholomew Act. See Cala=
my's Life of Baxter, p. 286.

/c Also rector of Kingsdown, near
Sittingborne.

/d Second son of archdeacon Denne.
He resigned this vicarage for that of
Wilmington.

/e Prebendary of Rochester, and
provost of Oriel college, Oxford.

/f Dean of Rochester, and in 1768
by dispensation rector of St. Mil=
dred's Poultry, in London.

/g Prebendary of Rochester, and pro=
vost of Oriel college. He resigned the
vicarage of Woodnesborough for this
of Lamberburst, which he afterwards
resigned for the rectory of Kingsdown
near Wrotham.

/h See Wrotham, vol. v. p. 32.

/i Provost of Oriel college, vicar of
Aylesford by dispensation, and Preb.
of Rochester.

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HORSEMONDEN

IS the next parish northward from Lamberhurst,
a small part of it is within the borough of Rugmer=
hill, which lies at the western side of it adjoining to
that of Brenchley, and is as such within the antient

demesne of the manor of Aylesford, and consequently exempt from the jurisdiction of this hundred.

A small part of this parish is said to be within the hundred of Larkfield.

THE PARISH OF HORSEMONDEN is situated much like that of Lamberhurst last described, being a surface of continued hill and dale. It is bounded towards the north-east and south by different streams of the river Medway, which flow from hence, and join the main river at Yalding, besides which it is watered by two other smaller rivulets, and several lesser springs interspersed over it, all which join the larger stream on the southern side of the parish. It is full four miles in length from north to south, but its breadth is but small, in some places not more than one, and in its broadest part not more than two miles. The high road from Maidstone through Yalding to Lamberhurst and Sussex, runs through the whole length of the parish; that from Watringbury over Brandt bridge through Brenchley towards Goudhurst crosses this parish and the other road, at a small green called Horsemonden-heath, which is built round with houses, forming the only village in the parish, the rest of the houses being dispersed singly over different parts of it. The soil, near the high road, is in general a sand intermixed with the rock or sand stone, the remainder is a deep stiff clay, exceeding miry in wet weather. It is much interspersed with coppice woods of oak, especially on the west and north sides of it,

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where the soil abounds with iron ore; the whole is much covered with fine spreading oak trees, which here from the soil being very kindly to their nourishment grow to a large size, and become sometimes nearly equal in value to the freehold of the estates.

The church stands, with the parsonage, about a quarter of a mile distant from it, very near the south-east boundary of the parish. In the upper part of it near the river is a seat called Baynden, late belonging to Sir Charles Booth, of Stede-hill, deceased.

A fair is held here on St. Swithin's day, now by the alteration of the style on July 26, for cattle, pedlery and toys.

THE MANOR of Horsemonden was part of the ancient possessions of the archbishopric of Canterbury, the archbishop holding it of the king in capite as one knight's fee, of whom it was again held by the noble family of Clare, earls of Gloucester and Hertford.

It appears by the inquisitions returned into the exchequer in the 13th and 14th years of king John, of the knights fees and other services held in capite, that this place was then in the possession of the family of Albrincis, of whom, William de Albrincis, or Averanches, dying s. p. Maud, his sister, at length became her brother's heir, and entitl'd her husband, Hamo de Crevequer, to the possession of it. He died in the 47th year of king Henry the III'd.'s reign, before which however, this manor seems to have passed in marriage with one of his daughters, Elene, to Bertram de Criol.

In the 42d year of king Henry III. there was a

composition entered into between archbishop Boniface and Richard de Clare, earl of Gloucester, in relation to the customs and services which the archbishop

/k Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 468. See more of the family of Albrincis, under Folkestone.

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claimed on account of the lands, which the earl held of him in Tunbridge, Horsemonden, and other places in this county, by which it was agreed that the earl should do homage, and the service of one knight's fee for the manor of Horsemonden, and suit at the court of the archbishop and his successors at Canterbury.

In the 8th year of king Edward II. this manor was part of the possessions of the family of Rokesle, the heirs of Roger de Rokesle then holding it of the honor of Clare; one of these was Sir Richard de Rokesle, who died without male issue, leaving by his wife Joane, sister and heir of John de Criol, son of Bertram above-mentioned, two daughters his coheirs; of whom Agnes, the eldest, married Thomas de Poynings; and Joane, the youngest, first Hugh de Pateshull, and secondly Sir William le Baud, each of whom in her right became possessed of this manor, and the latter of them died possessed of it in the 4th year of king Edward III. His widow, in the 20th year of that reign, paid aid for it, being then held of the earl of Gloucester.

After which, although their son, Sir William Baud, seems to have had some interest in this estate, at his death in the 50th year of that reign, yet on hers, the manor itself came to her nephew Michael, son of Thomas de Poynings above mentioned, by Joane de Rokesle her sister, in whose descendants it continued down to his grandson Robert de Poynings, who died in the 25th year of king Henry VI. leaving Alianore, the wife of Sir Henry Percy, lord Percy, eldest son of Henry, earl of Northumberland, daughter of Richard de Poynings, his eldest son, who died in his life-time, his next heir; upon which the lord Percy, in her right, became entitled to this manor, and from him it continued down to Henry, earl of Northumberland, who died without issue in the 29th year of Henry the VIIIth.'s reign. The year before which,

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he by deed, granted to the king, all his manors, castles and estates, although the year before this, an act had passed for assuming to the king all his lands and possessions, in case of failure of heirs of his body.

This manor thus coming to the crown, stayed not many years there, for the king in his 36th year, granted it to Stephen Darell, esq. and Agnes his wife, to hold in capite. He died in the 2d year of queen Elizabeth, after which his two sons, Henry and George successively, possessed it, the latter of whom in the 10th year of that reign, alienated this manor to Richard Payne, who anno 17 queen Elizabeth, levied a fine of it, and some time afterwards alienated it to William Beswicke, esq. of Spelmonden, in this parish, sheriff in the year 1616. He was son of William

Beswicke, alias Berwicke, alderman and lord-mayor of London, the son of Roger Beswicke, of Cheshire. They bore for their arms, Gules, three bezants, a chief or. His son, Arthur Beswicke, was of Spelmonden, and married Martha, daughter of Laurence Washington, esq. of Maidstone, by whom he left an only daughter Mary his heir, who in her life-time settled this manor on Mr. Haughton, descended from those of Haughton Tower, in Lancashire. He left two daughters his coheirs, the eldest of whom Anne, carried it in marriage to James Marriott, esq. of Hampton, in Middlesex, who bore for his arms, Barry of six, or, and sable. His son, of the same name, died s. p. in 1741, and gave it by will to his sister Anne, for her life, and then to his second cousin, Hugh Marriott, esq. who died in 1753, leaving by Lydia, his wife, widow of Dr. Hutton, two sons, James; and Thomas, slain at the siege of Madras in 1765, and one daughter Anne. James the eldest son is in holy orders, and LL. D. He married in 1767, Miss Bosworth,

/I See a further account of the Percies under North Cray, vol. ii. of this history, p. 144.

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and is the present possessor of this manor, and other estates in this parish.

There is no court held for this manor.

SPELMONDEN is an antient seat at the southern boundary of this parish, which was once possessed by a family which took its surname from it. John de Spelmonden, one of the proprietors of it, is frequently mentioned in the deeds and evidences belonging to this estate; after they were become extinct here, this seat became part of the possessions of the eminent family of Poynings, one of whom Michael, son of Thomas de Poynings, by Joane de Rokesle, possessed it at his death in the 43d year of king Edward III.

He left two sons, Thomas, who died s. p. and Richard, who became his brother's heir, and died possessed of this estate in the 11th year of Richard II. He was succeeded in it by Robert de Poynings his only son, at whose death in the 25th year of king Henry VI. Robert, his younger son, seems to have inherited Spelmonden, and died in the 9th year of king Edward IV. His son and heir, Sir Edward Poynings, in the 14th year of that reign, alienated it to John Sampson, whose son, Christopher Sampson, in the 37th year of king Henry VIII. passed it away by sale to Stephen Davell, who afterwards resided here, and his son, George Darell, in the 10th year of queen Elizabeth, conveyed it to Richard Payne, of Twyford, in Middlesex, who in the 28th year of it sold this estate to William Nutbrown, and he next year alienated it to George Cure, esq. of Surry, from whom it immediately after was sold to Arthur Langworth, and from him again as quickly to William Beswicke, esq. who afterwards resided here, and was sheriff in 1616. Since which this seat has passed in like manner as the manor of Horsemonden down to the Rev. Dr. Marriott, who is the present possessor of it.

LEWIS-HEATH is a manor situated in the centre of this parish, which was antiently part of the possessions

of the family of Groveherst, or Grotherst, one of whom, John de Grotherst, rector of this church, as his epitaph still remaining in it informs us, gave this manor of Leueshothe to the abbot and convent of Begeham, to find one perpetual chaplain to celebrate in the church of Horsemonden and chapel of Leueshothe; and it continued part of the possessions of that abbey till the dissolution of it in the 17th year of king Henry VIII. who that year granted it with all its possessions, among which was this manor, to cardinal Wolsey, for the better endowment of Cardinal's college, in Oxford; but on his being cast in a præmunire, about four years afterwards, all the estates of that college, which, for want of time, had not been firmly settled on it, came into the king's hands, where this manor lay till queen Elizabeth, in the beginning of her reign, granted it to Anthony Brown, viscount Montague, who, as appears by the inquisition taken after his death, died possessed of it in 1593. He was succeeded in it by his eldest son and heir, who not long afterwards alienated it to William Beswicke, esq. of Spelmonden, in this parish, since which it has passed in like manner as that seat, and the rest of his estates in this parish, to the Rev. Dr. Marriott, the present possessor of it.

SPRIVERS is a manor situated on the western side of this parish, which had antiently owners of that surname, one of whom, Robert Sprivers, died possessed of it in 1447, anno 26 Henry VI. and by his will devised it to his son of the same name. After this family was become extinct here, the Vanes became proprietors of it, from whom it passed into the name of Bathurst.

Robert Bathurst possessed this manor and resided here in the reign of queen Elizabeth. He was second son of Laurence Bathurst, of Staplehurst, whose eldest son Edward was ancestor of the Bathursts, of Franks, in this county, under which more may be

seen of them. Robert Bathurst, above-mentioned, was ancestor by his first wife to those of Letchlade, in Gloucestershire, and of Finchcocks and Wilmington, in this county, and by his second wife of those of Richmond, in Yorkshire; soon after this it was alienated to Malbert, and from thence again, after no long intermission, to Morgan, in which name it remained till it was sold to Holman, whose descendant Anne Holman, in 1704, passed it away by sale to Mr. Courthope, who bore for his arms, Or, a fess azure between three estoils sable. Some account of the different branches of whose family has already been given before under Brenchley. That branch of it, from which the Courthopes of Danny, in Sussex, and those of Horsemonden were descended, was seated at Goddards-green, in Cranbrook, in the reign of king Henry VIII. one of whom, Alexander Courthope, of Cranbrook, possessed lands there, in Biddenden, and Maidstone, as appears by his will in the Prerogative-office, Canterbury, as early as the year 1525.

Mr. Courthope, the purchaser of this estate, left

by his wife, one of the sisters of Edward Maplesden, of Cheveney, in Marden, a son, Alexander, and five daughters, who all died unmarried, except Barbara, who married Mr. Cole, of Marden, and died in 1783, by whom she had two surviving sons, Peter and John. Alexander Courthope, esq. the son, rebuilt the mansion house of Sprivers at some distance from the antient one, and afterwards resided in it with true old English hospitality, and with a reputation of the highest integrity. He died unmarried in 1779, and by his will gave this manor, with the estate belonging to it, to his nephew, John Cole, esq. the present possessor, who resides in it.

A court baron is regularly holden for this manor.

GROVEHURST is a manor which lies on the eastern side of this parish, and was in very early times part of the possessions of a family who took their surname

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from it. William Grovhurst died possessed of it, with Puleyns in this parish, (now the property of the Rev. Richard Bathurst, late of Finchcocks in Goudhurst) in the 7th year of king Edward III; his descendant Richard Groveherst left three daughters his coheirs, one of whom, Anne, carried this manor in marriage, about the latter end of the reign of king Richard II. to Richard Hextall, of Hextalls-court in East Peckham. His eldest son William, in the beginning of king Henry VI.'s reign, increased his property in this parish by the purchase of four estates here, called Hothe, Smeeths, Capell, and Augustpitts. He left Margaret his sole daughter and heir, who carried them in marriage to William Whetenhall, esq. commonly called Whetnall, whose descendant of the same name, was sheriff in the 18th year of king. Henry VIII.'s reign, and in the 31st year of it procured his lands to be disgavelled by the act passed that year.

His descendant, Henry Whetenhall, in the reign of king James I. passed away the manors of Grovehurst, Hoathe, Smeethe, and Capell, (for that of Augustpitts had been before sold off, being now the property of Mr. John Osborne, who resides at it,) together with a seat in this parish, called Broadford, situated near the bridge of that name over the river here, to Francis Austen, the fifth son of Mr. John Austen, of this parish, who dying in 1620, was buried in this church, where his arms still remain, viz. Or, on a chevron sable three plates, between three lions paws erect and erased, sable. He afterwards resided at Grovehurst, of which he died possessed in 1687, and was buried here. He left a son, John Austen, who was likewise of Grovehurst, where he died in 1705, and was buried here. His son, John Austen, esq. resided at Broadford, and died the year before him, leaving six sons and one daughter, of whom John, the eldest, became his grandfather's heir to his estates in this parish, and Francis, the second son, was father

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of Francis Motley Austen, esq. now of Sevenoke in this county.

John Austen, esq. the eldest son, was of Broadford, and married Mary, daughter and coheir of Stephen

Stringer, esq. of Goudhurst, by whom he had John Austen, esq. now of Broadford, who married Miss Joanna Weekes, of Sevenoke, by whom he has one daughter Mary, and he is the present possessor of these manors and estates.

There is a court baron regularly held for the manors of Grovehurst, Hoathe, and Smeethe.

BADMONDEN is a reputed manor in this parish, in which there was formerly a cell, but not conventual, belonging to the priory of Beaulieu, in Normandy; in which situation it continued till the general suppression of the alien priories throughout England, in the 2d year of king Henry V. anno 1414, when their houses and possessions were in parliament given to the king and his heirs, who the next year gave it to the priory of St. Andrew, in Rochester, where it remained till the dissolution of that society in 1540, when all the rents and revenues of it were surrendered into the king's hands, who by his dotation charter in his 33d year, settled it on his new-founded dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom the inheritance of it remains at this time.

The manor of East Farleigh and East Peckham claims over this part of Horsemonden; the freeholders in Badmonden holding their lands of it in free socage tenure.

BRAMBLES is a small manor in this parish, which was heretofore the property of Mr. John Barnes, and now belongs to Mr. Usherwood.

A court baron is held for this manor.

The manor of Gillingham claims over the tithing or hamlet of Baveden, in this parish, being one of the four dennis in the Weald holden of that manor,

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the freeholders holding their lands of it in free socage tenure.

CHARITIES.

WILLIAM WYKES gave by will in 1682, for the maintenance of the poor in land, vested in trustees, the yearly produce of 14l. 6s. 6½d.

LADY ABERGAVENNY gave by will for the like purpose, in money and jewels, which were recovered by a decree in chancery in 1618, and laid out in the purchase of two farms, one in Tunbridge, of the clear annual produce of 19l. 16s. 5d. the other in Ticehurst, of 7l. 8s.

The number of poor constantly relieved here is yearly about fifty, those casually twenty.

HORSEMONDEN is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling.

The church is dedicated to St. Margaret; it is a handsome building; in it are memorials of Groshurst, Browne, Austen, Courthope and Campion, and in the chancel, on the south side, a fair altar tomb, without the appearance of having ever had any inscription on it. Over the west door are the arms of Poynings and Fitzpaine; one of the former might very probably be the builder, or at least a considerable benefactor to the building of it.

It is valued in the king's books at 26l. 3s. 9d. and

the yearly tenths at 2l. 12s. 4¹/₂d.

The patronage of this church was, from the earliest time, an appendage to the manor of Horsemonden, and consequently has had the same proprietors. There are two small manors annexed to it, called the manors of Hasellets alias Radmanden, and Cossington alias Heyden, for which there are court barons held – These, with the rectory, are now part of the possessions of the Rev. Dr. Marriot, lord of the manor of Horsemonden.

Robert de Grosshurst, of Horsemonden, in 1338, founded a perpetual chantry in this church, in the chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary, built in honor of

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her annunciation in the north part of it, to the praise of God, and for the souls of himself, his wife, &c. And he ordained, that after the first vacancy, the parishioners should nominate the priest of it, to be presented to the bishop of Rochester, to be instituted and inducted into the said chantry. The priest to reside constantly, and to celebrate daily in it, according to the rules therein mentioned. And he ordained, that Sir William Langford, the first priest, and his successors, perpetual chaplains of it, should receive yearly for their maintenance, and the burthens incumbent on it, from the abbot and convent of Boxley, six marcs sterling yearly rent, which he had purchased of them for the endowment of it. Anno 1445, the bishop directed his official, &c. to enquire by inquisition, among other matters, concerning the dotation and endowment of this chantry, when it was returned that it consisted in six marcs annual rent from the abbot of Boxley, of forty shillings annual rent from lands in the parish of Merden, granted to the chaplain for a term of years, and in one messuage and gardens of the value of twelve-pence, and in rent in Horsemonden of six shillings per annum; and that the house of the chantry was so much out of repair, that six marcs would scarce be sufficient to put it in good repair; and that thus the true value of this chantry, the burthens belonging to the chaplain of it being borne by him, amounted according to their estimation to eight marcs per annum.

Sir Edward Poynings gave twenty-four acres of land to the maintenance of lights in this church; from whence they obtained their present name of Torchfield./m

In the year 1701, this church was repaired by the aid of a brief collected for that purpose.

/m Harris's History of Kent, p. 155.

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CHURCH OF HORSEMONDEN.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

John de Grofhurst./n

John Wickham, in 1587./o

Jeffry Amherst, D. D. sequestered in 1643./p

John Crouch, A. M. sequestered

in 1653./q
Edward Rawson, 1653, ejected
1662./r
John Crouch, restored in 1662./s
Stephen Bate, obt. October 22,
1724.
William Hassel, A. M. instit.
Oct. 19, 1724, obt. March
3, 1785, æt. 90.
Upon his own petition. James Marriott, LL. D. 1785,
the present rector.

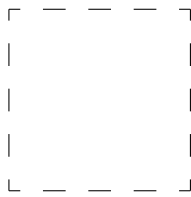
/n He lies buried in this church.
/o Reg. Roff. p. 881.
/p White's Century, p. 33, and
Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy,
pt. ii. p. 183, 220.
/q Ibid.
/r He was ejected by the Bartholo=
mew Act. Calamy's Life of Baxter,
p. 286.
/s White's Century, and Walker,
ibid.

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THE
HUNDRED
OF
WEST, ALIAS LITTLE BARNEFIELD.

THIS small hundred lies south-westward from
that last described, being separated from it by a small
district of the hundred of Marden, in the lath of Scray.
It contains only the south-east part of the parish of
Goudhurst, but has neither the church nor the village
within its bounds; the description of it, therefore,
will be given in the account of the rest of that parish,
which is situated in the hundred of Marden, within
the lath of Scray.

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THE HUNDRED OF EYHORNE

LIES at a small distance north-eastward from that
of Brenchley and Horsemonden last described, a small
district only of the hundred of Marden and lath of
Scray intervening.

It is written in the book of Domesday both Aihorde
and Haihorne; but in the 7th year of king Edward I.
it was called by its present name, the king being then
lord of it.

In the survey taken in 1650, by the trustees ap=
pointed by parliament, for the sale of the late king's
revenues, it was returned, that the court leet, with
all other courts and liberties, within the bailiwick of
Eyhorne, and the hundred contained in it, being the

court of the said hundreds and bailiwick, was constantly held at Eyhorne-green.

THE HUNDRED OF EYHORNE is the largest in this county, and contains within its bounds the parishes of,

1. HEDCORNE in part;
2. BOUGHTON MONCHENSIE;
3. LANGLEY;
4. CHART SUTTON;
5. SUTTON VALENCE;
6. EAST SUTTON;
7. ULCOMBE in part;
8. BOUGHTON MALHERBE;
9. LENHAM in part;
10. OTTERDEN;
11. WICHLING;
12. FRINSTED;
13. WORMSELL;
14. HARRIETSHAM;
15. HOLLINGBORNE;
16. BROMFIELD;
17. LEEDS;
18. OTHAM;
19. BERSTED in part;
20. BICKNOR in part;
21. HUCKING;
22. THURNHAM;
23. STOCKBURY in part; and
24. BREDHURST;

And the churches of those parishes; and likewise part of the parishes of MARDEN and STAPLEHURST, the churches of which are in other hundreds.

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HEDCORNE.

NORTH-EASTWARD from the hundred of Brenchley and Horsemonden, a small space of the hundred of Marden and lath of Scray only intervening, lies the parish of Hedcorne, within the bounds of several different hundreds; for the hundred of Eyhorne claims over that part of it, in which the western part of the village and the church is situated. The hundred of Tenham claims over such part of it as is within that manor; the hundreds of Barkley and Cranbrooke claim over the southern part of it, the former hundred over so much as is within the borough of Stephurst, and the latter over such part as is within the north borough; both which parts are within the lath of Scray; and the hundred of Calehill claims over the eastern part of it.

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So much of this parish as lies eastward of a line drawn by the east side of the church of Boughton Malherbe to the east head of the church of Hedcorne, and from thence eastward to the west head of the church of Smarden, containing all that part of it that is within the hundred of Calehill, is in the eastern division of this county, and the remaining part of the parish, on the western side of that line, is in the divi-

sion of West Kent.

The manor of Tenham claims over a considerable part of this parish, and the manor of Ospringe over another part of it.

It appears by the roll of knights fees, taken anno 7 Edward I. that the archbishop of Canterbury, and the master of the Maison Dieu, at Ospringe, were returned as lords of this parish.

THE PARISH is unpleasantly situated in a very flat and low country, the aspect of which is very dreary and forlorn. The soil is a stiff clay, very deep and miry, except in the driest summers, when it becomes exceedingly hard, and the roads through it (which are very broad, with a space of green sward on each side, and from the depth of the soil almost impassable in wet seasons) from frequent traffic acquire in the drought of summer a hardness and a smooth glaze, or polish, like that on earthen pottery. The whole parish is watered by different little streamlets, which spread over it, and run into the stream of the Medway, which rises near Goldwell, in Great Chart, and passes along this parish a little to the southward of the village in its way towards Style-bridge, and the main river, which it joins a little below Yalding.

The village or town of Hedcorne, with the church at the west end of it, situated nearly in the centre of the parish, is an unfrequented dull place. There are several small hamlets built round the different greens or fostalls in the parish.

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In the 47th year of king Edward III. Robert Belnap, and others, were assigned to view all the banks, &c. betwixt Hetecrone and Ealdyng, as well as between Patyndennesmell and Elherst, in this county, and to do what should be requisite concerning them according to the law and custom of the realm. A new commission of sewers has been within these few years obtained, to scour and cleanse the branch of the river Medway from Great Chart through this parish, to its junction with the main river a little below the town of Yalding.

King Henry III. in his 34th year, granted to the master and brethren of the Maison Dieu, at Ospringe, founded by him not many years before, the privilege of a market and a fair to be held in this parish of Hedcorn: The fair used formerly to be held on St. Peter's day, June 29; but has been for some years past held on June 12th yearly.

The hundred of Tenham is bound to repair one arch of the bridge, and thirty yards of causeway at the end of it, lying in that part of this parish, within that hundred.

MOTTENDEN, or more truly Modinden, is a manor situated in the northern part of this parish, which with the estate belonging to it, called Great and Little Mottenden, antiently belonged to the family of Rokesele; one of whom, Sir Richard de Rokesele, in the year 1224, anno 9 Henry III. founded a priory on this manor, for friars of the order of the holy trinity, commonly called Trinitarians, being the first house of this order in England. Their rule was that of St. Austin, with some peculiar constitutions. Their ha=

bit, a white gown, with a red and blue cross on their breasts; their revenues were divided, one part for their support and maintenance, another to relieve the poor, and a third to redeem such Christians as should be

/t Tan. Mon. p. 222. Dugd. Imbanking, p. 45.

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taken captives by the insidels. To this priory the founder at the same time gave this manor; and there were from time to time several pardons and indulgencies granted by the succeeding popes to the benefactors of it, which increased both the reputation and revenues of it.

In the Surrenden library is a deed, which shews the tenor of these pardons and indulgencies, and the benefits arising from them, from the weak superstition of different persons, some of whom appear to have been of no mean rank and consequence; by it Brother Richard, minister (by which name the head of this house was called) of this house of Motynden, certified that many of the Roman pontiffs having endowed the co-brethren and co-sisters of his order with many privileges, especially in that they might each chuse for themselves a confessor, who might absolve them from all matters not reserved to the apostolic see, and once in their lives, even from all those likewise concerning which the see itself was of course to be consulted. And as John Dering, esq. of Surrenden Dering, had taken on himself this fraternity in the manner of a confreer, and become a benefactor to comply with the tenor of the apostolic letters, he associated him in his life, as well as in death, together with all their friends alive and dead, in all masses, and prayers, and suffrages of their religion, which deed is dated under the seal of their confraternity in the year 1495.

In the 38th year of king Henry III. they procured the grant of a fair to be held yearly at this manor. In the 8th year of king Richard II. the temporalities of this priory were valued at one hundred shillings per annum, and it continued in this state till the 27th year of king Henry VIII's reign, when an act passing for the suppression of all such religious houses,

/u Decem. Script. Thorne, coll. 2163.

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whose revenues did not amount to the clear yearly value of two hundred pounds, and for giving them to the king, this priory, the yearly revenues of which amounted to no more than 60l. 13s. 0½d. was surrendered, with all its lands and possessions, the principal of which lay in this and other parishes, in this county, and in that of Sussex, to the king's use. At which time it appears that there was a house of friars at Hertford, called Le Trinity, subordinate to this of Mottinden. /w

This manor, with the scite of the priory and lands belonging to it, did not after this long remain in the hands of the crown; for the king granted them in his 30th year to Thomas, lord Cromwell, who was the next year created earl of Essex; but the year after being found guilty of high treason, was executed

on Tower-hill, in the 32d year of that reign, anno 1540. On which they came again into the hands of the crown, where the fee of them lay till the king, in his 36th year, granted the manor of Motynden, with its appurtenances, the scite of the priory, or house of the late Crouched-friars there, and several lands late belonging to it, to Anthony Aucher, gent. of Swinfield, (who was the eldest son of James Aucher, esq. of Otterden-place) to hold in capite by knights service. He assigned this estate, in the 2d year of king Edward VI. to Walter Hendley, esq. in trust, who quickly afterwards conveyed it to his son-in-law, Thomas Colepeper, esq. and he in the 4th year of that reign, passed it away to his son-in-law, Christopher Sackville, esq. who soon afterwards alienated it to George Sydenham, esq. and Elizabeth his wife, who were in possession of it anno 3 Elizabeth. His son George Sydenham, in the 25th year of it vested this

/w Tan. Mon. p. 221, 189. See the pensions paid to the late members in 1553, in Willis's Mitred Abbeys, vol. ii. p. 103.

/x See Frindsbury, vol. iii. of this history, p. 533.

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estate in trustees, who quickly afterwards sold it to Franklyn, whose son George Franklyn dying s. p. gave it by his will to his kinsman Sir William Sedley, of the Friars, in Aylesford, created a baronet in 1611, whose son, Sir John Sedley, bart. of Aylesford, had three sons, the two eldest of whom, Sir Henry and Sir William, dying s. p. this estate came to their youngest brother, Sir Charles Sedley, a posthumous son, who became noted for his wit and gallantry in the reign of king Charles II./y whose only daughter Catherine, was by king James II. created countess of Dorchester and baroness of Darlington for life. She inherited this manor and estate on her father's death, and afterwards carried it in marriage to Sir David Colyear, bart. in 1699, lord Portmore, in Scotland, and in 1703, earl of Portmore and viscount Milsington. His eldest son Charles, earl of Portmore, in 1732, succeeded him in title, and in this estate, and in 1770 passed away this manor, with the farms of Great and Little Mottenden, to John Sawbridge, esq. of Ollantigh, in this county, who a few years ago sold them to Jeremiah Curteis, gent. who is the present owner of them.

A court baron is held for this manor.

Peter Husey, archdeacon of Northampton, by his will in 1499, appointed his body to be buried in the choir of the Holy Trinity convent at Mottenden, where he had made his tomb; and it seems he died in this priory.

KELSHAM is an estate in this parish, which lies at a small distance southward from Mottenden, and though now only a farm-house, was formerly accounted a manor, and was the residence of gentlemen, known by that surname, who bore for their arms, Sable, a fess engrailed argent, between three garbs or, as appeared by the figure of one of them, with these arms on his tabard, formerly in painted glass in the windows of this

/y See more of this family under Aylesford, vol. iv. p. 429.

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church, but long since destroyed. In this name the possession of it seems to have continued till the latter end of queen Elizabeth's reign, when it was conveyed to Johnson, whence it came by purchase to John Stringer, of Triggs, in Goudhurst,^{/z} who gave this estate by his will to his second son, John Stringer, gent. of Ashford, who died possessed of it in 1679, leaving by Anne Witherden his wife, an only daughter Mary, who entitled her husband, Anthony Irby, esq. to it. He sold it in 1706 to George Charlton, esq. of Boxley, who had issue by Elizabeth his wife ten children; of whom the second son John Charlton, esq. of Boxley, by his father's will inherited this estate, and dying unmarried in 1770, by his will devised this estate to his nephew, the Rev. George Burvill, rector of Leyborne, in this county, eldest son of his sister Anne. But Mr. John Burden, only son of Charlotte, another of Mr. Charlton's sisters, claiming a moiety of this estate; on a trial in 1772, he had a verdict in his favor; presently after which, he sold the whole of his interest in it to the Rev. Mr. Burvill before-mentioned, who resides at Boxley, and is the present possessor of the whole of this estate.^{/a}

KENTS CHANTRY, now called the Chantry farm, had the former of these names from there having been a chantry founded on it, by one John Kent, in the 6th year of king Edward IV. who settled a handsome income to support the priest, who was to officiate at it. This chantry was suppressed before the 30th year of king Henry VIII. for the scite of it seems then to have been granted to Thomas, lord Cromwell, afterwards earl of Essex, who soon afterwards exchanged it with the king for other premises.

This estate remained in the crown till the 36th year of that reign, when the king granted the scite of this

^{/z} See a full account of the Stringers under Goudhurst.

^{/a} See more of the Burvills under Boxley, vol. iv. p. 325.

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suppressed chantry, with several lands belonging to it, in Hedcorne and elsewhere, to Sir Anthony St. Leger, and the heirs male of his body, to hold in capite by knights service, and in the 4th year of Edward VI. he obtained a fresh grant of it to him and his heirs, to hold by the like service. He was lord deputy of Ireland, knight of the garter, and of the privy council, and died in 1559, whose eldest son, Warham St. Leger, esq. afterwards knighted, lord president of Munster and a privy counsellor of Ireland, sold it, about the middle of queen Elizabeth's reign, to Thomas Colepeper, and he, in the 23d year of it, alienated it to Michael Beresford, of Westerham,^{/b} who settled it on one of his daughters Anne, married to Sir William Southland, of Lee, in Ickham. Their son Thomas Southland, esq. alienated it to Mr. William Belcher, rector of Ulcombe, in whose descendants it continued down to the Rev. Mr. Stringer Belcher, likewise rector of that parish, who died in 1739, and by Sarah his wife, daughter of Justinian Champneys, esq. of Boxley, left four daughters his coheirs, Catherine, married to Benjamin Neale Bayley, esq. of Ireland; Judith, since deceased; Elizabeth, now single; and Sarah, married to the Rev. Joseph Milner, afterwards Butler,

of Aylesford, in this county./c They possessed this estate in undivided shares, which they afterwards joined in the sale of to Mr. John Boreman, of this parish, who is now entitled to the entire fee of it.

RISHFORDS, usually called Rushfords, is a manor in this parish, which antiently gave name to a family who were possessors of it; one of them, Adam de Rishford, held this manor in the reign of king Edward II. of the master of the Maison Dieu, in Ospringe; but they were extinct here before the 20th year of king Edward III. when John, son of John de Peende, held it of the said

/b Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 9. See Westerham, vol. iii. p. 166.

/c See more of the Belchers under Hucking and Ulcombe.

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master, and then paid respective aid for it. This manor continued in his descendants till Stephen Peend, alias de la Pynd, and Martha his wife, in 1611, conveyed it to Christopher Fullagar, alias Domine, who, in the 9th year of king Charles I. conveyed it to Mr. John Hulkes, of Newnham, from whom it descended to Mr. Nathaniel Hulse, gent. of Acrise, for so he spelt his name, and he, with Elizabeth his wife, in 1772, conveyed this manor to Mr. John Goldsmith, surgeon, of Chatham, who in 1736 settled it in marriage with his daughter Frances, on the Rev. Peter Wade, rector of Cowling, vicar of Boughton Monchensie, and a minor canon of Rochester cathedral. By her he had one son John, a captain in the military branch of ordnance, who is married and has issue; and three daughters, Frances, married to Mr. alderman Stephens, of Rochester; Anne, to Mr. Gother Mann; and Mary. He died in 1783, and his son captain John Wade, is the present possessor of it.

SOUTHOLMENDEN is a manor in this parish, the name of which is mentioned in a charter of Offa, king of Mercia, dated in 791, by which he gave among other premises Suthelmingden to Christ-church, in Canterbury. In the 2d year of Edward IV. Thomas Whytingbroke, of Hedcorne, gave by will his capital messuage and lands, lying in Sowtholmynden, to his son John; of later times it has been for several generations possessed by the family of Austen, with whom it continued till Elizabeth, daughter of Peter Austen, of Marden, carried it in marriage to William Gammon, of Wrotham, whose son, the Rev. Austen Gammon, of Watringbury, in this county, is the present owner of it.

A court baron is held for this manor.

BLECHENDEN, alias CRUTTENDEN, is a manor here, which was part of the antient possessions of that branch of the eminent family of Colepeper, seated at Aylesford; of whom, William Colepepyr was created a ba-

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ronet in 1627. In his descendants it continued down to Sir Thomas Colepepyr, bart. of Preston-hall, who died in 1723, s. p. leaving Alicia his sister, then the widow of Sir Thomas Taylor, bart. of Maidstone, his heir, and she passed it away to Mr. Thomas Best, of Chatham, whose grandson, Thomas Best, esq. of Chilston, dying s. p. in 1795, gave it by will to his nephew

George Best, esq. now of Chilston, the present owner of it. A court baron is held for this manor.

THE MANORS OF WISPERHAWKE, alias Whitsperhawke and HAMPDEN in this parish, were formerly owned by a family of the first of those names; one of whom, Simon Whytsphawk, was possessed of them anno 2 Edward IV. They afterwards passed into the name of Hennand, and descended down to Thomas Hennand, whose heir-at-law conveyed them by sale to Galfridus Mann, esq. who died possessed of them, together with Hedcorne-place, in 1756, and his only son, Sir Horace Mann, bart. is the present possessor of these estates.

CHARITIES.

THE REV. JOHN FOTHERBYE gave by will in 1616, 40s. of which 10s. for a sermon on the day of his burial, and 30s. among the poorest sort of inhabitants who should come to hear it, to be paid out of the rent of a small farm, vested in the minister, churchwardens and overseers.

JOHN TOPLIFE gave by will in 1637 a house, barn, garden, and orchard adjoining the church-yard, rented now at 3l. 15s. per annum, the clear produce of which to be distributed at Easter yearly to four poor householders or widows, who receive no weekly pay, vested in the churchwardens, and to be distributed at their and the minister's discretion.

CLEMENT FISH, in 1638, as is supposed, gave to the poor who receive no alms, 40s. payable yearly out of a farm in this parish, vested in the minister, who disposes of it.

THOMAS SWAFFER gave by will in 1646, for the use of the poor, 15s. per annum, payable out of the rent of a house and garden in this parish, vested in the parish officers.

REV. SAMUEL WHISTONE gave by will in 1716, 5l. per annum, that is 10s. for a sermon, on May 2, yearly, O. S. 2s. 6d. to the clerk, for ringing out the great bell before sermon;

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and 37s. 6d. to such poor as should come to hear the sermon, and were willing to accept of it. The other 50s. to be distributed in like manner yearly on the day of his burial, the 2d of August, O. S. He gave likewise to the poor of the parish a house and garden in the town of Hedcorne, the clear rent of which to be distributed on Whit-Sunday and Christmas-day, yearly, to such poor persons as receive no relief, vested in the minister and churchwardens, and now rented at 4l. per annum.

The number of poor constantly relieved are about sixty-five, casually eighteen.

HEDCORNE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. It was founded by one of the family of Colepeper, owners of considerable property in this parish. The monument and arms of the founder still remain in the south wall of it, and the latter are carved in stone over the west door of the belfry. One of these coats has a crescent on the upper part of the bend; there are likewise two coats of Kelsham, the one impaling, Ermine, on a chief gules, two mullets or; the other, Sable, a chevron between three tents argent, and a coat, having A chevron between three garbs, and three cross-crosetts fitchee, one and two.

The church of Hedcorne was part of the possessions of the crown, and remained so till king Henry III. granted the parsonage or rectory of it to his new-erected Maison Dieu, founded by him at Ospringe, and the advowson of the vicarage to the archbishop of Canterbury and his successors.

In 1267 friar Elyas, master of this hospital, agreed that archbishop Boniface, patron of this church, by the grant of the prince their founder, should allow over and above the income of the vicarage, which William de Tilemanstone, perpetual vicar of it then had, the sum of one hundred shillings out of the gross fruits of it to be paid without any diminution./d

/d MSS. of bishop Tanner in Bibl. Bodl. Oxon. p. 99.

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The parsonage of the church of Hedcorne, with the manor of it, remained part of the possessions of the before-mentioned house or hospital till the dissolution of it in the 22d year of king Edward IV. by its being deserted by the two only remaining members of it; and thus devolving to the crown, the king committed the custody or guardianship of it to secular persons; in which state it continued till bishop Fisher obtained it, with all its lands and revenues, of king Henry VIII. in his 7th year, for St. John's college, in Cambridge, as a fit compensation for the lands which that society had lately lost. This grant was afterwards renewed by the king in his 11th year, and confirmed by the archbishop, the prior and convent, and the archdeacon of Canterbury, for their several parts and interests. In which state this parsonage, with the manor of it, now remains, being part of the possessions of the master and fellows of the above-mentioned college.

In the 8th year of king Richard II. anno 1384, the parsonage of Hedcorne was valued at 13l. 6s. 8d.

The advowson of the vicarage still continues part of the possessions of his grace the archbishop of Canterbury. It is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of forty-five pounds, the yearly tenths of which are 1l. 11s. 4d. In 1640 it was valued at fifty pounds per annum. Communicants four hundred.

CHURCH OF HEDCORNE.

PATRONS,
Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Henry de Osprenge, clerk, son of
Symon./e

VICARS.

William de Tilemanstone, in
1267.
William Ketellysden, 1507./f

/e Regist. Eccles. Christi, Cant.
cart. 1526.

/f Wills, Prerogative-office, Can-
terbury.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Francis Rawson, ind. August
1566.
John Fotherley, A. M. March 1,
1584, resigned 1602.
John Raynard, A. M. May 8,
1602, obt. 1610.
John Wood, Aug. 11, 1610, re=
signed 1610.
Thomas Harman, A. B. Dec. 6,
1610, resigned 1638.
Nicholas Bret, S. T. B. Jan. 10,
1638./g
Thomas Philips, obt. 1673.
Samuel Whistone, 1673, obt.
1716./h
Henry Hodson, A. B. Oct. 9,
1716, resigned 1723.
James Barham, May 27, 1723.
Peter Heyman, 1733./i
The archbishop. Joseph Hardy, 1762, obt. 1786.
Daniel Evans, 1786, the present
vicar.

/g See Walker's Suff. of the Clergy,
pt. ii. p. 203.

/h Brother to Jonathan, vicar of Be=
thersden.

/i A younger son of Sir Peter Hey=
man, bart.

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BOUGHTON MONCHENSIE

LIES the next parish northward from Hedcorne.
It is written in Domesday, Boltone; in later records,
Bocton, and sometimes West Bocton; and now usually
Boughton. It has the addition of Monchensie, (com=
monly pronounced Monchelsea) to it from the family
of that name, antiently possessors of it, and to distin=
guish it from the other parishes of the same name
within this county; and it is sometimes called, in the
neighbourhood of it, Boughton Quarry, from the large
quarries of stone within it.

THIS PARISH lies upon the lower or southern ridge,
commonly called the Quarry hills, which cross it, the

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summit of them being the northern boundary of the
Weald, so much therefore of this parish as is below it
is within that district. The church stands about half
way down of the hill southward, and close to the church=
yard is the antient mansion of Boughton-place, plea=
santly situated, having an extensive prospect southward
over the Weald, in a park well wooded and watered;
from hence the parish extends into the Weald, towards
that branch of the Medway which flows from Hedcorne
towards Style-bridge and Yalding, over a low deep
country, where the soil is a stiff clay like that of Hed=
corne before-described. Northward from Boughton=
place, above the hill, the parish extends over Cocks=
heath, part of which is within its bounds, on the fur=
ther side of it is a hamlet called Boughton-green, and
beyond it the seat of Boughton-mount, the grounds of
which are watered by the stream, which rises near

Langley park, and having lost itself under ground, rises again in the quarries here, and flowing on through Lose, to which this parish joins here, joins the Medway a little above Maidstone. These large and noted quarries, usually known by the name of Boughton quarries, are of the Kentish rag-stone, of which the soil of all this part of the parish, as far as the hills above-mentioned consists, being covered over with a fertile loam, of no great depth. At the end of Cocksheath eastward is the hamlet of Cock-street, usually called, from a public-house in it, Boughton Cock, when the soil becomes a red earth, much mixed with rotten flints; a little to the southward of which, at the edge of the heath is the parsonage, with some coppice wood adjoining, and on the brow of the hill, at the eastern bounds of the parish, the seat of Wiarton, having an extensive prospect over the Weald.

THIS PARISH was part of those possessions given by William the Conqueror, on his accession to the crown of England, to his half-brother Odo, bishop of Baieux, whom he likewise made earl of Kent, under the general

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title of whose lands it is thus entered in the survey of Domesday, taken about the year 1080:

Hugh, grandson of Herbert, holds of the bishop of Baieux Boltone. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is two carucates. In demesne there is nothing. But five villeins have five carucates there, and two acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of twenty hogs. There is a church. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth eight pounds, now six pounds. Aluuin held it of earl Goduine.

Four years after the taking the above-mentioned survey, the bishop of Baieux was disgraced, and all his possessions were confiscated to the crown.

After which, this manor came into the possession of the family of Montchensie, called in Latin records, De Monte Canisio, the principal seat of which was at Swanscombe, in this county.^{/k} William, son of William de Montchensie, who died anno 6 king John, was possessed of this manor, and it appears that he survived his father but a few years, for Warine de Montchensie, probably his uncle, succeeded to his whole inheritance in the 15th year of that reign. Soon after which this manor passed into the possession of the family of Hougham, of Hougham, in this county.

Robert de Hougham died possessed of it in the 41st year of king Henry III. as did his descendant of the same name in the 10th year of Edward II. without male issue, leaving a daughter Benedicta, who carried her interest in this estate in marriage to John de Shelving, of Shelvingbourne, and he died in the 4th year of Edward III. leaving his wife Benedicta surviving, who in the 20th year of that reign paid respective aid for this manor, which the heirs of Robert de Hougham then held at West Bocton of Hugh de Vere. She died in the 22d year of that reign; after which this name expired in two daughters and coheirs, one of whom,

^{/k} See Swanscombe, vol. ii. of this history, p. 404.

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Helen, was married to John de Bourne; and the other Joan, to John Brampton, alias Detling, of Detling-court, who entitled their husbands to their respective rights in this manor. Robert Bourne died possessed of one part of it in the 42d year of king Edward III. which his daughter and heir carried in marriage to Edmund Haut, of Haut's-place, in Petham, who possessed it in the 8th year of king Henry IV. in which year he was sheriff. His descendant alienated it before the end of king Henry VI.'s reign to Reginald Peckham, esq. who was then in possession of it, as appears by an old court-roll of that time.

The other, and by far the greatest part of this manor, on the death of John Brampton, alias Detling, above-mentioned, descended to his daughter Benedicta, who carried it in marriage to Thomas at Towne, of Townes-place, in Throwley, and he died likewise without male issue, leaving his three daughters his coheirs; one of whom, Benedicta, the second, carried this part in marriage to William Watton, esq. of Addington, who at the latter end of king Henry VI.'s reign, conveyed it by sale to Reginald Peckham, esq. above-mentioned, owner of the other part of this manor, who by this purchase became then sole lord of the whole of it. His grandson Thomas Peckham, esq. died in the 12th year of Henry VIII. and devised it at his death to his daughter, who carried it in marriage to Harpur, who presently afterwards alienated it to Sir Thomas Wiatt, as he did to Robert Rudston, esq. who was the son of Sir John Rudston, of London, lord mayor in 1528, whose father, Walter Rudston, was of Hatton, in Yorkshire. They bore for their arms, Argent, three bulls heads erased sable. In the 2d and 3d year of king Edward VI. he procured his lands in this county to be disgavelled, by the act then passed for this purpose. But having engaged with Sir Thomas Wyatt in his unfortunate rebellion, in the 1st year of queen Mary, he was, among others, found guilty, and condemned

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to be executed: which sentence the queen was pleased to respite, and in the 1st year of queen Elizabeth he was by act restored in blood, and to his possessions likewise, and resided at this manor, the mansion of which he made great additions to. Isaac, his eldest son, succeeded him in this manor, and left an only daughter and heir Anne, married to Samuel Michel, esq. of Old Windsor, on which it came, by the entail of his father's will, to Belknap Rudston his brother, who dying s. p. devised it by his will in 1613 to Sir Francis Barnham, of Hollingborne, the eldest son of Sir Martin Barnham, of London, by his second wife. His first wife, Anne Rudston, by whom he had only two daughters, being Sir Barnham's sister.

Sir Francis Barnham, resided at Hollingborne. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sampson Lennard, esq. of Chevening, sister of Henry, lord Dacre, by whom he had fifteen children; of whom, Robert, the second, but eldest surviving son, was seated at Boughton Monchenseie, and was created a baronet in 1663. He was succeeded in title and estate by Sir Robert Barnham, bart. his grandson (son of Francis Barnham, esq. who died in his father's life-time in 1668) who left an only

daughter and heir, Philadelphia, who carried this manor in marriage to Thomas Rider, esq. These Riders seem to be descended from those of Low Layton, in Essex, their arms being the same, viz. Azure, three crescents or; of which family was Sir William Rider, lord-mayor of London anno 42 Elizabeth. /m – His eldest son, Sir Barnham Rider, succeeded his father in this manor, and resided here. He died in 1728, and was succeeded by his only son Thomas, afterwards Sir Thomas Rider, who resided at Boughton-place, where he kept his shrievalty in 1754. He died unmarried in 1786, upon

/l Rym Fœd. vol. xv. p. 373. See Fox's Martyrs, vol. iii. p. 80. /m See Morant's Essex, vol. i. p. 23.

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which this manor came by his will to his first cousin Ingram Rider, esq. who now resides here.

WIARTON-HOUSE is a seat in the eastern part of this parish, which antiently gave name and residence to a family, possessors of it. Adam de Wiarton possessed it in the reign of king Henry III. and his descendants continued owners of it until the latter end of the reign of Richard II. when one of them alienated it to Robert Purse, whose son of the same name died possessed of it in 1452, and was buried in this church, having been a good benefactor to it, by new building the chancel and north isle of it, and his portrait in painted glass in the window over the place of his interment, remained entire till the civil wars of king Charles I's reign, when it was broken to pieces, all but one hand holding out a purse, put up in allusion to his name. His son alienated this seat to Richard Norton, whose wife Margaret dying in 1507, lies interred under the seat in this church belonging to Wiarton-house; in which name it continued till the reign of king James I when it was sold to Sir Anthony St. Leger, master of the rolls in Ireland, and privy counsellor, the third son of Sir Anthony St. Leger, of Ulcombe, in this county, lord deputy of Ireland. He left an only son, Sir Anthony St. Leger, who succeeded him in this seat, in which he resided in the reign of king Charles I. After whose death his heirs alienated it to Nathaniel Powell, esq. of Ewhurst, in Sussex, descended from John Powell, esq. of Ednop, in Salop, whose son Meredith Powell, of Brampton Ralf, in Somersershire, was father of Nathaniel Powell, esq. created a baronet in 1663, and purchaser of this seat, who likewise resided here; whose eldest son, Barnham Powell, esq. dying in his life-time, Sir Nathaniel Powell, his eldest son, succeeded his grandfather here, and died unmarried in 1708, and was succeeded by his only surviving brother, Sir Christopher Powell, bart. who resided at Wiarton, and in 1734 was chosen knight of the shire for this county.

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He bore for his arms two coats quarterly, 1st and 4th Gules, a lion rampant regardant, or; 2d and 3d, Argent, three boars heads coupéd, sable. He died possessed of it in 1742, s. p. leaving his widow, daughter of Mr. Newington, surviving, whose trustees sold this seat after her death, pursuant to the uses created in Sir Christopher's will, to Mr. John Briscoe, gent. of Lon-

don, who rebuilt it on the brow of the hill, at a small distance southward from the former scite of it, and then alienated it in 1771 to Willshire Emmett, esq. who served the office of sheriff in 1774, and bears for his arms, Party per pale, azure and sable; a fess ermine between three bulls heads caboshed or; and now resides here.

After residing here for some years, he alienated this seat with the estate belonging to it, to John May, esq. of Holborough in Snodland, the present owner of it; but it is now uninhabited.

The borough of Wiarton is within the manor of Newington, near Sittingborne; the rents due to which are from the freeholders holding within it, in free socage tenure.

HOLBROOK is a reputed manor here, which formerly belonged to a family of the name of Halbrook, as appears by several old deeds and court-rolls; and bore, as is evident from several old registers of arms, Azure, a plain cross, between four mullets or, frettee of the first; who having continued owners of it for several descents, became extinct here about the beginning of king Henry V.'s reign, when it came into the possession of William Haut, esq. of Bishopsborne, whose descendant, Sir William Haut, in the reign of Henry VIII. left two daughters and coheirs, of whom Jane, the youngest, married Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington-castle, who in her right became possessed of it, and at the latter end of king Edward VI.'s reign, with her consent alienated, it to Simon Smyth, of Buckland, near Maidstone, in whose descendants it continued

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down to John Smyth, esq. whose widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Smyth, is now possessed of it.

BOUGHTON MOUNT, formerly called Wychden, is a seat in this parish, situated on the opposite or northern side of Cocksheath, near the parish of Loose.

This seat, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, was the property of John Alchorne, of Aylesford, son of Robert, the grandson of John de Alchorne, or Ulchorne, of Ulchorne in Uckfield, in Sussex. They bore for their arms, Argent, a stag's head caboshed, a chief indented sable. In the descendants of John Alchorne, the purchaser of this seat, it continued down to his grandson of the same name, who leaving an only daughter Anne, she carried this estate in marriage to John Savage, gent. of Lions-inn, descended from the Savages, of Blexworth, in Dorsetshire, a branch of those of Rock Savage, in Cheshire. He had by her two sons, Richard, who died on his travels, at Prague, in Bohemia, in 1669; and John Savage, esq. who succeeded to this seat in 1726, and was appointed sheriff of this county, but died on April 9, that year, and was succeeded here by his son, Richard Savage, esq. whose widow, daughter of Mr. Gulston, survived him, and died in 1780, upon which this seat, according to her late husband's will, became the property of the two daughters and coheirs of his late sister, married to Benjamin Hubble, esq. of Town Malling, one of whom is married to Mr. Douce, and they are the present possessors of it; but it is now occupied by E. J. Foote, esq. of the royal navy.

CHARITIES.

WILLIAM REIFFGINS, a German, gave by will in 1613, 4l. per annum to the poor of this parish, for 34 years; 60l. to be vested in land for the like use for ever. A purchase was consequently made of land in the parish of Chart Sutton, which is vested in trustees, and is now of the annual rent of 3l.

The poor relieved here constantly are about thirty in number, casually twenty-five.

BOUGHTON MONCHENSIE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton.

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The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter, is a small building, having a handsome square tower at the west end.

This church was given to the priory of Leeds, soon after the foundation of it by Henry de Bocton, and was afterwards appropriated to it, with the licence of the archbishop, before the reign of king Richard II. at which time the parsonage of it was valued at ten pounds, and the vicarage of it at four pounds yearly income, both which remained part of the possessions of the priory till the dissolution of it in the reign of king Henry VIII. when it came, with the rest of the possessions of that house, into the king's hands, who by his dotation-charter in his 33d year, settled both the parsonage and advowson of the church of Bocton on his new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, part of whose possessions they now remain.

The lessee of the parsonage is Mrs. Eliz. Smith; but the presentation to the vicarage, the dean and chapter reserve to themselves.

On the abolition of deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles I. this parsonage was surveyed by order of the state in 1649, when it was returned, that it consisted of the scite, which, with the tithes, was worth 56l. 3s. 4d. that the glebe land of twenty-nine acres and two roods was worth 8l. 16s. 8d. per annum, both improved rents; which premises were let anno 14 Charles I. to Sir Edward Hales, knight and baronet, by the dean and chapter, for twenty one years, at the yearly rent of 13l. 10s. The lessee to repair the chancel of the parish church, and the advowson was excepted by the dean and chapter out of the lease.

The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 7l. 13s. 4d. and the yearly tenths at 15s. 4d. per annum. In 1640 it was valued at sixty pounds per annum. Communicants, 177. In 1649 it was surveyed,

/n Regist. of Leeds priory. Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 40.

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with the parsonage, by order of the state, and valued at thirty pounds per annum, clear yearly income.

The vicar of this church in 1584, but his name I have not found, was deprived for non-conformity; though he was so acceptable to the parishioners, that they, to the number of fifty-seven, made a petition to the lord treasurer, to restore their minister to them.

CHURCH OF BOUGHTON MONCHENSIE.

PATRONS,
Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Alanus Styward, anno 6 Ri=
chard II./p

John Walker, in 1492./q

William Grave, 1503./q

John Hawksworth, in 1517./q

William Nicholson, A. M. March
18, 1580.

Lowen Wood, May 8, 1582.

Henry Disborow, obt. 1615.

Francis Caycott, A. M. June 27,
1615.

Matthew Rutton, obt. 1686./r

John Cromp, A. M. July, 1686,
obt. 1719./s

Samuel Pratt, A. B. Nov. 1719,
obt. 1722.

George Pratt, A. M. June 25,
1722, obt. March 11, 1747./t

Dean and Chapter of Rochester. John Lawry, A. M. 1747, re=
signed 1755./u

Peter Wade, A. M. 1755, obt.
Sept. 1783./w

James Andrews, 1783, the pre=
sent vicar.

/o Parl. Surveys, Lambeth-library,
vol. xiv.

/p Cart. Antiq. E. H.

/q Wills, Prerog. off. Cant.

/r See Boys's Sandwich, pt. i. p. 273.

/s Prebendary of Rochester.

/t Also curate of Chatham. He was
son of dean Pratt, and lies buried in
Rochester cathedral.

/u And by a dispensation in 1747
rector of Lee. He afterwards resigned
this vicarage for that of Aylesford.
He was likewise a prebendary of Ro=
chester, and died in 1773.

/w In 1768, by dispensation rector
of Cowling, also a minor canon of
Rochester cathedral.

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LANGLEY.

THE next parish north eastward from Boughton Monchensie is Langley, written in Domesday, Lan=guelei, which signifies the long pasture, a name well adapted to it at this time.

LANGLEY PARISH is but small, it lies rather on high ground, the soil of it is mostly a red earth mixed with flints, not very fertile, it is very woody towards the east and west; the former part extending into the large tract of woodland called Kingswood, which with the numbers of large oak and elm trees, to which latter the soil is particularly kind, interspersed throughout it, gives it rather a gloomy appearance. Midway between these woods is the village of Langley, with the church in it, and at a little distance from it adjoining to Kings=

wood is Langley-heath, a waste of no great extent, about a quarter of a mile north-westward from the village is the estate called Langley-park, the park of which has been disparked a long time since, as will be further noticed hereafter. Near this part of the parish there rises a small spring, which at about a mile's distance from its source, loses itself at Brishing underground, running through a subterraneous passage for near half a mile, when it rises again, and running through Loose it meets the Medway, just above Maidstone. /x Kilburne says, that in 1472 a spring or bourn newly broke forth in the park here, which I think must be the same that Leland mentions, where he says, there was a pit in Langley park, which again any battle would be dry; but if there was no battle toward, it would be full of water, was the weather ever so dry.

LANGLEY was part of those great possessions with which William the Conqueror enriched his half-bro-

/x See Loose, vol. iv. p. 360.

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ther Odo, bishop of Baieux, whom he also made earl of Kent; and it is accordingly thus entered, under the general title of that prelate's lands, in the survey of Domesday as follows:

The same Adam Fitzhubert holds of the bishop of Baieux, Languelei. It was taxed at one suling and an half. The arable land is four carucates. In demesne there are two, and seven villeins, with five borderers having three carucates. There is a church and seven servants, and three acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of twenty-five hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth sixty shillings, when he received it fifty shillings, now sixty shillings. Turgis held it of king Edward.

About four years after the taking the above-mentioned survey, the bishop of Baieux was disgraced, and this, among the rest of his estates, became confiscated to the crown.

In the reign of king Henry III. it was become the property of a family named Ashway; one of whom, William de Ashway, held it, as appears by the Testa de Nevil, in the 20th year of that reign, when he paid aid for it at the marriage of Isabel, that king's sister. Soon after which it came into the possession of the Leybornes, of Leyborne-castle, in this county. Roger de Leyborne died possessed of the manor of Langley in the 56th year of the above reign. After which it descended down to Juliana de Leyborne, who being heir both to her father and grandfather, was from the greatness of her possessions usually stiled the Infanta of Kent. Sir William de Clinton, earl of Huntingdon, to whom and to her last husband king Edward III. in his 9th year granted licence to enlarge their park here with two hundred acres of land, held this manor in her right in the 20th year of that reign, when he paid aid for it as half a knight's fee in Langele, held of the countess of Albermarle.

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Juliana de Leyborne had no issue by either of her

husbands, all of whom she survived, and died possessed of this manor in the 41st year of king Edward III. on which it escheated to the crown; for it appears by the inquisition taken after her death, that there was no one who could make claim to her estates, either by direct, or even by collateral alliance./y

The manor of Langley remained in the hands of the crown, till in king Richard II.'s reign it became vested in John, duke of Lancaster, and other feoffees, in trust for the performance of certain religious bequests, devised in the last will of Edward III. who had by his letters patent, in his 22d year, endowed and completed the chapel, which had been begun by his predecessor king Stephen, in his palace at Westminster, and made it collegiate, to consist of a dean and canons, and other ministers, to whom he granted, that they should receive at his treasury, as much as would supply them with necessaries, until he could give them as much lands and rents as amounted to five hundred pounds yearly income, which he bound himself and his heirs, kings of this realm, to perform; to which likewise he, by his last will, enjoined the duke of Lancaster, and others his feoffees.

They, in compliance with the king's will, purchased of the crown, in king Richard II.'s reign, this manor of Langley, among others, and then, in the 5th year of it, demised it to the dean and canons, to the intent that they being in the actual possession of it, the king might grant it to them in mortmain for ever. After some years the king, through some false representations made by Sir Simon de Burley, granted it to him and dispossessed the dean and canons of it; but he having forfeited his interest in it, with his life, in the 10th year of that reign, king Richard II. by his letters patent, in

/y Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 14. Rot. Esch. anno 41 Edward III. No. 47. See Leyborne, vol. iv. p. 498.

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his 12th year, at the petition of the dean and canons, granted to them the rents and profits of this manor among others, to them as a sufficient endowment, until he should otherwise alter it, or provide for them.

After which, by his letters patent in his 21st year, he granted it, among other premises, to them for ever, for the performance of the religious purposes therein mentioned, and in part of the exoneration of the sum to be taken at his treasury as before-mentioned./z

In which situation this manor continued till the 1st year of king Edward VI.'s reign, when an act passing for the surrendry of all free chapels, chantries, &c. this, among others, was soon afterwards dissolved, and the lands and possessions of it were surrendered up into the king's hands. But the park here, mentioned before to have been in king Edward the III.'s reign in the possession of William de Clinton, and his lady Juliana seems, after her death, not to have been granted with the manor to the college, but to have remained in the hands of the crown, for king Richard II. in his 11th year granted the custody of this park, then in his hands, to William, archbishop of Canterbury, and it appears by the patent rolls in the tower, anno 27 king Henry VI. pt. ii. m. 18, to have been then granted to

Thomas Kent and Isabella his wife, and in the 2d year of king Henry VIII Henry Guildford, esq. had a grant for life of the parkership of this park. This park was disparked when Lambarde wrote his perambulation about the year 1570.

Soon after which this manor was granted to St. Le=ger, from which name it was alienated to Lewin Buf=kin, of Sussex, and he obtained of queen Elizabeth new letters patent of it, to be holden in free socage of the queen, as of her manor of Est Greenwich. His descendant of the same name alienated it, in king

/z See the confirmations of them anno 1 Edward IV. and 1 Henry IV, and VI. in Dugd. Mon. vol. iii. pt. ii. p. 61 to 67.

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James I.'s reign, to Nathaniel Powel, of Ewhurst, in Sussex, who sold it to Sir Edward Hales, knight and baronet, whose grandson, Sir Edward Hales, bart. vested it in trustees, and they about the year 1670 sold it to Sir William Drake, of Amersham, in Bucking=hamshire, the trustees of whose grandson, Montague Gerard Drake, during his infancy, anno 5 queen Anne, procured an act to enable them to sell this manor, with Sutton Valence and other estates in this neighbourhood in pursuance of which, they conveyed it by sale, about the year 1708, to Sir Christopher Desbouverie, of London, and he died possessed of it in 1733, leaving two sons, Freeman and John, who both died s. p. and two daughters, Anne, married to John Hervey, esq. afterwards of Beechworth, and Elizabeth. On the death of the two sons s. p. each of whom possessed this manor in succession, it came, in 1750, to the two sisters and coheirs of their brother John, and on the partition of their inheritance in 1752, it was, among other estates in this neighbourhood, allotted to the share of Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, the youngest sister, now of Teston, who continues owner of it.

BRISING, usually called Brishing, is a manor here, which had antiently owners, who took their name from it.

Thomas de Brissinges held this manor in the begin=ning of king Edward I.'s reign, as half a knight's fee, of William de Leyburne, as did his descendant Sarah de Brissinges, in the 20th year of Edward III. and then paid aid for it. After this family was extinct here this manor came into the possession of the Astrys, de=scended originally out of Bedfordshire. John Astry, of which family was Sir Ralph Astry, son of Geoffry, of Hitchin, in Hertfordshire, was lord-mayor in 1493. They bore for their arms, Barry wavy of six, argent and azure, on a chief gules three bezants. One of them held this manor in the beginning of the reign of Edward IV. as did his descendant John Astry, who

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died possessed of it in the 35th year of Henry VIII. when it was found that this manor was held of that of Langley, and lay within the fee of the dutchy of Lancaster.

Soon after which it was alienated to Ralph Bufkin, esq. whose descendant Lewin Bufkin, esq. sold it in the reign of king James I. to Nathaniel Powel, of

Eweherst, in Sussex, who reconveyed it back to the same family, in the person of Lewin Bufkin, the direct descendant of Lewin Bufkin first-mentioned, and it continued in this name till it came at length to Ralph Bufkin, esq. who dying without male issue, it descended to John Martin, esq. of Stanmer, in Sussex, as his heir at law. His son Denny Martin, esq. of Salts, in Loose, married Frances, one of the daughters of Thomas, lord Fairfax, by whom he had five sons and three daughters. His widow surviving him, died here possessed of it in 1791, on which it descended to their eldest surviving son the Rev. Denny Martin Fairfax, now of Leeds castle, the present owner of it. A court baron is held for this manor.

LANGLEY is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton. There are no parochial charities.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and has always been an appendage to the manor, and as such is now in the patronage of Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Teston, the present possessor of the manor of Langley.

It is a rectory, valued in the king's books at 6l. 19s. 9½d. and the yearly tenths at 13s. 11¾d. In 1640 this rectory was valued at one hundred pounds per annum. Communicants, fifty-five.

The parsonage-house was wholly rebuilt in the year 1767, by the late rector Mr. Waterhouse, who was a good benefactor likewise to the church, as has been Mrs. Bouverie, the present patron of it.

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CHURCH OF LANGLEY.

PATRONS, &c.

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Charles Whalley, in 1553./a

Lords of the manor of Langley. Henry Wiborne, obt. 1591.

Thomas Crumpe, April 8, 1591,
obt. 1619.

William Carr, A. M. July 3,
1619, obt. 1625.

Joseph Bennet, Oct. 2, 1625,
resigned 1627.

Frederick Tilden, A. M. June
14, 1627.

..... Tilden, 1653, ejected in
1662.

Peter Browne, S. T. P. May 24,
1662, obt. 1692.

Edward Brown, A. M. March
11, 1692, obt. 1710.

David Waterhouse, A. M. March
24, 1710, obt. 1758.

David Waterhouse, A. M. June
24, 1759, obt. Nov. 30,
1780.

John Kennedy, Dec. 23, 1780,
resigned 1789./b

James Edward Gambier, 1789,
the present rector.

/a See Rymer's Fœd. vol. xv. p. 348.
He had been canon of Leeds priory at

the time of its dissolution. See Willis's Mitred Abbeys, vol. ii. p. 102.

/b See vol. v. of this History, p. 126, 136.

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CHART SUTTON.

THE next parish southward from Langley is Chart Sutton, or as it should be more properly called, Chart by Sutton, written in Domesday, Certh.

THIS PARISH is but small, the lower or southern ridge of Quarry-hills divides the upper and lower parts of it, the latter is in the district of the Weald, where

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the country is low and flat, abounding with broad hedge rows, filled with large and spreading oaks. It is exceedingly wet and miry in winter, the soil being a deep stiff clay. At the foot of the hill there rises a stream, which having turned a mill, flows from thence southward across this parish, till it joins the branch of the Medway just above Herefeed-bridge; on and about the hill the soil consists of the quarry-stone, thinly covered with a loam, being exceedingly fertile for corn, fruit, and hops. Just above the summit of the hill is the village and church, with Chart-place adjoining to the church-yard; beyond which northward the soil becomes less fertile, being a hungry red earth mixed with flints, which continues till it joins the parish of Langley.

The mention made in the record of Domesday of the three arpendes of vineyard in this parish, ought not to be passed by unnoticed here, this being one of several instances of there having been vineyards in this county in very early times. I mean plantations of the grape-vine; for I can by no means acquiesce in the conjecture, that vineæ universally meant plantations of apples and pears, at least so far as relates to this county, where the latter were not introduced at the time, nor for some time after the taking of the survey of Domesday. This opinion is further confirmed by the instance of Hamo, bishop of Rochester, who, when Edward II. in his 19th year, was at Bokinfeld, in this county, sent that prince a gift both of wine and grapes, from his vineyard at Halling, near Rochester, the episcopal palace where he then resided. These vineyards being likewise measured by the arpend, the same measure that they usually were in France, shews that when the vine was brought from thence and cultivated here, the same kind of measure was continued to the plantations of them, a measure different from that of any other kind of land. Sir Robert Atkins, in his History of Gloucestershire, has indeed given two instances from records

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in the reigns of king John and king Edward II. to prove the contrary, which might suit exceedingly well with the language of his countrymen, and the bleak county of Gloucester, where the grape-vine had never been seen, and the only beverage was that of the apple and pear, which they had dignified with the appellation of wine. In my memory there have been two exceed=

ing fine vineyards in this county, one at Tunbridge-castle, and the other at Hall-place, in Barming, near Maidstone, from which quantities of exceeding good and well-flavored wine have been produced. This parish of Chart, among others in the same situation, on the side of the quarry-hills, is peculiarly adapted to the planting of vines, as well from the warm and nutritive quality of the soil, as its genial aspect, being entirely sheltered from the north and east, and facing the south on the declivity of the hill.

CHART was part of those possessions given by William the Conqueror to his half-brother Odo, bishop of Baieux, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in that record.

The same Adam Fitz Hubert holds of the bishop of Baieux, Certh. It was taxed at three sulings. The arable land is eight carucates. In demesne there is one, and twenty villeins, with five borderers having six carucates. There is a church and eight servants, and six acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of fifty hogs. There are three arpends of vineyard, and a park of beasts of the forest. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, and now, it was and is worth twelve pounds. Alnod Cilt held it.

Four years after the taking the above-mentioned survey, the bishop of Baieux was disgraced, and all his estates were confiscated to the crown.

This estate afterwards became the property of Baldwin de Betun, earl of Albermarle, likewise lord of the manor of Sutton Valence, to which this estate seems to have been accounted an appendage, and it afterwards

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continued with it, in a like succession of ownership, down to Sir Christopher Desbouverie, who soon after his coming into the possession of it in 1708, on a spot which he had purchased of others, on which there was then only a mean cottage, built for himself a mansion near the church here, where he afterwards resided. He died possessed of it in 1733, leaving two sons, who both died without issue, and also two daughters, who became their brother's heirs, and on the partition of their inheritance in 1752, this manor was, among others in this neighbourhood, allotted to the share of the youngest, Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, now of Teston, who continues owner of it.

NORTON-PLACE is an antient manor and mansion in this parish, though now and for many years since made use of only as a farm-house, situated about half a mile northward from Chart-place. It was antiently the property and residence of the family of Norton, to whom it gave name; and in the south windows of this church there were formerly the effigies of Stephen Norton, who lived in king Richard II.'s reign, with his arms, Argent, a chevron between three crescents azure, on his tabard or surcoat, and Philipott says that he had found in a tournament of the Kentish gentlemen one of this name, in a tabard of the arms above-mentioned, encountering one Christmas, of East Sutton, not far distant, who was in like manner habited in a surcoat charged with his arms, expressive of his name, viz. Gules, upon a bend sable, three wassail bowls, or; which

coat was likewise depicted in the south windows of Sutton church. But the partitions inherent to gavelkind, so diminished the patrimony of this family, that in the reign of queen Elizabeth, and afterwards, they were obliged to sell off several parts of it at different times, all which came at length into the possession of Sir Ed-

/c See the succession of this manor more at large under Sutton Valence hereafter.

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ward Hales, created a baronet in 1611, whose grandson and heir of the same name in 1660 purchased of the two coheirs of the family of Norton, married to Denne and Underwood, the seat itself, with the remainder of the land belonging to it, by a fine then levied by them and their husbands for that purpose. His trustees about the year 1670, conveyed it, with the manor of Sutton Valence and Chart before-mentioned, and sundry other premises, to Sir William Drake, of Amersham, with which it was in like manner sold, about the year 1708, to Sir Christopher Desbouverie, whose daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Teston, after the death of her two brothers, and a partition of her father's estates between herself and her sister, is now entitled to it.

WALTERS-FOLLY, in the den of Ivetigh, now vulgarly called THE FOLLY, is an estate situated in the southern part of this parish, about a mile below the summit of the hill. It was antiently the property of the family of Ivetigh, antiently spelt Evythye, who implanted their name on it, as they did on other lands in this parish, still called by their name; and though the deeds of this estate, which mention them as possessors of it, do not reach higher than the reign of king Henry VI. yet, undoubtedly, they were owners of it long before.

In the above-mentioned reign, however, this estate was alienated by one of that name to Robert Mascall, who died possessed of it in the 4th year of Edward IV. By his will, dated Nov. 25, that year, he willed his body to be buried in the church yard of this parish. He devised 6s. 8d. towards the pavement of the church, and to the leading of it twenty shillings; all his lands and tenements to his wife, for her life, remainder to his son Thomas, his daughter Elizabeth mentioned in it. His son Thomas Mascall resided here, and some years after his father's death sold it to Wm. Lambe, who changed the name of it to Lambden; in his descendants, who

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bore for their arms, Sable, on a fess or, two mullets of the field, between three cinquefoils ermine, it continued till it was at length sold to Perry, descended from those of Worcestershire, and it remained in that name till the reign of king Charles I. when Mr. James Perry, of Lenham, dying s. p. his three daughters, Elizabeth, married to Mr. Thomas Petley, of Filston; Anne and Mary became his coheirs, and entitled to this estate, which they afterwards joined in the sale of to Walter, who rebuilt the house on it, which afterwards gained the name of Walter's folly; from one of his descendants it was purchased, in the reign of queen Anne,

by Sir Samuel Ongley, of London, who gave it, together with an estate called Elderden, lying at a small distance from it, by will to his nephew, Samuel Ongley, esq. of Old Warden, in Bedfordshire, in tail: on whose death s. p. this estate came by the entail above-mentioned to his nephew Robert Henley, esq. who took upon him the name of Ongley, and was in 1776 created baron Ongley, of Ireland, he died in 1785, and his son Robert lord Ongley, is the present owner of it.

ALMNERY-GREEN, usually called Almerly green, is a place in the western part of this parish, where there is an estate called Haddis tenement, alias Almerly, which was for many generations the residence of the family of Hadde, called in antient writings likewise Le Hadde. Robert Hadde lived here in the reign of king Henry III. as did his son William le Hadde in the next reign of Edward I./d At length about the latter end of the reign of king Edward III. this family divided into two branches, of which Robert le Hadde, the eldest son and heir, settled at Frinsted, where his descendants continued for many generations, and the youngest son inherited this family seat at Chart, which remained in the possessions of his descendants, till Thomas Haddys, in the reign of king Henry VII. leaving two daugh-

/d Vistn. co. Kent, 1619. Pedigree of Hadd.

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ters his coheirs, Margaret married first Wm. Wright and afterwards Nicholas Harpur; and Catherine, who married Thomas Bidlake, of Devonshire, this house and estate in Chart became the property of his eldest daughter Margaret, who entitled her husband, William Wright, to it; and he, anno 17 Henry VII. conveyed it to Roger Morys, of Ledes, and after some intermediate owners, it came into the possession of Robert Baker, who in 1612 sold it to Sir Edward Hales, bart. The trustees of whose grandson, Sir Edward Hales, bart. sold it with the manor of Sutton Valence, and his other estates in this parish, to Sir William Drake, of Amersham, with which they were in like manner afterwards sold to Sir Christopher Desbouverie; and on the partition between his two daughters and coheirs, these premises were allotted, with other lands in this and the neighbouring parishes, to Anne, the eldest daughter, married to John Hervey, esq. afterwards of Beechworth, who died possessed of them in 1757, and his grandson Christopher Hervey, esq. is now entitled to them.

There is an estate on ALMNERY-GREEN, which was formerly part of the possessions of the priory of Ledes, and most probably belonging to the almshouse of that house, gave name to this place. It remained with it till the reign of Henry VIII. when the priory being dissolved, this estate came, with the rest of the possessions of it, into the king's hands, and was settled by him in the 32d year of his reign, on his new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, who are now entitled to the inheritance of it.

LESTED is an antient seat, situated on the northern side of the high road leading from Cocks-heath to Langley-heath, near Chart corner.

It was formerly part of the possessions of the family

of Potman. who were possessed of other estates in this parish as has been already mentioned and it continued with them till Sir Richard Potman sold it to Simon

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Smyth, gent. who resided at Buckland, in Maidstone, whose son Simon was of Boughton Monchensie, and had the arms of his family confirmed to him by Camden, clarencieux, in 1650./e He left a son Simon, of Lested,/f whose widow afterwards remarried George Curteis, esq. sheriff of this county in 1651, when he resided here in her right.

In the descendants of Simon Smyth this estate descended down to the Rev. John Smyth, vicar of this parish, and rector of Hastingleigh, who died in 1732, and was succeeded by his son John Smyth, esq. whose widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Smyth survived him, and afterwards resided in it. She was daughter of Ralph Whitefield, esq. major of the Welsh fuzileers, by whom he left four daughters, Felicia, Elizabeth, Anna-Maria, and Dorothea, his coheirs, and they or their respective heirs are now entitled to it.

CHENEYS-COURT is a reputed manor here, which appears in very early times to have been called Hadenesham, and to have been in the possession of Sir Robert de Shurland, a man of great eminence in the reign of king Edward I. who leaving an only daughter and heir, she carried this estate, with other large inheritance, in marriage to William de Cheney, of Patricksborne, in whose descendants it continued so long, that they implanted their name on it; at length Sir Thomas Cheney passed it away to John Iden, who died possessed of it in the 4th year of Henry VIII. and one of his descendants, leaving two daughters and coheirs, one of whom married Browne, and the other Barton, the latter of them, in right of his wife, possessed this estate, and in that name it continued till it was at length alienated to Heyward, for Rowland Heyward had the queen's licence, anno 16 Elizabeth, to alienate the messuage and manor, called Chenye-court, to John

/e Guill. Heraldry, p. 77. See vol. iv. p. 304.

/f Vistr. co. Kent, 1619, and MSS. pedigree of Smyth.

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Long, of Tunbridge; after which it passed to Wollett, and thence to Jordan, and afterwards to that branch of the family of Fane, who were earls of Westmoreland, in which it continued till John, earl of Westmoreland, dying in 1762, s. p. this, among his other estates in this county, is at length, by the limitations of his will, come to the right hon. Thomas, lord le Despencer, who continues the present possessor of it.

There is the appearance of an old manor-pound belonging to it; but there has been no court held for this manor in the memory of man.

THE FAMILY OF SPENCER once possessed an estate in this parish, and resided here for some generations; one of whom John Spencer, esq. was of Chart Sutton, and bore for their arms, Argent, a fess engrailed, in chief three lions rampant, gules, at the latter end of the reign of king Henry VIII. as was his son of the same name afterwards. He left two sons, John and Nicho-

las, and five daughters, who on their elder brother's death s. p. became his coheirs; and in the beginning of the reign of king Charles I. joined with their respective husbands in the sale of their inheritance in this parish, to Sir Edward Hales, bart. it afterwards passed into the possession of Sir William Drake, and then to Sir Christopher Desbouverie, in whose descendants it has continued in like manner as the rest of his estates in this parish to the present time.

CHARITIES.

RICHARD MASCALL gave by will in 1599, for the better support of the poor the yearly sum of 40s. in land in Ashford, vested in Edward Finch Hatton, esq. and now of the annual produce of 1l. 11s.

JOAN MASCALL gave by will in 1598, for the like use, the annual sum of 10s. in land in this parish, vested in Wm. Spong, and of that annual produce.

The poor constantly maintained by this parish are yearly in number about thirty-five, casually about twenty.

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CHART SUTTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton.

The church, which stands near the summit of the hill, at a very small distance from Sutton Valence, is dedicated to St. Michael.

This church has been twice set on fire by lightning: the first time, a few years ago, when it was fortunately soon extinguished; the last time was on April 23, 1779, about seven o'clock in the morning, when in a dreadful storm of thunder, the lightning set fire to the beautiful spire steeple of it, and in about three hours time burnt that and the whole building to ashes, excepting the bare walls; since which it has been rebuilt from a plan of Mr. Henry Holland, junior, architect, at the cost of more than 1,300l. collected by a brief throughout the county from house to house, and a liberal contribution made by the neighbouring gentry and clergy.

The church of Chart was given to the priory of Leeds, soon after the foundation of it; the tithes of every kind, arising from the demesnes of the lord of the parish of Chart, and also twenty shillings annual pension from the church, to be paid by the hands of the rector of it, for ever, for the maintenance of the infirmary of the priory, being assigned and granted by archbishop Richard to the canons of the priory.

In the year 1320, Walter, archbishop of Canterbury, appropriated this church to the priory, and then admitted William de Shoreham to the vicarage of this church; at which time he, by his instrument, endowed the vicarage of it as follows: first, he ordained and decreed, that every vicar, for the time being, should receive all oblations and obits according to the altar of the

/g See the confirmations of it by the archbishops Theobald and Hubert, and by the prior and chapter of Canterbury, in Register of Ledes priory.

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church, which the rectors of it used of old to receive,

together with the tithes of wool, lambs, calves, hogs, hay, flax, hemp, mills, pears, apples, milk, milk-meats, sheep, and of whatever was planted and sowed in gardens; and also, that the prior and convent should bear and exonerate all burthens, ordinary and extraordinary, happening to the church, as well in books, vestments, reparations and rebuildings of it, as often as need should require, the procurations of the archdeacon, and other burthens antiently belonging to it, or which might in future be laid on it. And he further decreed, that the prior and convent should assign of the soil of the church, one acre and an half of land, lying conveniently for a dwelling for the vicar, and should build for him on it a convenient house for him and his successors to dwell in, and that they should pay to him and his successors, as an augmentation of his living, forty shillings sterling yearly.

On the dissolution of the priory of Leeds, in the reign of Henry VIII. this parsonage, with the advowson of the vicarage, came into the hands of the crown, and was by the king settled in his 32d year, on his new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, part of whose inheritance it remains at this time.

On the abolition of deans and chapters, this parsonage was surveyed by order of the state in 1649, when it was returned, that the parsonage, or manor-house of the parsonage, consisted of a hall, a parlour, kitchen, cellar, buttery, five chambers, three garrets, one dairy-house, barn and stable, with all the tithes thereto belonging, and the tithes of as much of Sutton-park as lay within the precincts of Chart parish, with a court and barn-yard; the whole being valued at fifty pounds per annum, and let by the dean and chapter, anno 26 Charles I. by lease to Sir Edward Hales, bart. and Sir John Hales, his son, for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of 13l 11s. 8d. and one good and sea-sonable brawn every Christmas, but that the premises

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were worth over and above, upon improvement, 67l. 3s. 10d. and that the tenant was bound to repair and maintain the chancel of the parish church. At which time the vicarage was valued at thirty-five pounds clear yearly income./h

Among the archives of the dean and chapter of Canterbury is a definitive sentence, made at Cranbrook, anno 1400, concerning the custom and method of taking tithes in this parish, made by Thomas, archbishop of Canterbury, in a cause of tithes, between the prior and convent of Ledes and John Hadde, parishioner of this church.

Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Teston, is the present lessee of this parsonage. The advowson of the vicarage is reserved by the dean and chapter, in their own hands.

The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 8l. 12s. 8½d. and the yearly tenths at 17s. 3¾d./i It is now of the clear yearly certified value of 47l. 11s. 9¼d.

In 1640 it was valued at thirty pounds per annum. Communicants, 212.

The Rev. John Smyth, vicar gave by will in 1732, two hundred pounds as an augmentation, to enable it to receive the benefit of the like sum from queen

Anne's bounty, with which a small farm of twenty pounds per annum in Ashford parish, has been purchased for the benefit of the vicar and his successors.

CHURCH OF CHART SUTTON.

PATRONS,
Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Walter de Malden, 1284.
John Haukinge, the last rector,
resigned 1320.

Parl. Surveys, Lamberth library,
vol. xiv.

Bacon's Lib. Regis.

Ect. Thes. p. ix.

Regist. of Ledes priory.

Reg. Roff. p. 209.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Dean and Chapter of Rochester. Nicholas Hayman, resig. 1591.
William Hayman, August 9,
1591.

John Case, May 3, 1619, obt.
1664.

Peter Browne, A. M. June 1,
1664, resigned 1687.

John Smyth, Jan. 1687, obt.
Dec. 1732.

James Hales, A. M. April,
1733.

Richard Husband, A. M. resig.
1769.

Arnold Carter, 1769, resigned
1773.

Henry Jones, A. M. 1773, resig.
1783.

John Smith, 1784, the present
vicar.

Also rector of Hastingleigh.

He was before vicar of Bersted.

Minor canon of Rochester.

And minor canon of Rochester.

Minor canon of Rochester. He resigned this vicarage for Shorne.

TOWN SUTTON, ALIAS SUTTON VALENCE,

It is the next parish eastward from Chart Sutton. It has the name of Valence from that eminent family, who continued long owners of it, and is called Town Sutton from the largeness of the village or town of it, in comparison of those of the adjoining parishes of the same name.

THE PARISH of Town Sutton is situated much like that of Chart Sutton last described, and the soil the same, being about the hill, the quarry stone covered with a thin loam, fertile for corn, fruit and hops; above it a red earth mixed with flints, and below the hill a stiff clay, rendered more prolific by the mixture of marle with it. The village, now a poor mean place,

is situated a little lower than the summit of the quarry

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hill, having the church at the west end of it; the manor-house stands on the small green adjoining the church-yard, having an extensive view over the country southward. The road from Chart to East Sutton, of but little traffic, leads through the village, and another crosses it from Langley down the hill into the Weald; at a small distance below the village is Sutton-place and the parsonage, and below the foot of the hill the little manor of Forsham, formerly the estate of the Austens, baronets, beyond which this parish extends southward across a low flat country, deep, wet, and miry, till it joins that of Hedcorne; above the village it joins to Kingswood, part of which is within it.

On the brow of the hill at a small distance eastward from the village, and adjoining to the parsonage-yard, stand the venerable ruins of SUTTON CASTLE, now almost covered with ivy, and the branches of the trees which sprout out from the walls of it. What remains of it seems, to have been the keep or dungeon of this fortress, two separate rooms of which are still in being; and by the cavities where the joists have been laid into the walls, appear to have been at least a story higher than they are at present. The remains of the walls are more than three feet in thickness, and about twenty feet high, and have loop-holes for arrows at proper distances; they are composed of the quarry stone and flint mixed, together with some few thin bricks or paving tiles interspersed throughout. The whole appears to have been exceeding strong, though of very rude workmanship; and seems to have been built in the time of the barons wars, most likely by one of the family of Valence, earls of Pembroke, whilst the church and its demesnes yet remained as appendages to their manor of Sutton Valence, and the part of their possessions. It stands high, commanding a most extensive view over the adjacent country southward, and was most probably made use of as a place of defence for the partizans of the lords of it, to make their ex-

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ursions from, and retreat again to, when likely to be overpowered by their enemies. Fronting the title of this volume is a view of it in its present state.

Kilburne imagines the sea came up this valley underneath Sutton castle, which he supposes to have been built when it did so; and he seems to be confirmed in that opinion by an anchor's having been found not far below it, in the memory of some men then living.

A fair is kept in this village yearly, on the day of St. Edmond the king, on the 20th of November.

THIS PLACE was given by William the Conqueror, on his obtaining the crown of this realm, to his half-brother Odo, bishop of Baieux; it having been part of the possessions of Leofwine, a younger brother of king Harold, who was slain fighting on his brother's part, at the fatal battle of Hastings; accordingly it is thus entered, under the general title of the bishop's lands, in the survey of Domesday:

Adam Fitzhubert holds of the bishop of Baieux, Sud-

tone. It was taxed at two sulings. The arable land is seven carucates. In demesne there are two, and eighteen villeins, with five borders, having four carucates. There is a church and four acres of meadow, and one mill. Wood for fifty hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth twelve pounds, when he received it ten pounds, now fourteen pounds, and yet it pays eighteen pounds. Earl Leuvin held it.

Four years after the taking this survey, the bishop was disgraced, and this among the rest of his possessions was confiscated to the crown. After which it became the property of Baldwin de Betun, earl of Albermarle, who in the 5th year of king John's reign, granted this manor, among others in this county, to William Marshal, earl of Pembroke, with Alice his daughter, in frank marriage.

In the 10th year of king Henry III. he again married Alianore, the king's sister, and in the 14th year of that reign had a confirmation of this manor, upon con=

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dition that Alianore his wife, if she survived him, should enjoy it during her life. He died in the 15th year of that reign, s. p. on which the sheriff had the king's precept to deliver possession of it to his widow. She afterwards re-married Simon de Montfort, earl of Leicester, who was slain in the 49th year of that reign, fighting on the part of the discontented barons, at the battle of Evesham; after which, the countess Alianore and her children were forced to forsake the realm, and she died sometime afterwards in the nunnery of Montargis, in France.

In the mean time the four brothers of William, earl of Pembroke, successively earls of Pembroke, being dead s. p. their inheritance became divided between the heirs of their five sisters, when the manor of Sutton was allotted among others, to Joane, the second sister, then the widow of Warine de Montchensie, by whom she had one son William, and a daughter Joane, married to William de Valence, the king's half-brother, who in her right became possessed of it. He died in the 23d year of king Edward I. leaving Joane his widow surviving, who had this manor assigned to her as part of her dowry, when it was found to be held of the king in capite, and that it was of the king's marchalsy. She left one son, Adomar, or Aymer de Valence, earl of Pembroke, and three daughters,

Aymer, earl of Pembroke, the son, on her death became possessed of this manor. He was murdered in France in the 17th year of king Edward II. being then possessed of this manor of Sutton Valence, for so it was now usually called, and leaving no issue by either of his wives, for he was three times married, his three sisters above-mentioned became his coheirs; of whom Isabel married to John de Hastings, of Ber=

/s See Swanscombe, vol. ii. of this history, p. 405.

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gavenny, seems to have had this manor allotted to her, as part of her share in the inheritance. In consequence of this match, the arms of Hastings quarter=

ing Valence, were put up by some of his descendants on the roof of Canterbury cloysters, where they now remain. She was then a widow, her husband having deceased in the 6th year of that reign, leaving John de Hastings his son and heir; who likewise died anno 18 Edward II. leaving no issue by Juliana de Ley= borne his then wife. But by his former wife he had one son, Lawrence, who was in the 13th year of king Edward III. made earl of Pembroke, by reason of his descent from Isabel, the eldest sister and coheir of Aymer de Valence, earl of Pembroke; and he died possessed of this manor in the 22d year of that reign, as did his grandson John, earl of Pembroke, s. p. in the 13th year of king Richard II. about which time I find this manor stiled in some records the manor of Sutton Hastings, which name however it soon dropped, and resumed its former one of Valence. Philippa, countess of Pembroke, survived her husband, and afterwards re-married Richard Fitzalan, earl of Arundel, and died in the possession of this manor in the 2d year of king Henry IV. she then bearing the title of countess of Pembroke, when Reginald lord Grey, of Ruthin, became entitled to it, as next of kin, and heir of Aymer, earl of Pembroke; and as such, at the coronation of king Henry the IVth, he carried the great golden spurs. After which being taken prisoner in Wales, by Owen Glendower, he was obliged to give ten thousand marcs for his ransom. To raise which, king Henry in his 4th year, granted licence to Robert Braybrooke, bishop of London, and others, feoffees of several of Reginald's lordships, to sell this manor among others towards the raising of that sum. They sold it soon afterwards, as it should seem, to St. Leger, for Juliana, widow of Thomas St. Leger, esq. of Otterden, died possessed of it in the 5th year

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of the next reign of king Henry the Vth. Soon after which it became the property of William Clifford, esq. son of Sir Lewis Clifford, descended from the Cliffords, of Clifford-castle, in Herefordshire, who bore for his arms, Chequy or and azure on a fess gules, a crescent for difference, all within a bordure argent. He was sheriff in the 4th and 13th years of king Henry the VIth, and died three years afterwards, leaving by Eleanor his wife, sister and sole heir of Arnold Savage, esq. of Bobbing, two sons, Lewis and John, of whom Lewis Clifford, the eldest son, died in his life time, leaving a son Alexander, who was of Bobbing, esq. and on his mother's death, in the 19th year of Henry VI. succeeded to this manor. After which it continued in his name down to his grandson Nicholas Clifford, who leaving a sole daughter and heir, Mildred, she carried it in marriage to Sir George Harpur, who resided at Sutton Valence, where he kept his shrievalty in the 2d year of king Edward VI. and in the windows of the manor house were formerly the coats of arms of the family of Clifford, and their several matches; and among others of Clifford impaling Culpeper, Savage, and Bourne. On the gateway was carved Clifford impaling Isley, quartering Fremingham, and a shield of Isley quartering Fremingham. In the windows of the hall was the coat of Harpur, Argent, a lion rampant sable,

within a bordure engrailed of the second, with all its quarterings, and the same impaling Gaynsford, and a coat, Argent, a saltier gules, within a border sable, Bezantee, for De La Poyle. After his death she re-married Sir Edward Moore, who afterwards settled at Mellefont, in Ireland. By her first husband she left a son Edward, who was knighted, and by her second she had several children.

/t See Rot. Esch. ejus an. 36, Henry VIII. pt. 19. Vistn. co. Kent, anno 1574. Pedigree Harpur.

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She seems to have entitled both her husbands to the possession of this manor during her life, after which it became the property of her son Sir Edward Harpur, who alienated it to Sir Edward Hales, knight and baronet, who died possessed of it in 1654, upon which it came to his grandson and heir, Sir Edward Hales, bart. whose trustees sold it in 1670 to Sir William Drake, of Agmondesham, in Buckinghamshire, and he settled part of it in jointure in 1675, on Elizabeth his wife, daughter, and at length sole heir of William Montague, chief baron of the exchequer, their son, Montague Drake, esq. of Agmondesham, left by Mary, sole daughter and heir of Sir John Gerrard, bart. of Hertfordshire, a son Montague Gerrard Drake, whose trustees, during his infancy, anno 5 queen Anne, having procured an act for that purpose, in 1708 sold this manor with the demesnes, and other estates in this and the adjoining parishes (excepting such of them as were in jointure to dame Elizabeth, widow of Sir William Drake as above mentioned, then the wife of Samuel Trotman, esq. of Siston, in Gloucestershire) to Sir Christopher Desbouverie, of Chart Sutton, who afterwards in 1720, purchased of Montague Gerrard Drake, esq. the remainder of his estates which had been settled in jointure on his mother as above-mentioned, and so became possessed of the entire fee of them. He died possessed of this manor in 1733, and was buried at Beechworth, in Surry. Since which this manor has descended in like manner as those of Langley and Chart before described, to his youngest daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, now of Teston, the present owner of it. A court leet and court baron is held for this manor.

But though this manor, on the division of Sir Christopher Desbouverie's estates between his two daughters and coheirs, after the death of their two brothers, who

/u Harris's Hist. of Kent, p. 307. See more of this family under Teston, p. 134.

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both died s. p. was allotted to the youngest, Elizabeth, yet several farms and lands in the out-parts of this and the adjoining parishes, were allotted to the eldest daughter Anne, married to John Hervey, esq. afterwards of Beechworth, which on his death descended to his only son Christopher Hervey, esq.

It should be noticed here, that in the 10th year of king George II. an act passed enabling the family of Desbouverie to use the surname of Bouverie only, in pursuance to the desire of Jacob Desbouverie, esq. and Sir Christopher Desbouverie, deceased.

SUTTON-PLACE, alias CLENKARDS, is a seat in this parish, situated about the middle of the hill, at a small distance south-eastward of the town.

In the reign of king Charles II. it was the estate and residence of Archibald Clenkard, esq. who kept his shrievalty here in the year 1682, and the two succeeding years, bearing for his arms, Argent, a bend sable cotized and charged with three griffins heads. After his death it passed into the possession of Livesey, from which name it was sold to John Payne, esq. of London, one of the directors of the East-India company, who bore for his arms, Argent, a chevron vair or, and azure between three lions rampant of the last. He died possessed of it in 1747, leaving three sons, of whom John the eldest, was a merchant of London, and was high sheriff of Leicestershire in 1738; and Edward the youngest, to whom by his will he gave this estate, was of London, esq. and a director of the bank. He lessened this mansion, which was before very large, and made other considerable improvements in this estate. He died in 1794, since which it has been sold by his heirs.

CHARITIES.

WILLIAM LAMBE, sometime a gentleman of the chapel to king Henry VIII. and a great favorite of that prince, was of the company of cloth-workers, in London, and among many other extensive charities, out of his great love for learning, and

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for the place where he was born, erected in 1578, at his own proper costs and charges, a free grammar school, in this parish, for the education and instruction of youth, allowing yearly to the master 20l. and 10l. yearly to the usher from time to time, as either place should be supplied by succession, and to the former a good house and garden to reside in.

MR. GEORGE MAPLESDEN, in 1713, left by will 5l. per annum for an English usher, to be appointed by the master of the school.

THERE ARE LIKEWISE two exhibitions of ten pounds per annum each, given to St. John's college, in Cambridge, by will in 1720, by the Rev. Francis Robbins, B. D. who had been fellow of that college, for the benefit of two scholars educated at this school.

The Rev. John Griffin is the present master of this school.

MR. WILLIAM LAMBE, above-mentioned, also founded in the village of Town Sutton six alms-houses, having an orchard and gardens to them, for the benefit of six poor inhabitants of this parish, and allotted the sum of ten pounds to be divided among them yearly, and entrusted the company of cloth-workers with the estates and direction of these charities. By some means 6l. of the above sum has been some-time withheld, and 4l. only is paid yearly. The poor inhabitants are usually appointed by the master of the school. The arms of the founder, being a fess between three cinquefoils, are carved in stone on the front of the alms-houses.

THE REV. MR. ROBBINS above-mentioned, left likewise 3l. to be paid yearly on March 11, to the poor of this parish, by the church-wardens, vested in Mrs. Felicia and Elizabeth Smith.

TOWN SUTTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry

of Sutton; to which it was once so considerable as to give name.

The church which stands at a small distance westward from the village, is dedicated to St. Mary. It is a handsome church, the steeple stands on the north side of it, and had a high spire on it formerly, the upper half of which having been burnt down by lightning, it is at that part flat and covered with lead.

This church was antiently an appendage to the manor of Sutton Valence, in which state it continued down to John de Hastings, earl of Pembroke, lord of

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that manor, who died possessed of it in the 49th year of king Edward II. as appears by the escheat rolls of that year. Soon after which it must have passed into the possession of the priory of Leeds; for in the 2d year of the next reign of king Richard II. that king granted his licence to the above-mentioned priory, to appropriate this church; and it was confirmed to the priory by patents of the 18th and 20th years of king Henry VI. when at the request of the prior and canons there, the parish church of East Sutton, likewise of their patronage, was united to this church, to which it has been ever since esteemed as a chapel.

On the dissolution of the priory of Leeds in the reign of king Henry VIII. this parsonage, with the advowson of the vicarage, and the chapel of East Sutton annexed, came into the hands of the crown, where it did not continue long, for the king settled it in his 32d year on his new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, part of whose inheritance it still remains.

The parsonage, with the manor annexed to it, has been for many years held in lease from the dean and chapter, by the family of Payne. Edward Payne, esq. of London, who has been already mentioned before, died in 1794, possessed of the lease of it, and his heirs are now entitled to it.

The advowson of the vicarage is reserved by the dean and chapter in their own hands.

On the abolition of deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles the 1st, this parsonage was surveyed by order of the state in 1649, when it was returned, that the parsonage of Sutton Valence, with the rights of it, and the manor or parsonage-house, three barns, a stable, and several other necessary outhouses, with a yard, garden and orchard, containing by estimation two roods, together with the tithes, were altogether worth sixty pounds per annum. All which were let by the late dean and chapter, anno 16 Charles I. to Thomas Shipton, gent. for twenty-one years, at the

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yearly rent of fourteen pounds, and one quarter of wheat, two quarters of oats, and one good brawn every Christmas; which rent was valued at 18l. 16s. and that the premises were worth upon improvement over and above the said rent 56l. 2s. per annum.

The vicarage of Sutton Valence is endowed with all tithes whatsoever, except corn and hay. It is valued in the king's books at 7l. 9s. 7d. and the yearly tenths at 14s. 11½d.

In 1640 it was valued at seventy-three pounds.

Communicants, 226.

The vicar of Sutton Valence serves the cure of the church of East Sutton, as a chapel annexed to it; and as such is entitled to the vicarial tithes of that parish in right of his vicarage, he being presented and inducted to the vicarage of Sutton Valence, with the chapel of East Sutton annexed.

CHURCH OF TOWN SUTTON.

PATRONS,
Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Gilbert./w

VICARS.

Dean and Chapter of Rochester. David Smithe, ind. Nov. 7, 1566.

Robert Wells, May 1568, obt. Jan. 21, 1573.

John Baker, March 18, 1580, obt. 1588.

Thomas Compton, Dec. 3, 1588, obt.

Thomas Sandford, A. B. May 22, 1606, resigned 1614.

Edmund Henshaw, A. M. March 19, 1614.

Robert Smith, A. M. June 15, 1641, vacant by resignation.

Hezekiah Holland, 1653./x

/w Comber's Vindication of Tithes, vol. i. p. 234.

/x Also rector of Crundal.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Dean and Chapter of Rochester. Thomas Pollington, August 7, 1661, resigned 1666.

James Browne, April 11, 1666, obt. 1679.

John Rumney, A. M. April 8, 1680, obt. 1698.

John Gohier, A. M. October 7, 1698, obt. 1713.

Samuel Pratt, A. B. Nov. 9, 1713. resig. 1720.

George Pratt, A. M. April 5, 1720, resig. 1722.

Daniel Pratt, A. M. Nov. 5, 1722, obt. 1723.

Culpeper Savage, A. M. Nov. 20, 1723. resig 1747./y

Samuel Venner, A. B. July 1747, obt. 1764.

Nicholas Browne, ind. March, 1765, the present vicar.

/y Before vicar of Stone, in Oxney. He resigned this vicarage for that of Eastry.

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EAST SUTTON.

THE next parish eastward from Town Sutton is East Sutton, having the appellation of East from its situation eastward of the two adjoining parishes of Sutton Valence and Chart Sutton, though that of Sutton, near Dover, is likewise frequently stiled East Sutton, from its situation in the eastern part of this county.

IT is a small parish, and would be but little known or frequented was it not for the residence of the Filmer family in it. It is much the same situation and soil as the last described parish of Sutton Valence, the quarry hills crossing the middle of it; the church stands near the summit of the hill, at the back of East Sutton-place, which is pleasantly situated, having a

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most beautiful and extensive view southward, the park lying before it, which is well cloathed with trees both of ash and oak, and has a fine piece of water in sight of the house in the lower part of it; about half a mile south-east from the manor house, about the middle of the hill, is Little Charlton, which has still the appearance of a gentleman's seat, having several good rooms in it well ornamented with stucco, fret-work, &c. and every convenience requisite for a gentleman's family, and the hospitality of former times; from the top of the hill southward it is within the Weald, a low, flat and miry country. On the other side, above the church, from the shade of the quantities of trees which spread thickly over it, that part has an unpleasant and gloomy aspect. In this part is Chartway-street, the only village in this parish, the southern side of which only, on which however almost all the houses are built, being in this parish and its northern boundary, the other side of it being in Bromfield; the rest of the houses in East Sutton, excepting the two small hamlets of Friday and Sunday-streets, being interspered at various distances throughout it.

THIS PLACE was part of those possessions with which Odo, bishop of Baieux, was enriched by his half-brother William the Conqueror, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the survey of Domesday:

The same Adam Fitzhubert holds of the bishop Sudtone. It was taxed at one suling and an half. The arable land is eight carucates. In demesne there are two, and fifteen villeins, with nine borderers, having four carucates. There is a church and ten servants, and eight acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of fifty hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth ten pounds, now twelve pounds, and yet it pays eighteen pounds. Leuenot held it of king Edward.

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On the bishop's disgrace, which happened in 1084, about four years after the taking the above survey, this among the rest of his estates became confiscated to the crown.

In the reign of Henry the IIIrd, John de Salario held East Sutton/z of Simon de Montfort, earl of Leicester; Geffry de Martel held it in the latter end of

that reign, and the beginning of the reign of king Edward the 1st, his successor was Adam de Martel, whose right to it was allowed against the king before the justices itinerant, in the 21st year of Edward I. Aymer de Valence, earl of Pembroke, was in possession of it in the beginning of the next reign of king Edward II. and died in the 17th year of it s. p. upon which his three sisters became his coheirs; of whom Isabel, married to John de Hastings, of Bergavenny, seems to have had this manor allotted to her as part of her share in the inheritance, and in his descendants, earls of Pembroke, it continued down in like manner as Sutton Valence manor before described, till on their failure of issue in king Henry the IVth's reign, Reginald, lord Grey, of Ruthyn, became entitled to it as next of kin and heir of Aymer, earl of Pembroke, but on his being taken prisoner by Owen Glendower, in Wales, king Henry IV. in his 4th year, granted licence to Robert Braybrook, bishop of London, and others, then feoffees of his several lordships, to sell this manor among others, towards raising a sum of money for his ransom. They sold it to Richard Brigge Lancaster, king at arms, who alienated it in the third year of king Henry V. to Thomas Buttill and Thomas Bank. After which it passed into the family of Darrell, one of whom Sir Richard de Darrel, possessed it in the reign of king Edward IV.

/z Harris's History of Kent, p. 306, from the evidence of the Filmer family.

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In the first year of king Henry VIII. John York, esq. of Ramsbury, in Wiltshire, was owner of it, and in the 6th year of that reign passed it away to Richard Chetham, prior of the priory of Ledes, and it seems to have been for the use of his convent by the receipt in the exchequer, anno 8 Henry VIII. Nevertheless they had divested themselves of the possession of it before the 20th year of that reign, when Sir Henry Guldeford, knight of the garter, and controller of the king's household, owned it. He died s. p. in the 23d year of that reign, and his heirs sold this manor the next year to Richard Hill, esq. who in the 29th year of it alienated it to Thomas, lord Cromwell, and he soon afterwards exchanged it with the crown for other lands, where the fee of it remained till the king in his 37th year granted it, with its appurtenances, to John Tufton, and Stephen Reaves, to hold in capite, and they that year alienated it to Thomas Argall, who bore for his arms, Party per fess, argent and vert, a pale counterchanged; three lions heads erased gules. He procured his lands in this county to be disgavelled by the act of the 2d and 3d of Edward VI. and died possessed of it in the 6th year of that reign.

His son and heir, Richard Argall, esq. had by Mary his wife, daughter of Sir Reginald Scott, of Scots-hall, a son John, and two daughters, Catherine, wife of Ralph Bathurst, esq. of Horton Kirkby, and Elizabeth, of Sir Edward Filmer, of Little Charleton, in this parish, John Argall, esq. the son, was of Colchester, in Essex, and in the 8th year of king

James I. sold this manor to his brother-in-law, Sir Edward Filmer before-mentioned, who upon that removed from his seat of Little Charleton to the manor house of East Sutton, called East Sutton-place, where he kept his shrievalty in the 13th year of that reign. The family of Filmer was originally seated at the manor of Herst, in the parish of Otterden, where

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Robert Filmer lived in king Edward the 1st.’s reign. His descendants continued there till Robert Filmer, son of James, removed to the manor of Little Charleton, in this parish, which he had purchased of the family of Kempe, and had built a seat on it for his residence, it was antiently called Charlton-court, and had owners of its own name in the reigns of king Edward II. and III./a He was one of the prothonotaries of the common pleas for twenty years in the reign of queen Elizabeth, and to him Cooke, clarencieux, in 1570, granted, or rather confirmed the arms of the family, viz. Sable, three bars, and as many cinquefoils in chief, or. He died in 1585, and was buried in this church, which has ever since continued the burial-place of the family. He was the father of Sir Edward Filmer, the purchaser of this manor of East Sutton as before-mentioned./b

He had by his wife before mentioned, nine sons and nine daughters, and died in 1629, being succeeded here by Robert, his eldest son, who was knighted by king Charles I. and resided at East Sutton. He employed his pen in defence of the rights of the crown. He was educated at Trinity-college, Cambridge, and wrote the Anarchy of a limited or mixed Monarchy; Patriarcha, or the natural Power of Kings; the Freeholder’s grand Inquest, and Reflections concerning the Original of Government, besides several other tracts, all which were published after his death by his son. He was a great sufferer during the civil wars of king Charles I.’s reign, having his house here plundered ten times by the rebels, and himself imprisoned in Leeds-castle for his loyalty. He died in 1653, having married Anne, daughter and coheir of Martin Heton, bishop of Ely, by which an addition of fortune, as well as of arms, accrued to him.

/a Mr. Petit Fœdary of Kent his book. Harris’s History of Kent, p. 307.

/b Visitation of Kent, 1574 and 1619. Pedigr. Filmer.

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He was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Edward Filmer, gentleman of the privy chamber both to king Charles I. and II. who dying unmarried at Paris, in 1668, was succeeded in his estates by his next brother, Robert Filmer, esq. barrister-at-law, of Gray’s inn, who, in consideration of his father’s sufferings and loyalty to Charles I. was, on Dec. 24, 1674, created a baronet. He resided at East Sutton-place, which, as well as the park round it, he greatly augmented and improved, inclosing the whole with a stone wall. He died in 1675, leaving several sons and daughters, of whom Sir Robert Filmer, bart. his eldest son and successor, resided here, and in 1689, being

the last of king James II. served the office of sheriff. He died in 1720, having married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Sir William Beversham, of Holbrook-hall, in Suffolk, one of the masters in chancery, by whom he had several sons and daughters. Beversham Filmer, esq. one of the younger sons, was of Lincoln's-inn, barrister-at law, master of the Nisi Prius office in B. R. and one of the most able conveyancers this kingdom has produced. He died unmarried in 1763, and was buried in this church, having by his last will bequeathed his estates in this county to his nephew, Sir John Filmer, bart.

Sir Edward Filmer, bart. the eldest son, resided at East Sutton, and married Mary, daughter of John Wallis, esq. of Oxfordshire, only son and heir of the learned John Wallis, D. D. Savilian professor of geometry at Oxford, and F. R. S. by whom he had twenty children, viz. eleven sons and nine daughters; of the former, John, the eldest, succeeded him in title and estate; Beversham married Dorothea, second daughter of William Henley, esq. late of Gore-court; she died in 1793, s. p. Edmund is rector of Crundall,

/c See Morant's Essex, vol. ii. p. 368. Sir Wm. Beversham died in 1689, and was buried in this church.

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and married Arabella-Christiana, the eldest daughter of Sir John Honeywood, bart. by his first lady, by whom he has had six sons and two daughters; Francis, barrister-at-law, of Lincoln's-inn, is unmarried. Of the daughters, Dorothy, married the late Sir John Honeywood, bart. He died in 1755, æt. 72, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir John Filmer, bart. of East Sutton, who died in 1797, æt. 84, and was buried with his ancestors in this church. He married Dorothy, daughter of the Rev. Julius Deedes, prebendary of Canterbury, by whom he had no issue. She survived him, but the title, and this manor and seat, together with the rest of his possessions in this parish, devolved to his next brother and heir, now Sir Beversham Filmer, bart. who resides here, and is the present owner of them.

BOYTON is a manor in this parish, which formerly belonged to the priory of Christ-church, in Canterbury, and continued so till the dissolution of it in the reign of king Henry VIII. when it was, together with the rest of the possessions of the priory, surrendered into the king's hands, who by his dotation-charter in his 33d year, settled this manor on his new-erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, part of whose possessions it still remains.

The lessee of this manor, in the year 1645, was Sir Robert Stapleton, bart. who held it under the ruling powers of that time, the dean and chapter being dissolved, at the yearly rent of 5l. 6s. 8d. and one pound for entertainment money to the receiver of the church.

The family of Hope have been lessees of it for many years, the present lessee being Mrs. Sarah Hope.

CHARITIES.

STEPHEN PENDE, gent. of this parish, by deed, anno 23

Henry VIII. gave a messuage, barn, garden, and two crofts of land, containing four acres in this parish; and GEORGE USMER, gent. of this parish, by deed, anno 6 Elizabeth, gave two pieces of land, containing three acres, in this parish; and by

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his will, anno 8 Elizabeth, gave three pieces of land, called Randalls and Lakefield, the latter in Town Sutton, and the former in this parish, all which were given for the habitation and maintenance of the curate of this parish, but if such curate should not reside in the said messuage, then the churchwardens were to receive the rents of all the before-mentioned premises, and apply them towards the repairs of the church. And he gave by will a piece of land called Park-corner, otherwise Lodge-land, in this parish, to the intent that the churchwardens should receive the rents, and, with the assent and advice of the inhabitants, yearly distribute the same amongst the poor on Good Friday and All Holland day, by equal proportion. And he further willed, that the churchwardens should receive the rents of two pieces of land in this parish, called Huntings, to be by them bestowed, with the advice of the inhabitants, in bread, cheese, and beer, among the poor of it on St. George's and Christmas day, yearly.

DAME ELIZABETH FILMER, widow of Sir Edward Filmer, in 1638, gave 100l. to the use of the poor of this parish.

MRS. SUSAN WATTS, of this parish, widow, gave 50l. for the use of the poor, and directed, that poor antient widows should be first preferred, and most relieved, according to their necessities.

The above-mentioned sums of 100l. and 50l. having been many years placed out at interest upon a mortgage, were, in 1722, together with 10l. raised by subscription among the parishioners, and 10l. given by Sir Edward Filmer, bart. and the further sum of 25l. raised by the sale of timber growing on the lands called Huntings and Lodge-lands above-mentioned, amounting in all to 195l. laid out in the purchase of a messuage, barn, orchard, and six pieces of land in Hedcorn, upon the den of Hockenbury, purchased of one William Fleet, and now in the occupation of John Croucher, at the yearly rent of 10l. 1s. 8d. to the uses following: to pay 40s. a year to the curate of this parish, so long as he inhabited here, and demeaned himself well, and diligently served the cure, and preached four quarterly sermons as therein directed; but in default of such residency, &c. to pay one moiety of the said 40s. towards the repairs of the church, and the other moiety, together with all the residue of the rents of the said Hockenbury farm, to the use of the poor.

SIR ROBERT FILMER, bart. gave by will in 1703, a piece of land, the yearly produce of it to be given in wheat, among eight of the poorest inhabitants at Christmas, vested in Sir John Filmer, bart. and now of the annual produce of 20s.

The number of poor relieved constantly are about twenty-five, casually about ten.

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EAST SUTTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. It is not a large building, and has a square tower at the west end of it. It is kept remarkably neat, and in good repair. The grave-stones of the Filmers in it are a complete series of this family, from the time

of their coming to reside in this parish. All the brasses on them are perfect. The grave-stone over Sir Edward Filmer, who died in 1629, within the altar rails, is very curious, having an entire sheet of copper over it, with the portraits of himself, his wife, and his numerous issue, engraved on it, and their names respectively over them, and the coats of arms and quarterings, belonging to him and his wife, at the corners of it. There is a neat bust in white marble of the late Sir Edward Filmer, bart. who died in 1755, with an inscription to his memory against the wall, over the pew where the family sit.

The church of Sutton was antiently part of the possessions of the priory of Leeds, to which it was appropriated, and the duty of it was first served by a chaplain, appointed by the prior and convent, at whose request it was afterwards united to the adjoining church of Town Sutton, of their patronage likewise, to which it has been ever since esteemed as a chapel.

On the dissolution of the priory of Leeds, in the reign of Henry VIII the parsonage appropriate of East Sutton came into the hands of the crown, as did likewise the patronage of the church of Town Sutton, with the chapel of East Sutton annexed, where they did not continue long; for the king settled them both, in his 32d year, on his new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom they remain at this time.

The parsonage has been for many years held in lease, by the family of Filmer; the present interest

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of the lease being vested in Sir Beversham Filmer, baronet.

The vicar of Town Sutton serves the cure of this church, as a chapel annexed to it, and as such is entitled to the vicarial profits of this parish, in right of his vicarage.

The church of East Sutton is not valued in the king's books, being included in that of Town Sutton.

On the abolition of deans and chapters, after the death of Charles I. this parsonage was surveyed in 1649, when it was returned, that the parsonage, late belonging to the late dean and chapter of Rochester, consisted of a parsonage house, and all tithes, and the glebe land lying together, containing forty-three acres and two roods, at the improved rent of seventy-five pounds; also seventeen acres more of glebe land, let at fifteen pounds per annum; all which premises were let by the late dean and chapter, anno 13 Charles I. to Sir Robert Filmer, for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of ten pounds, and of two good capons, or four shillings in money, so there remained a clear rent of 79l. 16s. per annum; and that the lessee repaired the chancel of this church; out of which lease the vicarage was excepted, then worth twenty pounds per annum.

The lessee of the parsonage claims the tithes of all corn, hops, and grass, growing in this parish. In the reign of queen Anne these tithes were estimated at upwards of eighty pounds per annum; besides which, the glebe land belonging to it, was let at fifty pounds per annum.

In 1648 the communicants of this parish were one hundred and thirty.

The small tithes and other emoluments of this benefice, in the beginning of queen Anne's reign were estimated at eighteen pounds per annum, there being no glebe land belonging to it.

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The land given and devised by Stephen Pende and George Ulmer, as before mentioned, was worth ten pounds per annum, in the above reign, and seems to have been intended for the better performance of divine service in this church every Sunday; before which, the vicar of Sutton Valence used to perform it here but once or twice in a quarter of a year. From the year 1648 to 1680, the parishioners bestowed the above income on the repairs of the church; but since that time, the vicar of Sutton Valence has generally had it, in consequence of which, he preaches here and at Sutton Valence alternately on a Sunday, morning and afternoon.

A list of the vicars of Sutton Valence, or Town Sutton, with this chapel of East Sutton annexed, has been already given in the description of that parish.

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ULCOMB

LIES the next parish eastward from East Sutton. It is usually pronounced Uckham, and is variously spelt in antient records; in Domesday it is written Olecumbe, in others Wolcombe, and of late Ulcomb.

Part of this parish below, or to the southward of the hill, adjoining to Boughton Malherb, is in the division of East Kent; that is, so much of it as is eastward of a line drawn from the east end of Boughton church, to the east end of the church of Hedcorn.

Part of this parish, containing the borough of Kingsnorth, is in the lath of Scray and hundred of Faversham, it having formerly belonged to the abbey there.

THE PARISH of Ulcombe is about three miles from north to south, and two miles in width. It is rather an obscure and unfrequented place, having but little thoroughfare; the quarry-hills cross it, on the

/d See Kilburne's Survey, p. 278.

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summit of which is the village, with Ulcombe-place, and the parsonage within it; here the rock stone lies much nearer the surface than in the last-described parishes. To the northward it extends into the large coppice of Kingswood, which joins almost up to the village of Ulcombe; on the south side of the quarry-hill there are three houses of some account, standing at some distance separate from each other, all which for some time belonged to the family of Belcher, who have been for some generations seated in this parish. These Belchers, of Ulcombe, were descended from William Belcher, rector of this parish, who died in 1739, and bore for his arms, Or, three pales gules, a chief vaire, argent and sable. He left two sons, Richard, of Rochester, M. D. and Samuel, of Bough-

ton Malherb, whose son Samuel left an only daughter Sarah, who afterwards became entitled, by the will of her uncle, Mr. Peter Ady, who resided in it, to one of the before-mentioned houses, situated a little below the summit of Knole-hill, which she carried in marriage to Thomas Thomson, the eldest son of Thomas Thomson, esq. of Kenfield, who resided here till he removed to Maidstone, after which his trustees sold it.

Dr. Belcher, of Rochester, above-mentioned, the eldest son of William Belcher, rector of this parish, left a son William, who by Catherine, daughter of Thomas Stringer, of Goudhurst, left three sons, of whom the eldest, Stringer Belcher, was rector of this parish, and ended in four daughters and coheirs, as has been mentioned before, p. 331. Samuel, the second son, resided at another of the before-mentioned houses, near the summit of Knole-hill, and died unmarried in 1760, and Edward, the third son, resided at the third house, nearer to the village of Ulcombe, and died here in 1778, having had by Hannah, daughter of Richard Tilden, of Milsted, two sons, Stringer, who resided at Otterden, and died there unmarried, and William, who married Charlotte, daughter of Thomas Thomson, esq. of Kenfield, and suc-

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ceeded both to his father's seat in this parish, and likewise to that near the summit of Knole-hill, both which he is now entitled to.

The district of the Weald begins at the summit of the quarry hill, whence this parish extends over a low flat country southward, the soil of which is a stiff clay, in wet weather very deep and miry, the land made fertile mostly by manuring it with the marle dug up here, the rich and oily substance of which meliorates the stiff and cludgy particles of the clay, and not only renders it more prolific, but by separating them renders it much easier for tillage; the hedge rows are broad, and much interspersed with large oak trees. It is watered by several small streamlets, which rise on the side of the hill, one of which turns a mill at Chegworth, hence they flow through the lower part of this parish, and join the larger stream of the Medway, a little above Hockenbury-bridge. In this part of it is a small hamlet, built on one side of a small common, and not far from it the estate of Kingsnorth.

THIS PLACE was given in very early times, by one of the Saxon kings, to the priory of Christ-church, in Canterbury, from which it was wrested in the time of the Danish wars in this kingdom; but in the year 941, king Edmund, and Eadred his brother, and Edwyn, son of the former, restored it to that church, with other lands, which his ancestors had unjustly taken from it: which grant was made in the same year in which Ethelstane, the brother of king Edmund and Eadred, died, and Edmund was advanced to be king, who declared these lands free from all secular services, excepting the repelling of invasions, and the building of bridges and castles.

In the reign of the conqueror, Ulcomb was held of the archbishop of Canterbury by knights service; accordingly it is thus entered, under the title of Terra

The earl of Ow holds of the archbishop Olecumbe. It was taxed at two sulings and an half in the time of king Edward the Confessor, and now for two only. The arable land is nine carucates, in demesne there are two carucates, and twenty-three villeins, with eight borderers having seven carucates. There is a church, and one mill of four shillings, and eight acres of meadow. Wood sufficient for the pannage of twenty hogs. In the whole, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth ten pounds, when he received it eight pounds, now eleven pounds. Alfer held this manor of the archbishop.

Alfer, above-mentioned, the tenant of this manor under the archbishop, seems to have been a descendant of Ealher, or Alcher, who was earl of Kent in 853, and ancestor of the family of Aucher, baronets, but lately extinct in this county.

William, earl of Ewe, in Normandy, held it, as appears by the above survey, in the reign of the Conqueror, of the archbishop by knights service.^{/e} After which, the family of St. Leger, called in Latin, De Sancto Leodegario, became possessed of it.

Sir Robert de St. Leger, attended William, duke of Normandy, into England, in the year 1066, as appears by the roll of Battle abbey, among those persons who assisted him in the conquest of this kingdom, and there is a tradition in this family, that he supported the duke with his hand, when he quitted his ship to land in Sussex; and that after the victory at Hastings, having overcome a Pagan Dane, who inhabited Ulcomb, he fixed his residence here. He became possessed of this manor at the latter end of the Conqueror's reign, holding it of the archbishop by knights service.

William de St. Leger, his grandson, as is supposed, lived in the reign of Henry II. He was succeeded by Ralph de St. Leger, who, among other Kentish gen-

^{/e} See an account of his family in Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 136.

tllemen, accompanied king Richard I. to the siege of Acon, in Palestine.

Ralph de St. Leger, of Ulcomb, and Hugh St. Leger, of Knolton, in this county, were two of the Recognitores Magnæ Assisæ in the 2d year of the reign of king John; the former of whom held this manor in the 12th and 13th years of that reign, of the archbishop. His successor of the same name, in the next reign of Henry III. obtained the grant of a market at his manor here, on a Friday weekly, and a fair for three days, to be held yearly at it on Nov. 1, and two days afterwards; which liberties were allowed him before the justices itinerant, in the 21st year of king Edward I. and in the 28th year of the latter reign, he, with Sir John and Sir Thomas de St. Leger, attended the king to the siege of Carlaverock, in Scotland, where they were knighted, among many others, for their bravery.^{/f}

Ralph St. Leger possessed this manor in the reign of Edward III. when he paid aid for it, as two knights

fees, held of the archbishop; in which year he represented this county in parliament. His youngest son, Thomas, was of Otterden, where a further account may be seen of him. Arnold St. Leger, the eldest son, succeeded his father at Ulcomb, and represented this county in parliament, as did his son Ralph St. Leger, esq. of Ulcomb, and in the 10th year of Richard II. was sheriff of it. His son John St. Leger. esq. was of Ulcomb, and was likewise sheriff, anno 9 Henry VI. three years after which, he was returned in the list then taken of the gentry in this county, who had a right to bear the coat armour of their ancestors. He died anno 20 Henry VI. possessed of this manor, and was buried in this church. He left three sons; Ralph, who succeeded him at Ulcomb; Sir Thomas, who married Anne, duchess of Exeter, and left a sole

/f Irish Peer. vol. iii. p. 169. Philipott, p. 348.

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daughter and heir, married to Sir George Manners, lord Ross, ancestor of the earls and dukes of Rutland; and Sir James St. Leger, who married Anne, daughter and coheir of Thomas Butler, earl of Ormond, from whom the St. Legers, of Devonshire, are descended.

Ralph St. Leger, esq. of Ulcomb, the eldest son was sheriff anno 8 Edward IV. and constable of Leeds castle. He died soon afterwards, anno 1470, and was buried in this church.

Ralph St. Leger, his son, resided at Ulcomb, where he kept his shrievalty in the 18th year of Henry VII. whose eldest son, Anthony St. Leger, succeeded his father in this manor, and by the acts of 31 Henry VIII. and 2 and 3 Edward VI. procured his lands in this county to be disgavelled. He was a gentleman, who from his singular merit and eminent services, proved himself an ornament to his country and his family, being high in the esteem of Henry VIII. who made him of his privy chamber, and in the 31st of his reign, sheriff of this county, being then seated at his paternal seat in this parish. The next year he was made lord deputy of Ireland, and in 1543 elected a knight of the garter. On the king's death, he was continued in his post of lord deputy, and of the privy council, as he was likewise under queen Mary; and being well versed in Irish affairs, he by his prudence and magnanimity, did more towards civilizing that nation, and alluring it into a submission to the English government, than any one had done since the conquest of it to his own time. But being recalled from thence in the 3d and 4th year of Philip and Mary, he retired to this estate, where he died in 1559, and was buried with his ancestors at Ulcomb. He bore for his arms, Azure fretty argent, a chief or; which was not their antient coat, for they bore, Azure, a fret argent, a chief or, as appears by that coat now remaining on the roof of the cloysters at Canterbury,

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in the church of Woodnesborough, and among the quarterings of the coat borne by the lords Hunsdon. He had by his wife Agnes, daughter of Hugh War-

ham, of Croydon, niece to William Warham, archbishop of Canterbury, three sons and one daughter; of whom, Sir Anthony St. Leger, the youngest son, was master of the rolls in Ireland, and a privy counsellor, whose son Sir Anthony was of Wiar-ton-house, in Boughton Monchensie, where a further account may be seen of him.

Warham St. Leger, esq. the eldest surviving son, was of Ulcomb, where he kept his shrievalty in the 2d year of queen Elizabeth. In 1565 he was knighted, and the next year appointed chief governor of Munster, and privy counsellor in Ireland, in which kingdom he performed eminent services for her majesty, in the progress of which he was unfortunately slain, in 1599, anno 42 Elizabeth, at the head of his troops, in an encounter with Hugh Macquire and his followers, the two chiefs killing each other in combat. Sir William St. Leger, his eldest son, succeeded him in this manor. He was a gentleman of great merit, valour, and integrity, being made by king Charles I. lord president of Munster, of his privy council in that kingdom, and sergeant-major-general of the Irish forces. He was ancestor of the St. Legers, viscounts Donraile, and others of this name still remaining in that kingdom, and died in 1642. Some years before his death he alienated this manor to Henry Clerke, esq. of Rochester, who served in parliament for that city in the first year of king Charles I. of which he was recorder; and in the 12th year of that reign was made a serjeant-at-law, whose paternal arms were Argent, on a bend gules between three pellets, as many swans proper.

/f Le Neve's MSS. and Cooke's Baronage, MSS.

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He left a son and heir Sir Francis Clerke, who succeeded him at Ulcomb, who was twice M. P. for Rochester, and of the privy chamber. He resided at Ulcombe-place, and dying in 1685 was succeeded here by his only son Francis, M. P. likewise, for that city. He resided here and died in 1691, s. p. upon which this estate came by devise to Gilbert Clarke, esq. the second son of Gilbert Clarke, of Chilcot, in Derbyshire, and on his decease in 1725, to his son, Godfry Clarke, esq. of Sutton, in that county, and M. P. for it, on whose decease it came to his son, Godfry Bagnal Clarke, esq. of Sutton, who was succeeded by his brother Gilbert Clarke, since deceased, whose sister and heir Sarah married Job Hart Price, of Aldershot, in Hampshire, who in 1787 had licence to take the name and arms of Clarke, in addition to his own, and they are now jointly entitled to this manor, with that of Chegworth, in this parish likewise.

BOYCOT, vulgarly called Boy-court, is a manor in this parish, which afforded both seat and surname to a family of that denomination, as appears by several old deeds, some of which are without date, in which mention is made of Stephen, John, and Alexander de Boycot; the last of whom resided, here in the reigns of king Edward III. and king Richard II. and from him this manor descended down to John Boycot, who had issue two sons, John and Stephen. One of them

sold his moiety, which accrued to him by the custom of gavelkind, to Richard Hovenden; and the other alienated his part, which came to him in like manner, to William Adam, who gave it by his will to Thomas Glover, as is mentioned in the deed of sale, by which he passed it away in the first year of king Henry VII. to Richard Hovenden, who then became possessed of the entire fee of this manor. He bore for his arms, Chequy, argent and sable, on a bend gules, three lions heads erased or. It was afterwards sold by one of his descendants to Clerke, of Woodchurch, in which

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name it does not appear to have staid long, for Humphry Clarke, alienated it in the 19th year of queen Elizabeth to Thomas Sands, or Sondes, as the name was afterwards spelt, the eldest son of Sir Anthony, of Throwley, and he passed it away next year to Sir Maurice Berkeley, standard bearer to king Henry VIII. Edward VI. and queen Elizabeth, who had married Elizabeth his sister, and was descended of the same family as those of this name since ennobled./h

On his death, Elizabeth, lady Berkeley, seems to have possessed this manor, in whose descendants it continued till it went into the name of Hubert, by a female heir of which it passed in marriage to Heath, of the family of those formerly of Brasted-place, in this county, and bore the same arms, whose grandson Nicholas Heath Nicholas, esq. of Sussex, in 1772 obtained the king's sign-manual, to take the name and arms of Nicholas only; the arms of which family are, Argent, on a cross gules, a crown or. Nicholas Nicholas, esq. is the present possessor of it.

KINGSNORTH, alias Kingsnode, is a manor lying in this parish and Boughton Malherb, which was given to the abbot and convent of Faversham in the 16th year of king Richard II. and as such is esteemed to be in the hundred of Faversham, part of the possessions of which it continued till the dissolution of that abbey in the 30th year of Henry VIII. when it was surrendered, together with all its possessions into the king's hands, after which this manor seems to have remained in the crown till king Edward VI. in his 4th year, granted it to Sir Anthony St. Leger, lord deputy of Ireland, &c. who died in 1559, and his eldest son Sir Warham St. Leger, esq. having levied a fine of it, anno 17 Elizabeth, quickly afterwards passed it away to William Isley, esq. who in the 21st

/h See the descent of this family in Atkins's Glouc. p. 135, 363. Coll. Peer. vol. iii. p. 439.

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year of that reign alienated it to James Austeyne, and he in the 23d year of it conveyed it by sale to Robert Cranmer, esq. of Chepsted, in this county, who died in 1619, leaving an only daughter and heir Anne, who carried it in marriage to Sir Arthur Herrys, eldest son of Sir William Herrys, of Crixey, in Essex, by whom he had two sons, Sir Cranmer Herrys, and John. He died in 1632, and by his will devised this manor to his second son, John Herris, esq. whose son, Cranmer Herris, of Lincoln's-inn, pos=

sessed it at the restoration of king Charles II. He was afterwards of Christ-church, in Canterbury, where he died in 1727, s. p. and was buried in the cloysters there. Upon which, his only surviving sister and sole heir, Mrs. Annabella Herris, became possessed of this manor, and soon afterwards passed it away to Sir Edward Filmer, bart. of East Sutton, whose second son Sir Beversham Filmer, bart. of that parish, is at length become the present proprietor of it.

A court baron is held for this manor.

THERE IS a small court held in this parish for the manor of Huntingfield, which seems to be a limb of the manor of Huntingfield, in Easling, and as such to have continued with it part of the possessions of the free chapel or college of St. Stephen, in Westminster, till its dissolution in the 1st year of Edward VI. in consequence of the act which then passed for the surrendering of all such chapels, chantries, &c. Since which this manor continued in the like chain of ownership as that in Easling, to the family of Grove, of Tunstall, in which it remained till Richard Grove, esq. of London, dying unmarried in 1792, gave this among the rest of his estates in this county, to Wm. Jemmet, gent. of Ashford, and William Marshall, of London, and they are the present owners of this manor. /i

A court baron is held for this manor.

/i See more of this college under Bredhurst.

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CHARITIES.

CLEMENT BARLING gave by will to cloath six boys and two widows, 10s. for a sermon to be preached on the day of the distribution, and 10s. in money to poor persons, to be paid yearly out of land vested in Mr. Spencer, of Maidstone, now of the annual produce of 3l.

MRS. LUCRETIA HOLLAND, daughter of Sir Francis Clark, and the last of that family, gave by will in 1696, the sum of 10l. yearly, to be distributed among the poor of this parish in bread and cloaths, which has not been paid since 1774, being stopped by order of the trustees of Gilbert Clarke, esq.

The number of poor relieved here constantly are about 40; casually about 20.

ULCOMB is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deaury of Sutton.

The church is dedicated to All Saints. In it lie buried in a vault many of the eminent family of St. Leger to the year 1654, of the Clarkes, and Gilbert Clarke, esq. 1725, the last of his family who resided in this parish. It was from the earliest time esteemed as an appendage to the manor of Ulcomb.

About the year 1220, it was made collegiate by archbishop Stephen Langton, at the request of Ralph de St. Leger, the patron of it, the ordination of which is still remaining among the records of the dean and chapter of Canterbury; among which there is an instrument, by which it appears, that the head of this church or college was stiled archipresbyter, and the inferior members, minor canons; but soon after the year 1293, this collegiate institution seems to have dropped, and the church became again, and has re-

mained ever since, a single, undivided rectory as before, the patronage of which has remained in the possession of the lords of the manor of Ulcomb till the present time.

It is valued in the king's books at 16l. 5s. 10d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 12s. 7d.

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In 1640, it was valued at sixty-nine pounds. Communicants 225. In queen Anne's reign it was valued at 140l. per annum.

CHURCH OF ULCOMB.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Anthony St Leger, esq. Richard Horsmonden, clerk,
March 26, 1598, obt. Oct.
27, 1627./k

Daniel Horsmonden, D. D. Nov.
8, 1627, deprived 1643./l

William Belcher, A. M. 1643,
obt. 1655, ejected 1662./m

Meric Head, esq. D. D. obt.
March 6, 1686./n

John Clerke, A. M. esq. obt.
Sept. 24, 1786./o

John Loton, April 15, 1713, ob.
1716.

Stringer Belcher, A. M. Sept.
26, 1716, obt. Dec. 11,
1739./p

William Bell, A. M. 1740, obt.
June 1778.

Fitzherbert Meane, LL. B. July
1778, the present rector.

/k Rym. Fœd. vol. xviii. p. 1009.

/l Son of the former rector. In
1627, by dispensation vicar of Goud-
hurst, *ibid.* p. 1005, he was deprived
by the fanatics, and lived till 1655.
See White's Century, p. 36. Wood's
Ath. vol. i.

/m Calamy's Life of Baxter, p. 286.

/n Also rector of Leyborne, where
he lies buried, with the addition of
esquire on his gravestone.

/o He was also vicar of Harrietsham
He lies buried in this church. See
Wood's Ath. Fasti, vol. ii. p. 190.

/p He new built the parsonage-
house, at the expence of upwards of
1000l. and died with a most excellent
character, and was buried in this
church.

There was a religious fraternity in this church,
before the reformation, called the Fraternity of Cor-
pus Christi.

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BOUGHTON MALHERB.

THE next parish eastward from Ulcomb, is situated almost in the middle of this county, and is so called from a family antiently possessors of it, and to distinguish it from the several other parishes of the name of Boughton within this county.

It is written in antient deeds both Boughton and Bocton, and in some, Bocton, alias Boughton, and seems, as well as the other parishes of this name, to have been so called from Boc, signifying in Saxon a charter, and ton, a town or parish; that is, the place held by charter. So much of this parish as is eastward of a line drawn from the church of it across, through the middle of Chilston-house to Lenham church, is in the lath of Shipway, and in the division of East Kent.

The summit of the hill, which crosses this parish from west to east, is the northern boundary of the Weald of Kent; so much of it, therefore, as is southward of that line, is within that district.

But a very small part of this parish lies above, or northward of the quarry hills, in which part the soil is a deep unfertile sand, at the northern boundary of it, at a place called Sandway, the high road runs from Ashford towards Maidstone, the pales of Chilston park join it, the mansion of which stands about a quarter of a mile within it, on lower ground, rather in a damp and wet situation, but well cloathed round it with trees, behind it the ground rises to the hills, near the summit of which is the church, and not far distant eastward the parsonage, a good habitation; close to the church-yard westward are the small remains of Boughton-place, by no means an unpleasant situation, the greatest part of which has been pulled down many

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years ago, and what is left of it, though only sufficient for a farm-house, gives a strong idea of what it once was. Here the quarry rock abounds pretty near the surface, and from the church here southward the Weald begins, the lands above and below the hill being distinguished by the names of Boughton upland, and Boughton Weald, in like manner as the other parishes in the same situation. From the church southward the hill declines, and not far from the bottom of it is the village, or to say more properly, the hamlet of Grassley-green, and not far from it Eastwood common, with another smaller hamlet of houses on the lower side of it. Hence the parish extends over an unpleasant country, very flat and deep; the soil a miry stiff clay, the same in every particular as those parts of the adjoining parishes last described, which lie below these hills, continuing over it for more than three miles, till it joins Hedcorne and Smarden, the whole being watered by several small streamlets, which run into the larger one at Hedcorne; about a mile only from this boundary of the parish is the scite of Colbridge-castle, the mote and foundations of which are all that remain of it.

Dr. Plot mentions in his MSS. collections for a natural history of this county, some petrified oyster shells, being found at Chilston, which were larger than even those of Cyzicum, mentioned in Pliny to be the largest of any then known./q

AT THE TIME of taking the general survey of Domesday, about the year 1080, this manor was held of the archbishop of Canterbury, by knights service, and seems to have been included in the donation which Æthelstan Etheling gave by his will in 1015, to Christ-church, in Canterbury, of lands in Hollingborne, as will more plainly appear by the following entry of it in that record.

/q Pliny's Natural History, lib. 32, cap. 1.

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In Hailhorne hundred, Ralph Fitzturald holds Bolstone of the archbishop. It was taxed at half a suling, and lies in the six sulings of Holingeborne. The arable land is one carucate and an half. In demesne there is one carucate, and three villeins, with two borderers having one carucate. There is a church, and two acres of meadow, and wood for the pannage of sixteen hogs. In the whole it is, and was, worth separately forty shillings.

The above description plainly relates to that small part of this parish above or northward of the hill, the other part below it in the Weald, at that time, being for the most part, an uncultivated forest, and part of the royal demesnes of the crown of England, though many grants had been made of different parts of it, even at that time.

The manor came afterwards into the possession of the family of Malherb, who implanted their name on this parish. Robert de Malherb held it in the reign of king John, of the archbishop of Canterbury, as appears by the roll of knights fees returned to the king's treasurer, in the twelfth and thirteenth years of that reign.

Alicia Malherb possessed Boughton Malherb manor in the beginning of the next reign of king Henry III.

Robert de Gatton, son of Robert de Gatton, who was one of the Recognitores Magnæ Assisæ, or judges of the great assise, in the second year of king John, and bore for his arms, Chequy, or and azure, died possessed of this manor in the thirty-eighth year of king Henry III. and was succeeded in it by Hamo his son, who died possessed of it in the twentieth year of king Edward I. holding it of the king in capite, as of the honor of Peverel, and by the service of ward to the castle of Dover, and by suit to the court of Osprenge from three weeks to three weeks, Hamo his son, being his heir, who left his two daughters his coheirs; of whom Elizabeth married to William de Dene, entitled her husband to the possession of this manor.

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He died in the fifteenth year of king Edward III. possessed of it, with the advowson of the church, as of the inheritance of Elizabeth his wife, having, in the tenth year of king Edward II. obtained a charter of free-warren to his lands here.

His eldest son, Thomas de Dene, died possessed of it in the twenty-third year of king Edward III. bearing for his arms, Argent, a fess dancette, gules. He left by Martha his wife, daughter of Benedict Shelving, four daughters his coheirs, of whom Martha, afterwards was married to Sir John Gousall, who bore

for his arms, A plain shield azure.

Soon after his death this manor, by what means I have not discovered, came into the possession of Robert Corbie, who appears to have built a stately mansion here, having in the 36th year of Edward III. obtained the king's licence so to do, and to fortify this his manor-house at Boughton with embattlements and towers, according to the defence of those times. His son Robert Corbye, esq. of this place, kept his shrievalty here in the 8th year of Richard II. He left by Alice, daughter and coheir of Sir John Goussall before-mentioned, an only daughter and heir, Joane, who carried this manor in marriage to Nicholas Wotton, esq. whose descendants flourished in this parish for many generations afterwards, and for their learning, fortune, and honors, at times when honors were really such, may truly be said to have been ornaments to their country in general, and to this county in particular. Mr. Wotton was of the Draper's company, and was twice lord-mayor of London, at which time he bore for his arms, Argent, a cross patee, fitché at the foot, sable, quartered with Corbye, Argent, a saltire ingrailed sable, which arms of Corbye, his mother's, his son bore, in preference to his own, as the elder branch of this family, which, his descendants continued to do for some time afterwards. Stow says, it was reckoned a privilege for any one, who had been

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lord-mayor and alderman of London, not to serve the king, without his own consent, in any other part of the kingdom. Such a matter once happened in the reign of Henry VI. for Nicholas Wotton, some time mayor and alderman, living in Kent, stood upon this privilege, and refused to serve when he was impanelled with others before the judges of assize, in this county, upon articles touching the king's peace, and on pretence of the liberty of the city of London, refused to be sworn. But this was held as a contempt, and he afterwards had his pardon anno 17 Henry VI. He retired to Boughton place, where he died in 1448, and was buried in the church here. His grandson, Sir Robert Wotton, was lieutenant of Guisnes, and comptroller of Calais, where he died, and was buried in the church there. He had been sheriff anno 14 Henry VII. and married Anne, one of the sisters and coheirs of Sir Edward Belknap, by whom he left two sons, Edward, his heir, and Henry, LL. D. afterwards dean of York and Canterbury, of whom more may be seen under the account of the deans of the latter cathedral, in which he lies buried.

Sir Edward Wotton, the eldest son, succeeded him here, who was treasurer of Calais, and of the privy council to Henry VIII. and Hollingshed says, the king offered to make him lord chancellor, which, through his great modesty, he refused. In the 27th year of king Henry VIII. he kept his shrievalty at Boughton-place, and procured his lands to be disgauged by both the acts of the 31st Henry VIII. and 2d and 3d Edward VI. He died in 1550, being then possessed of the manor and rectory of Boughton Malherb, held in capite, as of the king's manor of Ospringe, the manor of Colbridge, and the manor of

Byndwardsmarsh, together with other lands purchased of Henry VIII. and held in capite by knights service,

/r Strype's Stow's Survey, book v. p. 80.

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with many other manors and lands, as mentioned in the inquisition then taken.

Thomas Wotton, esq. his eldest son, succeeded him in Boughton-place, where he resided. He was closely imprisoned in the Fleet, in 1553, by queen Mary, under pretence of his religion, but really at the request of his uncle, Dr. Nicholas Wotton, on account of a dream he had had in France, where he was then ambassador, and this in all likelihood saved Mr. Wotton's life: for whilst he was in prison, Wyatt's rebellion broke out, in which he had most probably been concerned, had he not been confined there. He was twice sheriff, and in July 1573, being the 16th year of queen Elizabeth's reign had the honor of entertaining the queen, with her whole court, at his seat here, in her progress through this county. Walton says, that the queen, when at Boughton, offered to knight Mr. Wotton, as an earnest of some more honorable and profitable employment under her, which he declined, being unwilling to change his country retirement and recreations for a courtier's life; however, it appears by his epitaph, that he afterwards accepted of that honor. He resided here till his death, in 1587, having been remarkable for his hospitality; a great lover and much beloved of his country, a cherisher of learning, and besides his own abilities, possessed of a plentiful estate, and the antient interest of his family.

He was twice married; by his first wife he had Edward his heir, and other children; by his second he had only one son Henry, afterwards knighted, and provost of Eton college./s

He was succeeded here by his eldest surviving son, Sir Edward Wotton, who was employed by queen Elizabeth, as her ambassador, on several occasions;

/s See an account of his writings, and further particulars of his life, in Walton's life of him, in Wotton's Remains; and in Biog. Brit. vol. vii. p. 4339.

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after which he was made comptroller of her household; represented this county in parliament, and served the office of sheriff in the 36th year of that reign. In the 1st year of king James I.'s reign he was created lord Wotton, baron of Merley, in this county;/t and next year he was appointed lord lieutenant of it, a privy counsellor, and afterwards comptroller and treasurer of the household. He inclosed the grounds round his house here as a park, but they have been long since again disparked, and died in 1628, being succeeded by Thomas, lord Wotton, his only son, who died two years afterwards. It has been observed that Nicholas Wotton, esq. son of Sir Nicholas Wotton, by Joane, daughter and heir of Corbye, bore his mother's arms in preference to his own, as his descendants of the eldest branch seem to have done, till Thomas, lord Wotton, as appears by his arms on his grave-stone, re-assumed the arms of Wotton in his first quartering

again, which was followed by his four daughters and coheirs, and Guillim says, that argent, a saltire (en=grailed) sable, was borne by the name of Wotton, and was in effect confirmed to Edward Wotton, esq. being allowed, and with his quarterings, being seventeen in number, marshalled, by Robert Cooke, in 1580. He left four daughters his coheirs, Catherine, married to Henry, lord Stanhope, son and heir of Philip, earl of Chesterfield; Hester, to Baptist Noel, viscount Cam=den; Margaret, to Sir John Tufton, of the Mote, knight and baronet, and Anne, to Sir Edward Hales, of Tunstal.

On the partition of his estates among his daughters, the manor of Boughton, with the mansion of Boughton-place, and the advowson of the rectory, were, among other estates, allotted to the eldest daughter, the lady Catherine, in whose right her husband, Henry,

/t See the very particular manner of his creation, vol. iii. p. 240, and in Harl. MSS. No. 6166-15, among which MSS. are many pedigrees and papers relating to this family.

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lord Stanhope, became possessed of them. He was descended from ancestors seated in early times in the county of Nottingham, where they flourished with much eminence and renown, bearing for their arms, quarterly, Ermine and gules. After a succession of many generations of them, Michael Stanhope became the heir male of this family in the reign of Henry VIII. whose grandson, Sir John Stanhope, was first of Shelford, and afterwards of Elvaston, in Derbyshire, where he died in 1611, leaving by his first wife, one son Philip; by his second wife he had several sons and daughters; of whom, Sir John, the eldest, was seated at Elvaston, from whom the present earl of Harrington is descended. Sir Philip Stanhope, eldest son of Sir John, was, anno 14 James I. 1616, created lord Stanhope of Shelford, and afterwards in 1628 Earl of Chesterfield. Continuing stedfast in his loyalty to the king, his house was by storm burnt to the ground, and the earl being taken prisoner at Litchfield, endured a long confinement, and died in 1656. By his first wife he had eleven sons and four daughters, of the former, Henry, the second, but eldest surviving son, married Katherine, daughter and coheir of Thomas, lord Wotton, and possessed Boughton Malherb as before-mentioned.

He died in the life-time of his father in 1635, leaving his wife surviving, and one son, Philip, then a year old. The lady Catherine Stanhope, on her husband's death, became again possessed in her own right of this estate, among the rest of her inheritance, and was afterwards created countess of Chesterfield, to hold during her life. She had before the death of king Charles I. remarried John Vanden Kerkhoven, lord of Henufflet in Holland, by whom she had a son Charles Henry Kerkhoven, who was, by reason of his mother's descent, created lord Wotton, baron Wotton of Boughton Malherb, and was naturalized. He was likewise created earl of Bellamont in Ireland, and bore for his

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arms, Argent, three hearts gules. He died s. p. having resided at Boughton-place, and was buried in Canterbury cathedral in 1683, having by his will given this, among the rest of his estates, to his nephew Charles Stanhope, younger son of his half-brother Philip, then earl of Chesterfield; remainder to Philip, lord Stanhope, eldest son and heir apparent of his brother; remainder to his brother Philip, earl of Chesterfield, with divers remainders over, in tail male.

Charles Stanhope, esq. upon this changed his surname to Wotton, being the last of this family who resided at Boughton-place, where he died in 1704, s. p. Upon which this estate came by the above entail to Philip, lord Stanhope, his elder brother, who on his father's death in 1713, succeeded as earl of Chesterfield, and died in 1726. His eldest son Philip Dormer Stanhope, earl of Chesterfield, became remarkable for the brilliancy of his wit, and the politeness of his manners. He was an eminent statesman, and much in favor with king George I. and II. who conferred on him from time to time several offices and trusts of honor and advantage, in all which he shewed his eminent abilities and public spirit, whenever the interest and honor of his country was concerned, but at length his health declining, he retired from all public business. However, before this period he passed away this manor, with the scite of Boughton-place, and the advowson of the rectory appendant to the manor, and all the rest of the Wotton estates in this part of the county, by the description of the heriotable manor of Bocton, alias Boughton Malherbe, the manors of Burscombe, Wardsens, alias Egerton, Southerdon, Colbridge, Marley, alias Marleigh, Sturry, East Farborne, Holmill, alias Harrietsham, and Fill, in 1750, to Galfridus Mann, esq. of London. This family is descended from ancestors seated at Ipswich, in Suffolk, of whom Edward Mann, esq. was comptroller of the customs at that place, who bore for his arms, Sable on a fess counter-

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embattled, between three goats passant argent, as many ogresses; which was confirmed to him by Byshe, clarencieux, in 1692. His descendant, Robert Mann, was of London, and afterwards of Linton, in this county, esq. who died in 1752, leaving five sons and three daughters, Edward Louisa, the eldest son, was of Linton, esq. where he died unmarried in 1775, and was succeeded in his estates in this county by his brother, Sir Horatio Mann, bart. and K. B. who was the second son, and was many years resident at Florence, as envoy extraordinary. On March 3, 1755, he was created a baronet, to him and his heirs male, and in default of such issue, to his brother Galfridus, and his heirs male, he died unmarried in 1786, and was succeeded in title and estate by his nephew Sir Horace Mann, whose father was Galfridus, the third son, who was purchaser of Boughton manor, as before-mentioned. Of the daughters of Robert Mann, Eleanor married Sir John Torriano, of London, merchant, by whom she had issue; Mary-married Benjamin Hatley Foote, esq./u and Catherine married the Rev. Francis Hender Foote. Galfridus Mann, esq. died possessed of this estate in 1756, leaving by Sarah his wife, daugh-

ter of John Gregory, of London, one son, Horatio, and three daughters, viz. Alice, married to Mr. Apthorpe; Sarah, who died unmarried; Catherine, married to the hon. and Rev. Dr. Cornwallis, now bishop of Litchfield, next brother to marquis Cornwallis, and Eleanor, married to Thomas Powis, lord Lilford.

Horatio Mann, esq. succeeded his father in the possession of this estate, of which he is the present owner. He was afterwards knighted, being then stiled Sir Horace Mann, to distinguish him from his uncle Sir Horatio, on whose death he succeeded him in the title of baronet. He has been twice M. P. for Maidstone, as he is now for the town and port of Sandwich. He mar-

/u See Linton, vol. iv. of this history, p. 368.

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ried in 1765 lady Lucy Noel, sister of Thomas, earl of Gainsborough, who died at Nice in 1778, by whom he has three daughters, Lucy, Emely, and Harriot, the eldest of whom is married to James Mann, esq. of Linton-place; the second to Robert Heron, esq. of Lincolnshire.

Wormsell has always been counted as an appendage to the manor of Boughton.

COLBRIDGE antiently called Colewebregges, is an eminent manor in this parish, the mansion of which, called Colbridge-castle, stood below the hill towards Egerton, considerable remains of its former strength being visible in the ruins of it, even at this time; and the report of the country is, that the stones and other materials of this ruined mansion were made use of, ages ago, to build Boughton-place.

In the reign of king Henry III. this place was in the possession of the family of Peyforer; one of whom, Fulk de Peyforer, obtained a charter of free-warren for his lands at Colewebbrugge in the 32d year of king Edward I./w and he had licence in the 7th year of the next reign of king Edward II. to embattle, that is, to build and fortify in a castle-like manner, his mansion here. Soon after which it seems to have passed into the family of Leyborne, who had long before this possessions in this parish, and William de Clinton, earl of Huntingdon, husband to Juliana, daughter of Thomas de Leyborne, died possessed of it in the 28th year of king Edward III. She survived him, and afterwards became again possessed of it in her own right, and continued so at her death, anno 41 Edward III. when there being found no one who could claim consanguinity to her, this manor, among the rest of her estates, escheated to the crown, where it remained till the beginning of king Richard II's. reign, when it became vested in John, Duke of Lancaster, and other feoffees in trust, for the performance of

/w Rot. Cart. ejus an. No. 18. Pat. Rolls in the Tower.

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certain religious bequests in the will of Edward III. then lately deceased. In consequence of which, the king afterwards, in his 21st year, granted it, among other premises, to the dean and canons of St. Stephen's college in Westminster, for ever, for the performance of the religious purposes therein

mentioned, and in part of the exoneration of the sum of 500l. to be taken at his treasury till he should in such manner provide for them.

In which situation this manor continued till the 1st year of king Edward VI. when an act passing for the surrendry of all free chapels, chantries, &c. this, among others, was soon afterwards dissolved, and the lands and possessions of it were surrendered into the king's hands, at which time it appears to have been in the tenure of William Hudson, at the yearly rent of 8l. 13s. 4d. The year after which, the king granted it to Sir Edward Wotton, to hold in capite, who died possessed of it in the 5th year of that reign, holding it in manner as above mentioned. After which, it passed through the like succession of ownership as Boughton manor before described, down to Philip Dormer Stanhope, earl of Chesterfield, who in 1750 sold it, with the rest of the Wotton estates in this part of the county, to Galfridus Mann, esq. whose only son Sir Horace Mann, bart. is the present possessor of it.

CHILSON, or Chilston, is a manor, situated in the borough of Sandway, at the north-west boundary of this parish, which crosses the middle of this house, the eastern part of which is in the parish of Lenham, lath of Shipway, and eastern division of this county. It was antiently called Childeston, and was in the reign of king Henry I. part of the possessions of William Fitz-Hamon, as appears by the register of the neighbouring priory of Ledes. After which it became the property of the family of Hoese, afterwards called Hussey. Henry Hoese or Hussey had a charter of free-warren for his manor of Childerston in the 55th

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year of king Henry III. before which he had taken an active part with the rebellious barons against that king. He died in the 18th year of king Edward I. leaving by Joane his wife, daughter and coheir of Alard Fleming, and niece of that noted pluralist John Maunsell, provost of Beverly, &c. Henry Hussee his son and heir, who, in the 23d year of that reign, had summons to Parliament, as he had likewise in all the succeeding ones of it, and of the next of king Edward II. in whose descendants it continued down to Henry Hussey, who in the 31st year of Henry VIIIth's reign, procured his lands to be disgavelled by the general act passed that year, and afterwards transmitted it by sale to John Parkhurst, whose descendant Sir William Parkhurst alienated it to Mr. Richard Northwood, of Dane-court, in Thanet, whose eldest son Alexander Northwood, or Norwood, as he was usually called, was of St. Stephen's, near Canterbury, and succeeded his father in this manor, which he sold soon after the death of king Charles I. to Cleggat, and he again sold it to Mr. Manley, of London, who quickly afterwards alienated it to Edward Hales, esq. who was the son of Samuel Hales, a younger son of Sir Edward Hales, created a baronet in 1611. He afterwards resided at Chilston, and died in 1696, leaving his three daughters his coheirs, viz. Thomasine, wife of Gerard Gore, gent. Elizabeth Hales, and Frances, wife of William Glanville, esq. of London, who in 1698 joined in the conveyance of this manor, with other estates in this pa=

rish and neighbourhood, to the hon. Elizabeth Hamilton, the eldest daughter of John lord Colepeper, and widow of James Hamilton, esq. the eldest son of Sir George Hamilton, of Tyrone, in Ireland.

She resided at Chilston, and dying here in 1709, was buried in Hollingborne church, leaving two sons surviving; James, earl of Abercorn, and William Hamilton, esq. to the latter of whom she gave by her will this manor, with her other estates in this county. He

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resided at Chilston, and died possessed of it in 1737, leaving by Margaret his wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Hollingborne, four sons and one daughter; of whom, John Hamilton, esq. the eldest, succeeded him at Chilston, where he resided and inclosed the ground round it for a park, bestowing much cost on the improvement both of the house and grounds adjoining to it. He kept his shrievalty here in 1719, and afterwards with the concurrence of his eldest son William, joined in the sale of this estate to Thomas Best, esq. the eldest son of Mawdistley Best, esq. of Boxley, who resided at Chilston, the mansion of which he rebuilt, and made other very considerable improvements to the park, and grounds. He died in 1795, s. p. having married Caroline, daughter of George Scott, esq. of Scott's hall, who died in 1782, and by his will gave this among his other estates to his nephew George, the youngest son of his brother James Best, esq. of Boxley and Chatham, who now resides here, He was M. P. for Rochester in the last parliament. and in 1784 married Caroline, daughter of Edward Scott, esq. of Scott's-hall, by whom he has several children.

THE TYTHES of the manor of Chilston, or Childeston, were given to the priory of Leeds soon after the foundation of it, by William Fitz-Hamon, the owner of it; viz. in corn, fruit, hay, fowls, calves, flax, pannage, cheeses, pigs, and in all other things which belonged to the demesne, to Edwin de Bletchindenne, with his tenancy, to hold as freely as he ever held it./x

This portion of tithes remained part of the possessions of the priory till the dissolution of it in the reign of Henry VIII. when it was surrendered into the king's hands, among other estates belonging to it. After which the king, by his dotation charter in his 33d year

/x Regist. of Leeds abbey, fol. 2, p. 2, l. 16. See the confirmations of it in the same register.

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settled this portion of tithes on his new-founded dean and chapter of Rochester, who now possess the inheritance of it. George Best, esq. of Chilston, is the present lessee of it.

On the intended dissolution of deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles I. these tithes were surveyed in 1649, by order of the state; when it was returned, that this portion consisted of all the tithes of corn, grain, hay, wool, lambs, calves, and other spiritual obventions and duties, arising out of the manor of Chilston, in Boughton Malherbe and Lenham, of the yearly improved value of fourteen pounds, which pre=

mises were let by the dean and chapter, anno 15 Charles I. to Richard Norwood, esq. for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of ten shillings, so that there remained the clear yearly rent of 13l. 10s.

BEWLEY is a manor in this parish, of considerable repute, extending itself into the parish of Harrietsham. It was antiently called Boughley, and was part of those possessions which William the Conqueror gave to his half-brother Odo, bishop of Baieux; under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in Domesday:

Adam Fitzhubert holds of the bishop of Baieux, Bo=gelei. It was taxed at two sulings. The arable land is two carucates and an half. In demesne there is one carucate, and two villeins, with two borderers having half a carucate. There is a church, and four servants, and one mill of five shillings, and six acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of twenty hogs.

After which there follows another entry, importing, that of this same manor one tenant named Adam held one suling, called Merlea, of which a further account will be given, under the description of Marley, in the adjoining parish of Harrietsham.

On the bishop of Baieux's disgrace in 1084, all his possessions were confiscated to the crown; after which this manor appears to have become the property of Eudo Dapifer, and afterwards of Philip de Leleburne,

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or Leyburne, whose descendant Robert de Leiburne held it in the reign of king Edward I. in which name it continued till it was alienated to Tregoze, /y one of whom, Thomas Tregoze, held it in the beginning of king Edward III.'s reign, in the 5th year of which he obtained a charter of free warren for his lands at Bog=geleye. John Tregoze died possessed of this manor in the 5th year of Henry IV. but it did not remain long in that name; for in the reign of Henry VI. it was become the property of Goldwell, from whence it was alienated to Atwater, of Lenham, from whence by Joane, daughter and coheir of Robert Atwater, of Royton, in that parish, it went in marriage to Humphry Hales, esq. of the Dungeon, in Canterbury, who had a numerous issue by her. He was succeeded in it by his eldest son Sir James Hales, of the Dungeon, whose son Cheney Hales, esq. of the Dungeon, passed it away to his kinsman John Hales, esq. eldest son of Sir Edward Hales, created a baronet in 1611. He parted with it to his brother Mr. Samuel Hales, whose son Edward Hales, esq. of Chilston, succeeded him in it. Since which it has passed in like manner as Chilston, before described, down to George Best, esq. of Chilston, the present possessor of it.

THE TITHES of this manor were given by Eudo Dapifer to Anshetill, archdeacon of Canterbury, who afterwards, with the consent of Eudo, granted them to the priory of St. Andrew, in Rochester. These tithes were afterwards confirmed to the priory on the payment annually of five shillings to the monks of Colchester. Henry de Leiburne, possessor of this manor, having inspected the charters of his ancestors, confirmed these tithes in pure alms to the church of St. Andrew, and the monks of Rochester.

/y See an account of this family in Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 615.

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This portion of tithes remained with the priory till the dissolution of it, in the 32d year of Henry VIII. when it was, among the rest of the possessions of that monastery, surrendered into the king's hands, who in his 33d year settled them, by his dotation charter, on his new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, part of whose inheritance they remain at this time. George Best, esq. of Chilston, is the present lessee of them.

On the intended dissolution of deans and chapters, soon after the death of king Charles I. this portion was surveyed, by order of the state, in 1649; when it was returned, that these tithes arose out of the manor of Bugley, together with the tithe of the mill, called Bugley-mill, of the improved yearly value of nine pounds, which premises were let by the dean and chapter in the 10th year of Charles I. to Samuel Hales, esq. for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of two quarters of malt heaped, and one capon, or two shillings in money; so there remained clear the rent of 5l. 14s. per annum.

There are no parochial charities. The poor constantly relieved are about forty, casually twenty-five.

BOUGHTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Charing.

The church is a handsome building, with a square tower steeple at the west end. The inside of it is much ornamented by the several monuments of the Wotton family, most of whom lie buried in it; but there was one of them, a large pyramid of black marble, supported by three lions couchant, on a deep base, erected to the memory of Henry, lord Stanhope, his widow lady Catherine, countess of Chesterfield, her third husband Daniel O'Neal, and several of her children, which was injudiciously placed just within the altar rails eastward, and filled up almost the whole space of it, but has lately been taken down to make room for an altar and railing. In the south chancel there is a very antient figure in Bethersden marble of a man in armour lying cross-legged with his shield and sword. It lies on the

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pavement, and seems to have been removed from some other part of the church. On the opposite side of the chancel is the figure of a woman, full as antient as the former, and of the like marble, but fixed in the pavement, these most probably were in memory of one of the family of Peyforer and his wife.

The families of Hales and Hamilton, both of Chilston, and all their children, were christened and married in Boughton church, but were all buried from time to time in Lenham church.

The church of Boughton has always been esteemed as an appendage to the manor, and as such is now the property of Sir Horace Mann, bart. In 1578 there were one hundred and eight communicants here.

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 13l. 15s. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 7s. 6d.

In 1640 it was valued at seventy pounds. Communicants one hundred and ninety-seven.

CHURCH OF BOUGHTON MALHERB.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Lords of Boughton manor. Christopher Porter, in 1494.

Richard Elmstone, obt. 1611.

Robert Barrell, A. M. June 21,
1611.

Lewis Morgan, obt.

Lionel Sharpe, S. T. P. obt.

Jan. 1, 1630./z

Thomas Johnson, 1653.

Robert Ellis, A. M. Oct. 24,

1661, obt. 1675.

Michael Stanhope, A. M. March

12, 1675, obt. Sept. 1724./a

Richard Otway, 1724, obt.

1750.

Francis Hender Foote, LL. B.

January 1751, obt. Jan. 27,

1773./b

/z He lies buried in this church.

/a And rector of East Langton, in
Yorkshire. He lies buried in this
church.

/b He had his degree of LL. B.
conferred on him by the archbishop,
and held Linton with this rectory by
virtue of it.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

Lords of Boughton manor. James Cornwallis, S. T. P.

1773, resig. 1779./c

Edward Beckingham Benson, B.

A. 1779, resig. 1782./d

Robert Foote, A. M. the present

rector./e

/c Dean of Canterbury, and rector of
Wrotham, and next brother to mar=
quis Cornwallis. He is now bishop of
Lichfield.

/d Afterwards rector of Deal.

/e In 1795 made a prebendary; and
in 1797 canon residentiary of Lich=
field.

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LENHAM.

NORTHWARD from Boughton Malherb, close
at the foot of the chalk-hills, lies Lenham, written in
the book of Domesday, Lerham and Lertham, no
doubt corruptly for Leanham, by which name it is
called in most of the antient charters and deeds, as
well before as since that time. It takes its name from
the stream which rises in it, and ham, which signifies a
town or village.

The western part of this parish is in the lath of
Aylesford, hundred of Eyhorne, and the western divi=
sion of this county, that is all of it which lies westward
of a line drawn from the centre of Chilston-house,

northward to the east end of the church, and thence to Warren-street, on the summit of the chalk hills.

The residue of it, including that part of it called East Lenham, is in the lath of Shipway, and hundred of Calehill, and the eastern division of the county.

THE PARISH of Lenham is of large extent, being upwards of five miles in length from east to west, and four in breadth from north to south, where it encompasses the whole width of the valley from the chalk to the quarry hills. However healthy it may be it is far from being a pleasant situation, owing to its unward soil, which towards the south and west is mostly

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a deep sand; near the foot of the chalk hills a cludgy chalk mixed with flints, the whole a poor unfertile country, the fields of which are in general large, having but few trees round them, and those of a stunted unthriving aspect; above these hills northward is Downe-court and Warren-street, beyond which the parish extends more than a mile, as far as Ashden and Syndal, in the valley between Hollingborne and Doddington, a poor country and a flinty barren soil.

The town of Lenham stands in the valley between the quarry and chalk hills, which is here about two miles wide, rather nearer the latter, in a damp and moist situation, owing to the springs which rise near it, of which further mention will be made hereafter. It is rather a dull and unfrequented place, and of but little traffic, in short I cannot give a better description of it than in the words of the inhabitants themselves, who, on travellers passing through it, and enquiring if it is Lenham, in general make answer, "Ah, Sir, poor Lenham."

The church stands at the south end of it, and being westward of the line which separates the two divisions of the county, the town itself, as well as the parish, is esteemed to belong to West Kent, and all the parish business is transacted at the Maidstone sessions accordingly; the market, which was granted to the abbot of St. Augustine's, as has been mentioned before, to be held within his manor here, has been discontinued many years, but in 1757 there was an attempt made to revive it for the buying and selling of corn, and other such commodities, and it was ordered by the lord of the manor to be held on a Friday weekly, but I am informed it has been but little resorted to. The fair, which has been mentioned as having been granted likewise to the abbot, is now held yearly by the alteration of the stile on June 6, for horses and cattle, and there is another fair held on October 23, for the like purpose. A market is likewise held at Sandway, in

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this parish, for bullocks, upon every Tuesday after Allhallows-day, Nov. 1, until Christmas.

Near the foot of the chalk hills lie the three estates of Shelve, on the opposite or southern part of the parish, where the soil is mostly a barren sand, there are several small heaths or fostalls; through this part of the parish the high road from Ashford runs over Lenham, formerly called Royton heath, and by Chilston park pales and Sandway, over Bigon-heath, towards Leeds

castle and Maidstone; southward of this heath the parish extends westward, taking within its bounds the estate of Ham, the house of which has been rebuilt in a handsome manner within these few years, and thence southward to Runham-place, Platt-heath, and Lever-ton-street, at the boundary of it, near the quarry hills, where it joins to Boughton Malherb.

The western and south-east parts of this parish are watered by two several streams, for at the eastern extremity of the town of Lenham, at Streetwell, there rises a spring, which is accounted the head of the river Stour, which flowing from thence southward by Royton-chapel, at about a mile distance from its rise, receives into its stream two other small ones from the north-west, which rise in the grounds at Chilston, at a small distance from each other, and then flowing in one stream through the hamlet of Water-street south-eastward, it turns a mill in its way to Little Chart, and so goes on in its way to Ashford and Canterbury.

A head of one of the branches of the river Medway likewise rises at Ewell, adjoining to Bigon-heath, in the western part of this parish, whence it is frequently called the river Len; from hence this stream directs its course first westward, then northward by Runham, and so on to Holme mill in Harrietsham, in its way towards Leeds-castle and the main river at Maidstone.

LENHAM has been supposed by several of our learned antiquaries, among whom are Camden, Lambarde, and Gale, to have been the Roman station, mentioned

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in the 2d iter of Antonine, by the name of Durolevum, corruptly, as they say, for Durolenum, and the latter, in the British language, signifying the water Lenum, induced them, together with the situation, to conjecture this place to have been that station.

And Camden is further confirmed in this opinion, from this place being situated on a circular way of the Romans, which formerly, as Higden of Chester affirms, went from Dover through the middle of Kent.

The aqua Lena, or the spring at Streetwell here, so called perhaps from the strata of the Romans, which led hither, is thought to have been meant by the water Lenum, and that this, might give name to this station; and indeed Roman remains have been from time to time discovered from Keston, by Comb Bank, Stone-street, Oldberry camp, Ofham, Barming, Maidstone, Boxley, &c. in a continued and almost strait line, to within a few miles of this place and Charing.

But there having never been any Roman antiquities found at Lenham, induced Mr. Somner and others to look elsewhere for this station. That learned antiquarian, as well as Mr. Burton and Dr. Thorpe, have fixed it at or near Newington, in the great road from Rochester to Canterbury, near which great quantities of urns, and other relics of Roman antiquity, have been dug up.

Mr. Talbot hesitates between Sittingborne and Charing, and Dr. Stukeley, changing his opinion, having first adopted Newington, afterwards adheres to the latter.

Dr. Horsley says, should he abandon Lenham, and suppose it only to be a notitia way, he should transfer

this station to the north side of the present great London road to Dover, and suppose it to be a short and direct excursion, like that of Tripontium in the 6th iter, the distance on each hand requiring the excursion to be made about Sittingborne, or perhaps Milton. But

/f See Gale on Antonine, p. 76. Camd. Brit. p. 228.

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should this station be transferred to near Faversham, in the vicinity of which, as well on Juddes-hill, on the great road, half a mile west of Ospringe, or at Davington, about a mile north-east of it, many Roman coins, urns, and other relics of antiquity, have been found within these few years, and on the former, there are still remaining at the back of Juddes-house, a small distance north of the high road, just within the wood, the vestigia of a strong Roman work, there need not be any transposition of numbers, nor alteration of them in the greatest part of the copies of Antonine's Itinerary, for the distances will every way tally with them.

After every argument that can be made use of, the whole is so much conjecture, as appears from every one of these learned men altering the distances in the Itinerary in favor of his own hypothesis, that it is but fair at last to leave it to the reader's own judgment to fix each of these stations where he thinks it most proper.

IN THE YEAR 804, Cenulf, king of Mercia, and Cured, king of Kent, granted THIS MANOR, afterwards distinguished by the name of West Lenham, to Werod, abbot of St. Augustine's, near Canterbury, by the description of certain land called Lenham, containing twenty plough-lands, and twelve dennis bearing acorns in the Weald; which estate was augmented in the year 139 by Athelwolf, king of the West Saxons and of Kent, who, in consideration of 2100 marcs of silver, (mancusæ) granted to the abbot five plough lands at Lenham, then called Estlenham, and lying between the place celled Scelfe towards the east, and Lenham towards the west. And in 850, he made a further gift to the abbot, of forty tenements, with land (Cassata) at Lenham, in pure and perpetual alms.

What part of these estates continued in the possession of the abbot and convent of St. Augustine at the taking the general survey of Domesday, the following entry in it, under the general title of the lands of the

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church of St. Augustine, shews, though it does not seem to amount to so large a quantity as what is described in the above-mentioned donations; probably the bishop of Baieux had wrested some of these lands from it, as it appears by that survey, that he became possessed of lands in this parish about that time.

In Haihorne hundred, the abbot (of St. Augustine) himself holds Lertham, which was taxed at five sulings and an half. The arable land is eighteen carucates. In demesne there are two carucates, and forty villeins, with seven borderers, having sixteen carucates. There is one servant, and two mills of six shillings and eight pence, and eight acres of meadow, and wood for forty hogs.

In the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was

worth twenty-eight pounds, and afterwards sixteen pounds, now twenty-eight pounds.

Of this manor Robert Latin holds one yoke, which is worth five shillings.

In the above description the reader will observe that not only here, but in many other parts of Domesday, how much the Norman scribes, who took the names of the several places from the mouths of the Saxons, whose pronunciation could not be fit to dictate to foreigners, mistook the orthography of them, insomuch that many of them are hardly now to be ascertained without conjecture.

The possessions of the abbot and convent were afterwards increased in this parish by king Edward I. and II. granting them licence to purchase lands in this parish, and there were several different lands given to them, among which were lands called Sornden, on condition of their paying yearly the singular rent of one custard in the church-yard of Lenham.^g

In the 8th year of king Richard II. the temporalities of the abbot in Lenham, with appurtenances, were

^g Regist. Sci Aug. court, 406, 411, 417, 424, 430, 440. See also Stev. Mon. vol. ii. p. 39.

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valued at 54l. 14s. 10d. per annum, at which time he possessed in this parish, as appears by an admeasure-ment then made, nine hundred and thirty six acres of arable land and wood.

In the iter of H. de Stanton and his sociates, justices itinerant, anno 7 Edward II. the abbot was summoned by quo warranto, to shew why he claimed sundry liberties, therein mentioned, in the manor of Lenham, among others, and free-warren in all his demesne lands of it, and view of frank-pledge, and all belonging to it; and a market here weekly on a Tuesday, with all liberties and free customs belonging to it; and the abbot pleaded, that those liberties had been granted by the charters of king John and the succeeding kings, to the abbot and convent, in pure and perpetual alms; that those charters had been all allowed in the iter of J. de Berewick, anno 21 Edward I. and likewise in the 7th year of Edward II. before Henry de Stanton, and his sociates, justices itinerant in this county.

King Edward III. in his 5th year, anno 1330, exempted the men and tenants of the manor of Lenham from their attendance at the turne of the sheriff, heretofore made by the borsholder, with four men of each borough within it; and directed his writ that for the future they should be allowed to perform the same with one only out of each.

And by his charter of inspeximus, in his 36th year, he confirmed to the monastery all the manors and possessions, and the several grants of liberties and confirmation made by the several kings his predecessors, among which are those above-mentioned. After which king Henry VI. confirmed the several liberties granted to this monastery, and likewise free-warren, and one fair at Leneham on the feast of St. Augustine, the apostle of the English.ⁱ

ⁱ Rot. Cart. de 21 usq. ad 24 an. ejus Regni, N. 11, Tanner,

This manor remained part of the possessions of the monastery till its final dissolution in the 30th year of Henry VIII. when this great abbey, with all its revenues, was surrendered into the king's hands.

The manor of Lenham remained in the crown till queen Elizabeth granted it to William Cecil, lord Burleigh, lord treasurer and her chief minister of state, to whose prudence and wisdom in council, the blessings this kingdom enjoyed during that prosperous and happy reign are chiefly to be attributed.

He alienated this manor, in the 18th year of that reign, to Thomas Wilford, esq. of Cranbrook, whose grandson Henry Wilford, esq. at the latter end of king James I.'s reign conveyed it to Anthony Brown, viscount Montague, who was descended from Sir Thomas Brown, treasurer of the household to Henry VI. who in right of his wife Eleanor, daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Fitzalan, alias Arundel, brother of John, earl of Arundel, was possessed of the castle of Beechworth, in Surry, and bore for his arms, Sable, three lions passant in bend, between two gemells argent. He had by her five sons and one daughter. Of the former, Sir George, the eldest, was of Beechworth-castle, and was ancestor of the Browns of that place, baronets, now extinct; and Anthony, the third son, was seated at Cowdray, in Sussex, and was ancestor of the late lord viscount Montague.

Anthony Brown, viscount Montague, died possessed of this manor in 1629, and his grandson Henry, viscount Montague, with the concurrence of his son and heir Anthony, alienated it to the hon. Elizabeth Hamilton, the widow of James Hamilton, esq. the eldest son of Sir George Hamilton, of Tyrone, in Ireland, and a baronet of Nova Scotia, who was the fourth son of James, first earl of Abercorn, and bore for his arms, Gules, three cinquefoils pierced ermine, quartered with

/k See under Hartridge in Cranbrooke, and Ilden in Kingston.

argent, a ship with sails furled up, with a proper difference, they being the arms of the earls of Abercorn.

She was the eldest daughter of John, lord Colepeper, and surviving her husband, who died in 1673, resided at Chilston, in the adjoining parish of Boughton, which she had likewise purchased. She died in 1709, and was buried at Hollingborne, leaving two sons surviving, James, earl of Abercorn, and William Hamilton, esq. of Chilston, to the latter of whom she by her will gave the manor of Lenham, with the rest of her estates in this parish and neighbourhood. He was one of the five Kentish gentlemen, who in 1701, delivered to the house of commons a petition from the deputy-lieutenants, justices, grand jury, and freeholders of this county, desiring that the house would turn their loyal addresses into bills of supply, &c. Which petition being voted insolent and seditious, they were ordered into the custody of the serjeant-at-arms, and thence prisoners to the gate-house, where they remained till the end of the sessions. The other four petitioners were, Wil-

liam Colepeper, Thomas Colepeper, David Polhill, and Justinian Champneis.

By Margaret, second daughter of Sir Thomas Culpeper, of Hollingborne, he had several children, of whom John Hamilton, esq. the eldest son, was of Chilston, where he kept his shrievalty in 1719. He, with the concurrence of his eldest son William, joined in the sale of this manor to Thomas Best, esq. of Chilston, who dying s. p. in 1793, gave it by will among his other estates, to his nephew George Best, esq. now of Chilston, the present possessor of it.

A court leet and court baron is held for this manor.

ROYTON, vulgarly called Rayton, is a manor in this parish, situated at a small distance eastward from Chilston, the mansion of which had a free chapel annexed to it, the ruins of which still remain.

/l See Irish Peerage, vol. iii. p. 156 et seq.

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In the year 1259, anno 44 Henry III. this manor was in the possession of Simon Fitzalan; in which year a final agreement was made in the King's court at Westminster, between Roger, abbot of St. Augustine, and the said Simon, concerning the customs and services which the abbot demanded of him for his free tenement, which he held of him in Royton, viz. one marc of silver yearly, and suit at the court of Lenham, which suit the abbot released to him on his agreeing to pay the rent above-mentioned, and suit at the court of St. Augustine, at Canterbury.

His successor was Robert de Royton, who most probably assumed his name from his possessions at this place. He founded a free chapel here, and annexed it to the mansion, which thence acquired the name of Royton chapel.

In which name it continued till the reign of king Henry VI. when, by an only daughter and heir, it went in marriage to James Dryland, esq. of Davington, whose daughter and sole heir Constance, having married to Sir Thomas Walsingham, of Chesilhurst, entitled her husband to the possession of it, and he died possessed of it anno 7 Edward IV./m and one of his descendants, in the beginning of the reign of king Henry VIII. alienated this manor to Edward Myllys, who did homage to the abbot of St. Augustine's for it as half a knight's fee, which he had lately purchased in Royton, near Lenham. He bore for his arms, Party per fess, sable and argent, a pale and three bears erect, counterchanged, collared and chained, or,/n from which name it was not long afterwards sold to Robert Atwater, whose arms were, Sable, a fess wavy, voided azure, between three swans, proper, who leaving two daughters and coheirs, Mary, the youngest of them, carried it, with other estates at Charing and elsewhere in this neighbourhood, to Robert Honywood, esq. of Henewood, in Postling,

/m See Chiselhurst, vol. ii. p. 7. /n Pedigree of Darell.

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eldest son of John Honywood, esq. by his second wife, daughter of Barnes, of Wye.

He afterwards resided at Pett in Charing, part of his wife's inheritance, and dying in 1576, was buried

in Lenham church, bearing for his arms those of Honeywood, with a crescent, gules, for difference. He left a numerous issue by his wife, who survived him near forty-four years, and dying in 1620, in the ninety-third year of her age, was buried near him, though a monument is erected to her memory at Markshall, in Essex. She had, as has been said, at her decease, lawfully descended from her 367 children, 16 of her own body, 114 grand-children, 228 in the third generation, and nine in the fourth. Their eldest son Robert Honeywood, of Charing, and afterwards of Markshall, in Essex, was twice married; first to Dorothy, daughter of John Crook, LL. D. by whom he had one son, Sir Robert Honeywood, of Charing, and a daughter Dorothy, married to Henry Thomson, gent. His second wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Brown, of Beechworth-castle, in Surry, by whom he had several sons and daughters; the eldest of whom, Thomas, was of Markshall, in Essex, esq. and father of John Le Mott Honeywood, esq. of that place.

Sir Robert Honeywood, on his death, devised the manor of Royton to Dorothy, his daughter by his first wife, married to Mr. Henry Thomson, the second son of Mr. Tho. Thomson, of Sandwich, and younger brother of T. Thomson, esq. of Kenfield, in Petham, who afterwards resided at Royton, bearing for his arms, Gules, two bars argent, a chief ermine, a crescent for difference. His surviving son Anthony, was of Royton, of which he died possessed in 1682, leaving an only daughter Dorothy, who carried it in marriage to Richard Crispe, gent. of Maidstone, in whose descendants it continued down to William Crispe, gent. of Royton,

/o Vistn. co. Kent, 1619. Pedigree Thomson.

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who died in 1761, and by his will devised it to his surviving wife Elizabeth, for her life; and the fee of it to his nephew Samuel Belcher, who dying unmarried and intestate, his interest in it descended to his only brother Peter Belcher, and he by his will in 1772 devised it to his brother-in-law, Mr. John Foster, in fee. Mrs. Elizabeth Crispe, before-mentioned, died in 1778, and this estate then came into the possession of Mr. John Foster, who afterwards sold it to Thomas Best, esq. of Chilston, on whose death, s. p. in 1793, it came by his will, among his other estates, to his nephew George Best, esq. now of Chilston, the present owner of it.

RUNHAM is a manor, situated at the south-west extremity of this parish, which, with the mansion of it, called Runham-place, was formerly belonging to the family of Bunce, of Otterden.

Stephen Bunce, son of James Bunce, esq. of Otterden, died possessed of it in 1634. He was first of Boughton Malherb, whose eldest son Matthew, inherited this manor, which he afterwards sold to Burton, from whom it descended to his grandson Mr. Samuel Burton, who resided here, and married Anne Belcher, who joined with him in the sale of this estate, a fine being levied for that purpose, to Thomas Best, esq. of Chilston, who continued in possession of it till the year 1774, when Samuel Burton, the youngest and only surviving child of the above marriage, claimed this

estate by virtue of an entail made of it; and on a proof of his mother's marriage, had a verdict in his favor, on a trial had that year; upon which he took possession of it, and afterwards sold it to Mr. Best above-mentioned, the former purchaser of it, by whose will it came with his other estates in 1793, to his nephew George Best, esq. of Chilston, the present owner of it.

/p See more of them under Otterden, and Vistn. co. of Kent, 1619, pedigree Bunce.

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ASHDEN, formerly called Esseden, is a small manor in the northern part of this parish, which at the latter end of the reign of queen Elizabeth, was the property of Edward Jackman, esq. of Hornchurch, in Essex, and he in the 5th year of king James I. passed it away to Oliver Style, esq. of Watringbury, whose son Thomas was created a baronet, and died in 1637, leaving this manor to his only son and successor Sir Thomas Style, bart. who died in 1702; on which an agreement was entered into by his heirs, for a partition of his estates among them, which was confirmed by an act, passed anno 2 and 3 queen Anne. In this partition, the manor of Ashden was allotted, with Frinsted and other estates, to Margaret, his only daughter by his second wife, who in 1716 alienated it to Mr. Abraham Tilghman, whose son Abraham Tilghman, esq. of Frinsted, died in 1779, leaving by Olivia, one of the daughters and coheirs of Charles Finch, esq. of Chatham, one daughter his heir, married to the Rev. Mr. Pierrepont Cromp, of Frinsted, who died in 1797, and his heirs are now possessed of it.

THE REMAINING, or NORTH-EAST PART of this parish is situated within the lath of Shipway, and hundred of Calehill, in which is the manor of East Lenham.

ALTHOUGH the abbot and convent of St. Augustine possessed an estate in Est Lenham, consisting of five plough-lands, by the gift of king Athelwolf in the year 839, as has been already mentioned, yet the manor itself never belonged to that monastery; but was given in the year 961, by queen Ediva, mother of king Edmund and Edred, to Christ-church, in Canterbury, free from all secular service, except the repairing of bridges and the building of fortifications.

Archbishop Lanfranc, who came to the see of Canterbury in 1070, gave this manor to one Godifrid, surnamed Dapifer, who held it of him by knights service; accordingly it is thus entered in the survey of Domes-

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day, under the general title of Terra Militum Archiepi, or land held of the archbishop by knights service:

In Calehell hundred, Godefrid Dapifer holds of the archbishop Lenham. It was taxed at two sulings. The arable land is . . . In demesne there are two carucates, and fifteen villeins, with two borderers, having four carucates. There are four servants, and six acres of meadow, and one mill of seven shillings, and wood for the pannage of ten hogs. In the whole it was worth eight pounds, and yet it pays twelve pounds and ten shillings.

It was afterwards held of the archbishop in like

manner by knight's service, by the family of Lenham, who took their name from their possessions here, and bore for their arms the same as those borne by Peyforer, Roger de Lenham held this estate in king John's reign, as appears by the returns made to the king's treasurer in the 12th and 13th years of that reign, of all those who held by knight's service and in capite. Nicholas de Lenham, his descendant, held it in the next reign of king Henry III. in the 35th year of which he fined to the king for a charter of liberties, for his lands in this county./q

John de Lenham held it in like manner of the archbishop in the reign of king Edward I. of whom it was again held by Roger de Handlo, whose descendant Simon de Handlo held it in the 20th year of Edward III. holding it of the archbishop as half a knight's fee.

In latter times the manor of East Lenham was in possession of the Hornes, but whether descended from those of Hornes-place, in Kenardinton, I have not found.

John Horne, esq. was of East Lenham, in the reigns of king Henry V. and VI. in whose family it continued till John Horne, gent. of East Lenham, leaving an only daughter and heir Alice, she carried it in marriage to John Proffit, gent. of Barcombe, in Sussex, who

/q See Madox's Exchequer, p. 687.

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bore for his arms, Argent, a lion rampant, and semee of escallops, sable, whose sole daughter and heir Elizabeth, widow of Richard Manfield, gent. of Middlesex, entitled her husband, John Chauncy, esq. of Hertfordshire, to this manor, of which he died possessed in 1546, and was buried in the church of Sawbridgeworth. He was ancestor of Sir Henry Chauncy, serjeant-at-law, the historian, and bore for his arms, Gules, a cross patonce, argent, on a chief, azure, a lion passant, or, which he quartered with those of Horne, Argent, on a chevron gules, between three bugle horns, sable, three mullets or. his eldest son, Robert, having taken on himself the habit of a Carthusian, Henry, the second son, became possessed of all his father's estates.

After which this manor passed by sale into the family of Knatchbull, of Mersham-hatch, in this county; of whom, Sir Norton Knatchbull, was created a baronet in 1641, and in his descendants it has continued down to Sir Edward Knatchbull, bart. now of Mersham-hatch, and the present possessor of this manor./r

THERE WAS AN ESTATE formerly part of the demesnes of this manor, which was for several generations in the possession of the family of Hussey. Henry Hussey had a charter of free warren for his lands at Chilston, East Lenham, and Stourmouth, in the 55th year of king Henry III. and from him the property of this estate descended down to Henry Hussey, who about the latter end of king Henry VIII. passed it away to John Parkhurst, descended from an antient family of that name in Norfolk, one of whom, John Parkhurst, was consecrated bishop of Norwich in 1560. His descendant Sir William Parkhurst, in the reign of king Charles I. alienated it to Mr. Wood, of London, merchant, who possessed it at the restoration of king

Charles II. From this name it passed by sale to Edward Hales, esq. of Chilston, whose three daughters

/r See more of this family under Mersham.

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and coheirs, in 1698, conveyed it to the hon. Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton; since which it has passed, in like manner as Chilston, in Bocton Malherbe, to George Best, esq. of Chilston, the present owner of it.

ARCHBISHOP LANFRANC, in the time of the Conqueror, gave the tithes of his whole manor of Lenham, which he had given to Godfrid, as has been already mentioned, to the priory of St. Gregory, in Canterbury, which had been founded by him in 1084. Which gift was confirmed by archbishop Hubert, among the rest of the possessions of that priory, with which this portion of tithes remained till the dissolution of it in the 27th year of king Henry VIII. when not having the clear yearly income of two hundred pounds, it was dissolved by the act of that year, and was surrendered into the king's hands. After which the king granted these tithes, with the scite; and most of the possessions of St. Gregory's priory, to the archbishop of Canterbury in exchange, in pursuance of an act which had passed for that purpose.

The parsonage of East Lenham becoming thus part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, was let by the archbishop, among the rest of the revenues of the priory of St. Gregory, in one great lease for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of fifty-five pounds.

In 1643, Sir Robert Honywood, of Charing, was head lessee of these premises. Philip, earl of Chesterfield, afterwards held it, as heir to the Wottons, after whose decease, s. p. in 1773, the lease of them was sold by his executors to George Gipps, esq. of Canterbury, M. P. for that city, who is the present possessor of it; but Sir Edward Knatchbull, bart. owner of East Lenham manor, is the present lessee under him, for the parsonage of East Lenham, at the yearly rent of seventeen pounds.

THERE ARE THREE DIFFERENT MANORS in the north-east part of this parish, called in the time of the

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Saxons, Scelfe, afterwards Selve, and now SHELVE, distinguished from each other by their different situations.

These manors were part of those possessions given by William the Conqueror to his half-brother Odo, bishop of Baieux, under the general title of whose lands they are thus entered in the survey of Domesday, taken about the year 1080.

Adam Fitzhubert holds of the bishop of Baieux, Est Selve. It was taxed at half a suling. The arable land is one carucate, and there is in demesne together with one villein, and one borderer, and five servants. There are four acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of four hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, and now, it was and is worth twenty shillings. Godric held it of king Edward.

William Fitzrobert holds of the bishop of Baieux West Selve. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is three carucates and an half. In demesne there are two,

and a certain Frenchman, with ten villeins, and one borderer, having one carucate and an half. There are five servants, and one acre of meadow, and one mill of fifteen pence. Wood for the pannage of fifteen hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, and now, it was and is worth four pounds. Eddid held it of king Edward. To this manor there belonged in Canterbury, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, one house paying twenty-five pence.

Hugh, grandson of Herbert, holds of the bishop of Baieux, Est Selve. It was taxed at half a suling. The arable land is one carucate, and there is in demesne . . . with one villein, and one borderer, and two servants. There are four acres of meadow, and wood for the pannage of four hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, and now, it was and is worth forty shillings. Ulviet held it of king Edward.

The first of these estates described above, seems intended for that which is now known by the name of

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Old Shelve, the second for that called West Shelve, and the last for Cobham, alias East Shelve.

After the bishop of Baieux's disgrace, about four years after taking the above-mentioned survey, all his estates were confiscated to the crown, after which

THE MANOR OF WEST, alias NEW SHELVE, so called from its situation in regard to the others, and to distinguish it from the adjoining manor of Old Shelve, became part of the possessions of the family of Criol, one of whom Bertram de Criol held it in the reign of Henry III. in whose descendants it continued down to John de Criol, who dying s. p. in the reign of king Edward I. Joane his sister became his heir, and carried this manor among the rest of her inheritance, in marriage to Sir Richard de Rokesle, seneschal and governor of Poitou and Montreuil, in Picardy, who left two daughters his coheirs, of whom Agnes the eldest married Thomas de Poynings; and Joane the youngest, first, Hugh de Pateshull, and secondly, Sir William le Baud, nevertheless, they did not inherit this manor, which descended to a younger branch of the family of Rokesle, and it afterwards, on failure of issue, devolved as next of kin, in like manner as Ruxley heretofore described, by reason of the above marriage to the family of Poynings, in which it continued till Sir Ed. Poynings, dying in the 14th year of Henry VIIIth's reign, without legitimate issue, and even without any collateral kindred who could make claim to his estates, this manor among the rest of his possessions escheated to the crown.

Soon after which, the king granted this manor to John Millys, who died possessed of it in the 17th year of that reign, /s the same being held by knight's service, of the abbot of St. Augustine, in right of his abbey. He was succeeded by James Milles, his son and heir, by whose only daughter Joane, this manor of West Shelve

/s His will, proved in Prerogative office in Canterbury.

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went in marriage to Nicholas Darell, second son of Sir James Darell, of Calehill, who afterwards resided

here. He died in 1564, leaving two sons, of whom Anthony the second son seems to have at length possessed this manor, and leaving an only daughter and heir Anne, she entitled her husband William Wilkin= son to it. He died in 1618, and was buried in this church. He was son and heir of Richard, who was one of the clerks in chancery, and owner of Watring= bury manor in this county; and in his descendants it continued down to John Wilkinson, esq. who died pos= sessed of it in 1713, without surviving issue.

Upon which it became the property of Mr. John Dering, of Chalk, on whose marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of Francis Milles, esq. of the Inner Temple, he had, by deed, in 1713, in which he stiled him his cousin and adopted heir, settled this manor, with his other estates in this parish, to him and his issue by her in tail male. Mr. John Dering above-mentioned, was, if I mistake not, descended from John Dering, of Egerton, sixth son of John Dering, esq. of Surrenden, in the reign of king Henry VIII. by Margaret, his wife, sister and heir of Thomas Brent, esq. of Charing. He was of West Shelve, gent. and dying possessed of this manor in 1724, was buried in this church.

On his death, Henry his eldest son succeeded to this manor, and was of Ashford, in this county. He married Hester Wightwick, of New Romney, by whom he left eight children, viz. Mary, married first to Mr. John Mascal, and secondly, to Mr. Josiah Pattenson, both of Ashford; Hester, to Mr. William Loftie, of Canterbury; Elizabeth to Mr. Baker Coates, of New Romney; John Dering, of Canterbury, who married Rose Hatley; Henry; Martha, married first to Whit= field, and secondly, to Henry Creed, of Ashford; Ed= ward, who married Mary Sweetlove; and George; and having cut off the entail of this estate, he, by his will devised this manor, by the name of West Shelve,

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alias Royton, in equal shares among his children before mentioned, who are now entitled to it, excepting John Dering and George, who alienated their respective in= terests in it to their only surviving uncle, Mr. Edward Dering, of Doddington, who died in 1786, and his widow Mrs. Margaret Dering is at this time possessed of them. These Derings bear for their arms, Or, a saltier, sable, a crescent for difference; but this is not their proper bearing, for that is, Or, a saltier, sable, a chief, gules; each of the younger branches of John Dering, by Margaret Brent, his wife, bearing for dis= tinction, A chief over the saltier, but differently bla= zoned.

A court leet was formerly held for this manor, but it has been long since discontinued.

At New Shelve house in 1755, I saw a curfew, or coverfew, much of the same sort as that, lately belong= ing to Mr. Gostling, of Canterbury, and of which a plate may be seen in the Antiquarian Repertory, vol. i. p. 89, which had been in the manor house here, time out of mind, and had always been known by this name. They were first made use of in the time of the Con= queror, who commanded, that at the ringing of a bell every evening at eight o'clock, which is still called the curfew bell from thence, all lights should be put out,

and the fires covered up. King Henry I. commanded the use of lights to be restored. The curfew bell is still rung at eight o'clock in most market towns and places of resort.^t

THE MANOR OF OLD SHELVE lies adjoining to the last described manor, eastward. It was formerly called likewise Middle, alias Red Shelve, and after the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, came into the possession of a family, which assumed its surname from it. Anusius de Selves held it in the reign of king Henry III. and had licence to change his service from sergeantry to

^t See Dugd. Orig. p. 8. Stow's Annals, anno 1100.

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knight's service,^u his descendant William de Shelve paid aid for this manor in the 20th year of Edward III. as half a knight's fee, which he then held of the earl of Albermarle, and he of the king. It afterwards most probably passed into the family of Poynings, and escheated to the crown in like manner as the last described manor of West Shelve, on the death of Sir Edward Poynings, without heirs, in the 14th year of king Henry VIII. Soon after which it was granted with that manor to John Millys, and afterwards passed in like manner with it to William Wilkinson, one of whose descendants passed it away by sale to Plomer, from which name it was alienated to Dr. Ludwell, late of Oriel college, Oxford, whose widow Mrs. Elizabeth Ludwell, gave it by her will to Benjamin Francis Tribe, esq. with an injunction for him to take the name of Poole, for which he obtained an act anno 5 king George III.

Francis Tribe Poole, esq. was afterwards of Charing, and in 1772 sold this manor to Mr. John Winder, the present proprietor of it, together with that of Marshall adjoining to it.

THE MANOR OF EAST SHELVE, alias SHELVE COBHAM, lies at the foot of the chalk hills, eastward of that last described.

After the bishop of Baieux's disgrace, this manor came into the possession of the family of Cobham, of Cobham, in this county. Henry de Cobham, in the reign of king John, left three sons; John, who succeeded him at Cobham; Reginald; and William, called Cobham of Aldington, a justice itinerant in Henry the III's reign, which last inherited this manor, and died in the 14th year of Edward II. and, as it should seem, s. p. for Reginald his nephew, stiled likewise Cobham of Aldington, son of his eldest brother John de Cobham, of Cobham, by his second wife Joane de

^u Roll of knight's fees in the Exchequer.

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Nevill, succeeded him in it. He lived in the reign of king Edward II. and left by Joane his wife, daughter and heir of William de Hever, a son Reginald de Cobham, in whose descendants of the name of Reginald likewise, seated at Sterborough-castle in Surry, this manor continued down to Reginald, lord Cobham, of Sterborough, who died possessed of it about the 24th year of king Henry VI. leaving Sir Thomas Cobham, his then only son, his heir, who likewise died

in the 11th year of king Edward IV. possessed of this manor, which from the length of time which this family had been proprietors of it, was now usually known by the name of Shelve Cobham, alias East Shelve, which his only daughter and sole heir Anne, carried in marriage to Sir Edward Borough, of Gainsborough, in Lincolnshire, whose son and heir Thomas, lord Burgh, procured his lands to be disgavelled by the act of the 31st of king Henry VIII. His son William, lord Burgh, in the 12th year of queen Elizabeth, sold this manor to John Pakenham, who in the 35th year of that reign, alienated it to Boteler, in which name it remained till the 5th year of king Charles I. when it was passed away by sale to Sir John Melton, whose son John Melton, esq. soon after the death of that prince, sold it to Mr. Solomon Adye, from which name it passed into that of Wilkinson, whose descendant John Wilkinson, esq. died possessed of it, as well as New Shelve, in 1713, without surviving issue. Since which it has passed in the same succession of ownership as that manor, to the present time, to the description of which before, p. 433, the reader is referred.

THE MANOR OF DOWNE, or Downe-court, as it is now usually called, is situated in the northern part of this parish, on the summit of the chalk hills. In the reign of king Henry III. it had owners which assumed

/w Rot. Esch. ejus an. See a full account of this branch of Cobham under Chidingstone, vol. iii. p. 211.

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their surname from it. Hamo de la Dune then held it as half a knight's fee, as did Laurence, heir of Robert de la Downe, in the 20th year of Edward III. when he paid aid for it as half a knight's fee, in which name it continued to John Downe, who resided here, in the 6th year of Edward IV. and left two sons, John and Thomas Downe, to both of whom he by his will devised this estate, which had then lost all reputation of being a manor. How it passed afterwards I have not found; but Robert Atwater, of Royton, in this parish, died possessed of it in 1565, and his daughter and co-heir Mary, carried it, with other estates in this parish and neighbourhood, in marriage to Robert Honywood, esq. of Postling. He died in 1576, leaving a numerous issue by her; of whom Robert Honywood, esq. of Charing and of Markshall, in Essex, the eldest son, succeeded him in this estate, in whose descendants it continued down to Philip Honywood, esq. of Markshall, a general in the army, who married Eliz. Wastell, but died s. p. 1785, having by his will given this, among his other estates in this county and in Essex, to his kinsman, Filmer Honywood, esq. the eldest son of the late Sir John Honywood, bart. by his second wife Dorothy Filmer. He is now of Markshall, in Essex, and is unmarried, having been M. P. for this county in the last two successive parliaments, and is the present owner of this estate.

AT SOME DISTANCE north-westward from Downe-court, in the valley on the east side of the road leading from Doddington to Hollingborne hill, at the extreme bounds of this parish, lies an estate called SYNDALL, but more properly Syndane, which, as appears by the

evidences belonging to it, as high as the reign of king John and king Henry III. was the inheritance of a family of that surname, who were gentlemen of some note in these parts; but they continued owners of it for no long time afterwards, for in the 23d year of king Edward III. Fulk de Peyforer was possessed of

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it; from which name it was alienated, before the end of that reign, to Henman, in whose descendants it continued down to Allen Henman, who sold the mansion-house and principal part of the estate, in the reign of queen Anne, to Sir Robert Furnese, bart. of Waldershare, and he died possessed of it in 1733, being succeeded in title and estate by his only son, Sir Henry Furnese, bart. who survived him but a small time, and dying abroad in 1735, under age and unmarried, his estates, by virtue of the limitations in his grandfather's will became vested in his three sisters, as the three daughters and coheirs of his father Sir Rob. Furnese, in equal shares and proportions, in coparcenary in tail general, and afterwards, by a decree of the court of chancery, anno 9 George II. a writ of partition was agreed to by them, which was confirmed by an act passed the next year, in which this farm of Syndall, among other premises, was allotted to Selina, the third daughter, who afterwards married Edward Dering, esq. who survived his wife, and afterwards succeeded his father in the title of baronet. He continued in the possession of this estate till the year 1779, when he conveyed it by sale, in which his son Edward Dering, esq. joined, to Mr. William Hills, of Boughton Blean, who is the present proprietor of it.

CHARITIES.

SIX alms-houses, and a house for a governor, were founded by Anthony Honywood, esq. of Langley, in this county; for the building and endowing of which, he gave an estate in 1622, to this parish for ever, directing 40l. per annum to be paid out of it to six poor people inhabiting the alms-houses; and the remainder to be to the use of the governor, now vested in the minister and churchwardens, and of the annual produce of 50l.

THREE pounds per annum were given in 1720, by the REV. FRANCIS ROBINS, A. M. of Town Sutton, to the most indigent, honest, and industrious poor of Lenham, to be distributed yearly among them on March 11, by the minister and churchwardens, and now of that annual produce.

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JOHN FOORD, late of Lenham, yeoman, by his will in 1766, gave to the minister and churchwardens of Lenham, and their successors for ever, the sum of 300l. the interest of it to be paid to a fit and proper schoolmaster, to be appointed by the said minister and churchwardens, to teach ten poor boys of Lenham, reading, writing, and accounts, now of the annual produce of 12l.

The poor constantly relieved are about 120, and casually about 45.

LENHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary. It is a large handsome building, with a square tower at the west end, in which is a good clock, which strikes the hours and quarters, and a set of chimes. It consists of two isles, and two chancels; on the north side of the high chancel, in the hollow in the wall, there is a figure in long robes, lying at full length, which seems very ancient, probably that of Thomas de Apulderfield, who lived in king Edward the III^d's reign, and was buried in this church. At the west end of the chancel, there are sixteen stalls, eight on each side, though of a different size, for the use of the monks of St. Augustine's, when they visited their estate in this parish, and for such other of the clergy as should be present at the services of the church; and at a small distance from them, on the south side, a stone confessional chair.

The pulpit is an octagon, curiously carved in each compartment. There are several of the family of Honeywood buried in this church; and memorials, among many others, for the Cods, Brockwells, Marshalls, Baldocks, Dixons, and Perrys, of which last there is a memorial over James Perry, gent. once principal of Staples Inn, in 1577, and over, Anne his wife, daughter of Thomas Turner, of Sutton Valence, in 1593. They bore for their arms, On a bend, three pears. There are likewise memorials of the Thomsons and the Derings, and one for the hon. John Hamilton, in

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1714. Thomas Horne, esq. of East Lenham, by his will in 1471, proved in the Prerogative-office, in Canterbury, ordered his body to be buried in St. Edmund's chancel, in this church, before the altar there. At the east end of the north isle is a tomb of Bethersden marble, having on it this shield of arms, Six cross-croslets, fitchee; at the south end of it, a cross-croslet, fitchee; on one side of which are two crescents one above the other; and on the other side of it is a bugle horn, hanging by a string on the cross-croslet. This tomb, however different the arms may be from those of this family quartered by Chauncy as above-mentioned, it is not improbable might be erected for Tho. Horne, in St. Edmund's chancel, which might be in this part of the church. Weever says, Valentine Barrett and Cecile his wife, and likewise William Maries, esquire to king Henry V. lie buried here; but it is a mistake, for Preston near Faversham, in which church they lie buried.

The church of Lenham, as an appendage to the manor, became part of the possessions of the monastery of St. Augustine, above-mentioned, to which it was appropriated by pope Celestine III. in the reign of king Richard I. towards the replenishing of the furniture of the refectory from time to time, which was afterwards confirmed by several popes and archbishops of Canterbury.

After which, a vicarage was endowed in this church by the abbot and convent, by which the vicar was entitled to receive the oblations and obventions commonly arising from the altarages, and the small tithes, with the tithes of hay and of curtilages. But controversies afterwards being likely to arise between them, concerning certain small tithes of the pasture ground,

and of the corn of certain lands really purchased by the abbot and convent out of their manor of Lenham, since the endowment, and the vicar asserting, that his

/x See Dec. Scrip. col. 2097. Reg. Mon. Sti. Aug. Cart. 75.

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vicarage was overloaded with ordinary, as well as extraordinary burthens, humbly prayed of them some relief; the abbot and convent, therefore, willing to grant his petition, and to cut off all grounds of difference between them in future, and to provide for his portion more liberally, granted to him and his successors, all the messuage, with its appurtenances, in which he then dwelt. And further, they released to the vicar and his successors, ten shillings annual rent, which they used to receive from the said messuage; and they granted that he and his successors should receive and have for ever, twelve-pence yearly, which the prior and convent of Ledes, and in like manner two pounds of wax, which the prior and convent of St. Gregory's, in Canterbury, used yearly to offer on the great altar of the before-mentioned church; and they granted to him besides, three seams of corn, viz. one of wheat and two of barley, to be taken yearly by him and his successors, from them in their manor of Lenham, at the hands of their bailiff, at Michaelmas and Lady-day, by equal portions; so that the vicar and each of his successors, thus content with the said corn, should in future carry away nothing in the name of tithe, or of his vicarage, of the sheaves of any kind of corn, within curtilages or without, arising within the bounds of the parish. Adding likewise to his portion, that he and his successors should have every year two cows, feeding with their cows, in their pasture at Lenham, but not to go to their sheep-cote, from the feast of St. Philip and St. James to the feast of St. Michael. They confirmed likewise to him and his successors, the land called Langebregge, near Markewell, inclosed with hedges on every side, together with the appropriation of the tenement or messuage, in which the vicar then dwelt, which the vicar and his successors should possess in future to the use of the vicarage, in manner as above-mentioned; and the vicar, bona fide and expressly for himself and his successors, released, that in either of

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their manors aforesaid, or of their demesne lands or tenements in it, of the small tithes of corn, hay, pasture, the three mills, of Abbottesmill, Slakke, and the Windmill, of the nutriment of cattle, or of any other sort of small tithes, or any thing else besides what has been already mentioned, he or they would not make any demand or claim in future, by reason of the said vicarage, but with the income and endowment as aforesaid, according to the manner of it, should hold themselves content; but with this proviso, nevertheless, that if the said premises should be let to ferme to others, then the vicar should carry off his just tithe from the farmer for that time. Saving to the vicar and his successors, the oblations and obventions, and other small tithes and rents only, with which the vicarage was originally endowed, excepting the tithes of the abbot and convent,

as aforesaid. And that the vicar and his successors should properly perform their duty to the church of Lenham, and the chapel of Royton, either by themselves or other proper curate, and should find lights in them, in the due and accustomed manner, and that they should be bound to the payment of the procuration of the archbishop, and all other ordinary burthens of his church for ever; all other instruments or writings, if there should be any, of compositions between the said parties, or any of their predecessors, before made, touching the said vicarage, only obtaining force by this writing, but as to any thing else totally void of all. To which instrument the said abbot and convent had put their common seal.

The abbot and convent obtained from time to time several grants and extensive privileges from the popes, among which was, an exemption from all archiepiscopal or any ecclesiastical jurisdiction whatsoever, and subjecting them and all their possessions solely and immediately to the see of Rome. In consequence of which, the abbot instituted several new deaneries and apportioned the several churches belonging to his mo-

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nastery to each of them according to their vicinity, one of them was the deanry of Lenham, which church he ordained should be the head of the deanry; and he appointed a dean to each, with officials, consistories, &c. and exacted an oath of canonical obedience from each of them. This proceeding raised great contests and animosities between the archbishops and the abbots from time to time, each appealing in his turn to the court of Rome. After more than five years altercation, the determination of their disputes was entrusted by pope Boniface VIII. in the year 1300, to the abbots of Westminster, Waltham, and St. Edmund: in consequence of which, after near eight years controversy, and great sums of money spent on both sides, the abbot, three years afterwards, was stripped of these exemptions, and by the pope's bull, declared to be subject to the archbishop's jurisdiction in all matters whatsoever, in like manner as heretofore; by which entirely dissolved this new deanry, as well as the rest of them.

The church and vicarage of Lenham remained part of the possessions of the monastery of St. Augustine till the final dissolution of it in the 30th year of Henry VIII. when it was, with all its revenues, surrendered into the king's hands.

The rectory of Lenham, with the advowson of the vicarage, remained but a small time in the king's hands, for the same year he granted the rectory of Lenham, the manor of it and their appurtenances, to Sir Anthony St. Leger, at the yearly rent of seven pounds. From him these premises descended to Sir Warham St. Leger, who in the reign of queen Elizabeth, sold them to Francis Barnham, esq. and he, in the 21st year of that reign, sold this rectory and manor, with their appurtenances, to Robert Honywood, junior, the same being held of the queen in capite.

/y See Decem. Script. col. 1970 to 2003.

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Henry Wilford, esq. possessed this rectory and ad= wovson in the reign of king James I. at the latter end of which, he alienated them to Anthony Brown, vis= count Montague; since which they have had the same owners as the manor of Lenham, and are both, with that, now in the possession of George Best, esq. of Chilston.

In the 8th year of king Richard II. the church of Lenham was valued at 23l 6s. 8d.

The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 13l. 15s. 2½d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 7s. 6¼d.

In 1640 it was valued at eighty pounds. Commu= nicants four hundred.

CHURCH OF LENHAM.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Abbot and convent of St. Augustine Andrew, in the reign of king Henry II./z

VICARS.

Sir Thomas Horseman. George Hudson, A. M. Nov. 14, 1605. obt. 1614.

Robert Barrell, A. M. May 20, 1614.

William Cobb and William Col= lins, gents. Laurence Fox, obt. 1631.

Robert Marriott, A. M. Sept. 12, 1631./a

The King. The same again, September 27, 1636.

The Archbishop. John Lord, in 1663, obt. 1670.

Henry Gerrard, A. M. Dec. 9, 1670, resig. 1677.

Viscount Montague. Thomas Robins, 1677, obt. 1701.

Richard Styles, of Petworth. Thomas Nicholson, 1701, obt. 1763./b

Thomas Best, esq. Richard Laurence, LL. B. ind. Feb. 24, 1763, obt. August 1772./c

/z Selden of Tythes, p. 415.

/a Rym. Fœd. vol. xx. p. 138.

/b Also rector of Wichling.

/c In 1763 he had a dispensation, for holding Bredgar with this vicarage.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Thomas Best, esq. Thomas Verrier Alkin, A. M. ind. Oct. 24, 1772, resigned March 1781.

Thomas Scott, A. B. 1781, re= signed 1792./d

Maurice Lloyd, A. M. 1792, the present vicar.

/d By dispensation in 1785 rector of Denton.

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HARRIETSHAM.

LIES the next parish south-westward from Len=

ham. The manor of Hollingborne claims over a part of this parish.

IT lies mostly at the foot of the great ridge of chalk hills, being near three miles across each way. It is, though healthy, rather unpleasantly situated, from the nature of its soil, for above the hill, where it extends but a small way till it joins Frinsted, it becomes where the chalk leaves it, a red earth, covered with flints, a heavy tillage and unfertile land. On the summit of the hill here called Stede hill, is Harrietsham-place, having a beautiful and extensive prospect over the country southward. At a small distance below the foot of the hill stands the church, with the parsonage close to it, and about a quarter of a mile farther, where the chalky soil continues over an open unshaded country, is Harrietsham-street, near which there is a pleasure-ground, belonging to Harrietsham-place, in which there is a summer-house, shrubbery, and plantation, with a large sheet of water, and several cascades, containing in the whole six acres. Through the above street the high road leads from Lenham, through the hamlet of Holmemill-green, and thence by Leeds park towards Maidstone, and here the soil becomes a sand, and as it extends southward, mixes

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with the quarry or rock stone; through this part of the parish the Lenham rivulet flows on westward towards the Medway at Maidstone, receiving here into it several smaller streams, which rise at the bottom of the chalk hills, though at some distance from each other, the rivulet turning in its way Holmemill; about half a mile southward from which is Farborne and the heath of that name, beyond which it extends into the eastern part of Kingswood, where it joins to Ulcomb. There is a fair here, held yearly on the 5th of July, in the old-accustomed fair field, at the court lodge, for horses, cattle, and pedlary.

THIS PLACE was given immediately after the fatal battle of Hastings, among other great possessions, by William the Conqueror, to his half brother Odo, bishop of Baieux and earl of Kent, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the general survey of Domesday:

In Aihorde hundred, Hugh, the grandson of Herbert, holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Hariardesham. It was taxed at two sulings. The arable land is six carucates, In demesne . . . eighteen villeins, with ten borderers having four carucates. There is a church, and eleven servants, and two mills of eleven shillings and six-pence, and seven acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of fifteen hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth ten pounds, when he received it eight pounds, now ten pounds. Osuuard held it of king Edward.

The same Hugh holds of the bishop, Fereburne. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is two carucates. In demesne . . . four villeins, with one carucate and an half, and two mills of forty pence. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth four pounds, afterwards, and now, three pounds. Aluuin held it of earl Godwin.

The same Hugh holds of the bishop one yoke of free

land in Selesburne, and there he has half a carucate, with one borderer, and five servants, and one acre of meadow

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and an half. It is and was worth, separately, twenty shillings. Aluuin held it of earl Godwin.

The above-described estates, comprehended the manor of Harrietsham, and were, about four years after taking the above survey, on the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, confiscated to the crown.

After which this manor became part of the possessions of the family of Crescie, or Cressi; one of whom, Roger de Cressi, appears to have held it in the beginning of king Henry III's reign, of the honor of Peverell, as one knight's fee, it being then valued at twenty pounds.

He was succeeded in it by his son, Hugh de Cressi, who died in the 47th year of that reign, leaving Stephen de Cressi his next heir. After which it seems to have been in the hands of the crown; for king Henry III. in his 48th year, directed his writ to the sheriff of Kent, to deliver this manor to his niece Isabel, the illegitimate daughter of Richard, earl of Cornwall, a younger son of king John, and then the wife of Maurice, lord Berkeley, for her support, her husband at that time having forfeited his estates, by associating with the rebellious barons, and she being at that time in great distress and poverty. This appears to have happened during the minority of Stephen de Cressi, above-mentioned, who died possessed of it in the 52d year of that reign, holding it in capite by knight's service.

Soon after which, this manor seems to have been divided; that part of it which still retained the name of the manor of Harrietsham, came into the possession of the family of Northwood, of Northwood, in Milton.

Roger de Northwood died anno 14 Edward I. possessed of this manor, held of the king in capite, by the service of half a knight's fee, and the yearly rent of nineteen shillings, from thence to the prior and convent of Christ-church, Canterbury. His son, Sir John

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de Northwood, changed the tenure of his lands from gavelkind to knight's service, and in the 21st year of that reign claimed free-warren and other privileges of a manor here, before the justices itinerant, and afterwards, together with his grandson, accompanied king Edward in his victorious expedition into Scotland, and was sheriff of this county several times. Having been summoned to parliament among the barons of this realm, he died in the 13th year of king Edward II.

By the inquisition then taken, he was found to hold two parts of this manor in capite, by the service of two parts of one knight's fee, and suit to the court of the manor of Ospringe, as of the honor of Peverel. He was succeeded by his grandson Roger de Northwood, who in the 20th year of king Edward III. jointly with William de Clynton, earl of Huntingdon, who possessed the other part of this manor in right of Juliana

de Leyborne, his wife, then paid aid for it, as one knight's fee, in Harrietsham and Est Ferbourne; at length his descendant, John Northwood, esq. dying anno 4 Henry V. and leaving no issue male, his two sisters became his coheirs, who afterwards carried their respective shares of his part of this manor in marriage, the former to John Barley, of Hertfordshire, and the other to Sir John Norton, of this county. John Barley soon afterwards conveyed his moiety of it to John Adam, who was possessed of considerable estates in Essex, and bore for his arms, Vert, a plain cross, or. His descendant, Stephen Adam, was of Harrietsham, and died s. p. leaving his sister Eve his heir, then the widow of John Levet, esq. who carried this moiety of the manor in marriage, at the latter end of the reign of Philip and Mary, to Laurence Ashburnham, gent. of Sussex, /e who, before the 17th of the next reign of queen Elizabeth, alienated it to William Stede, esq.

/e Rot. Esch. anno 3 and 4 Philip and Mary.

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who that year levied a fine of this moiety of the manor of Harrietsham.

THE OTHER MOIETY of this manor, which came into the possession of Sir John Norton, in right of his wife as before-mentioned, passed from his name into that of Peckham, in which it remained till Reginald Peckham, esq. of Yaldham, in the 15th year of king Henry VIII.'s reign, conveyed it to Edward Scott, esq. and he not long afterwards transmitted it in like manner, to John Hales, esq. of the Dungeon, in Canterbury, one of the barons of the exchequer, whose descendant, William Hales, anno 4 Elizabeth, by a fine then levied, passed this moiety away by sale to Sir Warham St. Leger, of Ulcombe, sheriff in the 2d year of that reign, and chief governor of the province of Munster, in Ireland, and he, in the 21st year of it, alienated this moiety of the manor of Harrietsham to William Stede, esq. who having before purchased the other moiety of it, of Laurence Ashburnham, esq. became now possessed of the entire fee of them both. The Stedes were of some note in this parish for more than a century before this; for John Stede, senior, was resident here in 1460, when by his will he devised his principal mansion at Stede-street, in this parish to William his son. They bore for their arms, Argent, a chevron between three bears heads coupé sable, muz= zled, or. William Stede, esq. the possessor of this manor as above-mentioned, resided at Harrietsham, and dying in 1574, lies buried in this church, under an altar tomb. His son, Sir William Stede, resided likewise at Harrietsham, and was sheriff anno 11 James I./f whose eldest son, Sir John Stede, becoming possessed of this manor, built a handsome seat on it, naming it from himself and the situation of it, Stede-hill, in which he afterwards resided, and in his descen=

/f See Vistn. co. Kent, anno 1619, pedigree Stede.

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this estate continued down to Edwyn Stede, esq. who succeeded to it on his father's death in 1735, and re=

sided here. He married Elizabeth, daughter of William Hamilton, esq. of Chilston, who survived him, and died s. p. Soon after he became possessed of this estate, he sold it to William Horsemonden Turner, esq. of Maidstone, of which town he was recorder, and twice represented it in parliament. He was the son of Anthony Horsmonden, of Maidstone, by his second wife Jane, daughter of Sir William Turner, of Richmond, and grandson of Daniel Horsmonden, D. D. rector of Ulcomb, by Ursula, daughter of Sir Warham St. Leger.

He changed the name of this seat to Harrietsham-place, by which it has ever since been called, and dying s. p. in 1753, was buried at Maidstone, bearing for his arms, first those of Turner, which he assumed on his uncle John Turner's death, being, On a bend, three fer de molins, quartered with those of Horsmonden, Gules, a saltier argent, surmounted by a fess, azure, charged with leopards heads of the first. He married Elizabeth Read, of Gravesend, who survived him, and by his will possessed this manor and seat among his other estates, she resided here, and dying in 1782, was buried beside her husband, upon which it came by the limitation of her husband's will, to Charles Booth, esq. of the Temple, London, who resided here, where he kept his shrievalty in 1781, in which year he was knighted. Sir Charles Booth married Mrs. Sheppard, and died s. p. in London in 1795, upon which it came by the further entail, and limitations in Mr. Turner's will, with his other estates in this county, to William Baldwin, esq. who is the present owner of this manor and seat, and now resides at Harrietsham-place. A court leet and court baron is held for this manor.

THE OTHER PART of the manor of Harrietsham, lying in East Farborne, in this parish, has already been

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taken notice of in the above-description of that manor, in which mention has been made of its having belonged to the bishop of Baieux, by gift from his half-brother the Conqueror, and the description of it in the survey of Domesday has been likewise given.

After the bishop's disgrace, it passed, as part of the manor of Harrietsham, into the possession of the family of Cressi, and continued in it till the death of Stephen de Cressi in the 52d year of king Henry III. about which time the manor of Harrietsham seems to have been divided; two-thirds of it passed into the possession of the family of Northwood, as has been already mentioned, and the remainder into that of Leyborne.

Roger de Leyborne died possessed of this estate, then stiled the manor of Harrietsham in East Farborne, in the 56th year of that reign, and his son William de Leyborne succeeded to it, in the 2d year of king Edward I.

Juliana, his grand daughter, who from her great possessions, was usually stiled the Infanta of Kent, became his heir, whose last husband, Sir William de Clinton, afterwards created earl of Huntingdon, held this estate in her right in the 20th year of Edward III. when he, jointly with Roger de Northwood, paid aid

for one knight's fee in Harrietesham and Est Farborne, which John de Northwood and William de Leyborne before held there of the king, as of the honor of Pevel.

Juliana de Leyborne had no issue by either of her husbands, whom she survived, and died possessed of this estate in the 41st year of that reign. On which it escheated to the crown, there being then no one found who could make claim to her estates, either by direct or even collateral alliance./g

/g See Leyborne, vol. iv. of this history, p. 499.

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After which, this part of the manor of Harrietesham, then stiled the manor of Harietesham, in Est Farborne, continued in the crown, till king Richard II. in his 11th year, gave it to the priory of canons, alias Chiltern Langley, in Hertfordshire, where it remained till the dissolution of it in the 30th year of king Henry VIII. when it was surrendered into the king's hands, who next year granted it to Richard, suffragan bishop of Dover, together with the scite of the before-mentioned monastery, and other lands and possessions belonging to it, to hold during his life, or until he should be promoted to one or more ecclesiastical benefices, of the yearly value of one hundred pounds, in which case this grant should be void. This certainly happened before the 36th yeas of that reign; for the king, that year, granted this manor to Sir Thomas Moile, to hold in capite, who gave it in marriage with his youngest daughter and coheir Amy, to Sir Thomas Kempe, of Wye, who passed it away in the reign of queen Elizabeth, to Thomas Wotton, esq. of Boughton Malherb, whose son Sir Edward Wotton, was in the 1st year of king James I. created lord Wotton, baron of Marley, in this parish. After which it continued by the name of the manor of East Farborne, in the like succession of ownership as the manor of Boughton Malherb heretofore described, down to Philip Dormer Stanhope, earl of Chesterfield, who in 1750 alienated it, with the rest of the Wotton estates in this county, to Galfridus Mann, esq. who died possessed of it in 1756, and his only son Sir Horace Mann, knight and baronet, is the present possessor of this manor of East Farborne./h

WEST FARBORN is a manor in this parish, so called from its situation in respect to that of East Farborne, already described, which was part of the

/h See more of this family under Linton, and Boughton Malherb.

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possessions likewise of Odo, bishop of Baieux, accordingly it is thus entered in the book of Domesday, under the general title of that prelate's lands:

Ralph Curbepine holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Feberburne. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is In demesne there is one carucate, and two villeins, with one borderer, and two servants, and one acre and an half of meadow. Wood for the pannage of six hogs. In

the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, and now, it was and is worth thirty shillings. Sbern Biga held it of king Edward.

After the bishop's disgrace, about the year 1084, and the confiscation of all his possessions to the crown, this estate was granted to the family of Magminot and Say successively; of which last it was held in king Henry III.'s reign, as chief lords of the fee, by Sir William de Pevington, of Pevington, in Pluckley, as one knight's fee. His descendants John and William Pevington, two brothers, both dying s. p. Amabilia, their sister, became their heir, and carried this manor in marriage to John Gobyon, esq. of Essex. She survived him, and dying anno 7 Henry IV. by her deed, vested this manor in feoffees, for the discharge of her debts and legacies. They passed it away to Hedd, whose descendant William Hedd died possessed of it in the 5th year of Henry VIII, it being then held of the king, as of his honor of Saye, and paying ward to Dover castle.

From this name it passed into that of Love, and thence again to St. Leger, and Sir Warham St Leger, of Ulcomb, about the middle of queen Elizabeth's reign, conveyed it to Mr. Benedict Barnham, alderman of London, and sheriff of that city, anno 1592. He died possessed of it in 1598, and on the division of his estates among his four surviving daughters and coheirs, this manor of West Farborne fell to the share of Dorothy, the third daughter, who entitled her husband Sir John Constable, to the fee of it; from whose

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descendant it passed by sale to Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Hollingborne, in whose family it remained till Thomas, lord Colepeper, leaving an only daughter and heir Catherine, she carried it, with Leeds castle and other possessions in this neighbourhood, in marriage to Thomas, lord Fairfax, whose brother Robert, lord Fairfax, dying s. p. in 1793, it became the property of his nephew the Rev. Denny Martin Fairfax, D. D. now of Leeds castle, who is the present possessor of it.

HARBILTON is another manor in this parish, written in antient deeds Herbreton, which is now so far blended with that of Harrietsham, by having had the same owners, as to be but little known by name, was part of those estates in this parish given by William the Conqueror to his half-brother Odo, bishop of Baieux, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the survey of Domesday:

Robert Latin holds to ferme Herbreton. Adelold held it of the bishop (of Baieux). It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is In demesne there is one carucate, and two villeins, with one borderer, having two head of cattle, and there are four acres of meadow. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, and now, it was and is worth sixty shillings, and yet it is let to ferme for four pounds. Aluric held it of earl Godwin.

After the bishop of Baieux's disgrace, which happened about four years after the above survey was taken, his possessions became confiscated to the crown.

In the reign of king Henry III. the family of Mal= mains were possessed of this manor; one of whom paid aid for it, in the 20th year of that reign, as three quarters of a knight's fee, held of the earl of Ewe, as of his honor of Hagenet.

They were, soon after the above period, succeeded here by the family of Mareys; William de Mareys possessed it in the reigns of king Henry V. and VI. to the former of whom he was esquire of the body, and in

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the latter reign sheriff of this county in the 20th year of it, and likewise esquire to Henry Chichele, cardinal and archbishop of Canterbury. He died anno 1459, and lies buried in Preston church, near Faver= sham. Soon after which, this manor became vested in Walter Moile, who was justice of the peace for this county, in the reigns both of Henry VI. and Ed= ward IV. He was succeeded in it by his heir John Moile, esq. whose son Robert Moile, about the be= ginning of king Henry VIII.'s reign, alienated it to Ralph St. Leger, esq of Ulcomb, whose grandson Sir Warham St. Leger, of Ulcomb, alienated this manor in the reign of queen Elizabeth, one part of it to Francis Colepeper, and the other to Henry Brockhull, esq. of Aldington, soon after which I find William Stede, esq. possessed of it, in whose descendants it continued down to Edwyn Stede, esq. who soon after the year 1735 alienated it, together with the manor of Harrietsham, and the rest of his estates in this pa= rish, to William Horsmonden Turner, esq. Since which it has passed with them, through the same succes= sion of ownership, down to William Baldwin, esq. of Harrietsham-place, esq. the present owner of it.

THERE ARE TWO MANORS in this parish, called MARLEY, alias Merley-court, and HOLME-MILL, alias BENTLEY; the former of which is recorded in the book of Domesday, as having been an appendage to the manor of Bewley or Bouley, in Boughton Mal= herb, and part of those possessions given by William the Conqueror to his half-brother Odo, bishop of Baieux, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in it:

Of this manor (of Bogelei) one Homager (homo) Adam has one suling, and it is called Murlea, and there he has one carucate and four villeins, with one carucate, and a church, and two servants, and wood for the pannage of four hogs. . . . The whole manor, in the reign of king Edward the Confessor, was worth six pounds, and after=

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wards as much, now seven pounds. Turgis held it of king Edward.

After the bishop of Baieux's disgrace, and the con= fiscation of his estates to the crown, the manor of Merley continued in the possession of Adam above- mentioned, who gave the tithes of it to Anschetil, archdeacon of Canterbury. He was succeeded in it by his brother Eudo Dapifer, that is, the king's steward, who gave the tithes of it, with the consent of Anschetill, to the priory of St. Andrew, in Ro= chester, as will be further mentioned hereafter.

Robert Fitzhamon, a potent Norman lord, afterwards appears to have held it, whose daughter Mabel carried it in marriage to Robert, earl of Gloucester, natural son to Henry I./i

After which, the family of Cressi, possessors likewise of Harrietsham manor, became lords of the fee, of whom it was held by a family, which took their name from it.

In the reign of king Henry III. the heir of Robert de Merlee held it, as half a knight's fee, of Roger de Cressi, and he of the king, as of the honor of Peverel; but they were extinct here before the 20th of king Edward III. when John de Somerye paid aid for it, as half a knight's fee. How it passed afterwards, I do not find, but at the beginning of Edward IV.'s reign, it was in the possession of Thomas Kemp, bishop of London, who died possessed of it in 1489, and was buried in the chapel of the Trinity, on the north side of the body of St. Paul's church, founded by himself, in which, by his will, he founded a perpetual chantry, and endowed it with this manor of Murley-court, as it is stiled in his will, then of the yearly value, beyond reprises, of 3l. 4s. 8d. In which state this manor continued till the first year of king

/i See Text. Roff. p. 164, 184. Reg. Roff. p. 116. Sandford's Gen. Hist. p. 45.

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Edward VI. when the chantry was suppressed, among others of the like sort, and was vested in the king and his heirs, by an act passed that year specially for that purpose. At which time it appears, by the survey taken of it, to have been let to William Pratts, gent. at four pounds per annum, and that it paid a quit-rent to Sir Anthony St. Leger, lord of the manor of Lenham, and that it was given by the will of Thomas Kemp, bishop of London, for the purposes above-mentioned,

Soon after which, the king granted this manor of Merley to Sir Edward Wotton, one of his privy counsel, who was then likewise possessed of the manor of Holmemill, alias Bentley, in this parish, which, if I mistake not, had belonged to the priory of Leeds, and had come into the hands of king Henry VIII. at the suppression of it, by the act passed in the 31st year of that reign. He died possessed of both these manors in the 6th year of king Edward VI. then holding them of the king in capite by knight's service. After which they passed in like manner as that of East Farborne before-mentioned down to Philip-Dormer Stanhope, earl of Chesterfield, who, in 1750, sold them, with the rest of the Wotton estates in this part of the county, to Galfridus Mann, esq. who died possessed of them in 1756, and his only son Sir Horace Mann, is the present possessor of these manors.

THE WHOLE TITHES of the manor of Merley-court were given, by Adam the possessor of it, in the time of the Conqueror, to Anshetill, archdeacon of Canterbury, who, together with Eudo Dapifer, brother and successor of Adam, in the possession of this manor, granted them to the priory of St. Andrew, in Rochester./k

/k Text. Roff. p. 164. Reg. Roff. p. 116. See the confirmations of these tithes in Reg. Roff. p. 46, 48, 505, 410.

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Robert, natural son of king Henry I. afterwards possessor of this manor, granted to the above priory the lands, customs and exemptions, which Robert Fitzhamon had granted in alms to them in Merley.

This portion of tithes remained with the priory till the dissolution of it, in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. when it was, among the rest of the possessions of the monastery, surrendered into the king's hands. After which, the king, in his 33d year, settled it by letters patent, by his dotation-charter, on his new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, part of whose possessions it remains at this time. William Baldwin, esq. of Harrietsham-place, is the present lessee of it, under the dean and chapter.

On the intended dissolution of deans and chapters, soon after the death of king Charles I. this portion was surveyed, by order of the state, in 1649; when it was returned, that it consisted of all the tithes, both great and small, arising out of the lands and fields of the manor of Merley-court, in Harrietsham, or within the precincts of it, amounting to one hundred and eighty-four acres, which were of the improved value of 10l. 10s. and were let by the dean and chapter, anno 15 Charles I. for twenty one years, to Christopher Clarke, at the yearly rent of five shillings, so there remained clear only 10l. 5s. lady Stanhope being then immediate tenant of them.

CHARITIES.

MR. MARC QUESTED, citizen and fishmonger of London, by his will in 1642, founded twelve alms-houses in this parish, which he endowed out of his manor of Pen-court, in Hollingborne; six of them for as many poor inhabitants of this parish, and the other six for as many of the poor of that company, whom he had made his trustees. Each poor person, besides the above, receives in money about 6l.

SIR WILLIAM STEDE gave by deed 10l. per annum in land, in the parish of Sandhurst, for the binding out yearly apprentices two poor children of this parish, Milton and Tong, vested in William Baldwin, esq.

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In 1604, A PERSON UNKNOWN gave a large silver cup and cover, for the use of the sacrament.

WILLIAM STEDE, LL. D. in 1637, gave a large silver flaggon and a salver, for the like use.

THREE PIECES of land near Runham, in Lenham, of the value of five guineas per annum, were given by a person now unknown; the profits of them to be equally divided between the poor of this parish and Hollingborne, vested in the churchwardens and overseers of both parishes.

THREE PIECES OF LAND near Stubble-hill, in Lenham, of the yearly value of 2l. 11s. were given by a person now unknown, to the use of the poor of this parish.

A PIECE OF LAND, called Parish-croft, containing half an acre, let at 7s. per annum, was given by a person now unknown, in 1684, to the like use, now vested in the churchwardens and overseers.

A PERSON UNKNOWN gave half an acre of land, in West-

street, on which two houses have been erected for the reception of the poor, vested in like manner./l

The poor relieved constantly are about twenty-five; casually about twenty.

HARRIETSHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton.

The church, which is a handsome building, consisting of three isles and three chancels, with a square tower at the west end, is dedicated to St. John Baptist. In it are some handsome monuments, and several memorials of the family of Stede, there was once a fraternity in this church of the blessed Virgin Mary, to which Robert Waryn, of this place, by will in 1471, gave land called Bonyers, in this parish.

The church seems once to have belonged to the priory of Leeds, for king Richard II. in his 19th year granted his licence to the prior and canons of it, to appropriate it to their own uses. How it happened that this appropriation never took place, or that the priory were divested of the possession of it, I do not find; but in the reign of king Henry VI. it was in

/l See Sir Charles Booth's benefactions in additions and corrections to this volume.

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the hands of the crown, for that king, in his 27th year, granted the patronage and advowson of it, to the warden and fellows of All Souls college, in Oxford, who still continue in the possession of it.

It is valued in the king's books at 11l. 10s. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 3s.

In 1640, it was valued at one hundred and sixty pounds. Communicants 192. The glebe land consists of sixty acres and upwards.

CHURCH OF HARRIETSHAM.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

The Queen, by lapse. George Havenden, 1625.

All Souls college. Richard Steward, LL. D. Jan. 11, 1625.

John Lynch, A. M. 1637, sequestered about 1642.

Samuel Smith, intruded, 1643./i

John Barton./m

John Lynch, restored in 1660./n

John Clerke, esq. A. M. 1680, obt. 1689./o

Thomas Baker, A. M. 1689./p

..... Coliere, 1713.

Daniel Pratt, A. M. 1718, ob.

July 30, 1723./q

Miles West, A. M. 1723, obt.

Aug. 27. 1743./r

Edward Smith, LL. D. Nov.

1743, obt. 1773.

James R. Hayward, April 1773,

the present rector./s

/m He was before curate of Maidenstone. See Mr Thomas Wilson's life,

p. 24. Hist. Maidstone, p. 66.
/n See Wood's Ath. vol. ii. p. 1033.
Walker's Suff. of Clergy, part ii.
p. 294.

/o Son of Sir Francis Clerke, and
is stiled esq, in the presentation. See
Wood's Ath. Oxon. vol. ii. fasti, p.
190. He was also rector of Ulcomb,
in which church he lies buried.

/p Wood ibid. fasti, p. 206.

/q Son of the dean of Rochester. He
was buried in that cathedral. Reg.
Roff. p. 704.

/r He died and lies buried in this
church-yard.

/s He has improved the value of this
rectory very considerably. In 1781 he
had a dispensation to hold this rectory
with St. Mary le Strand.

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HOLLINGBORNE.

THE next parish north-westward from Harrietsham is Hollingborne, called in Domesday, Hoilingeborde, and in later records, Holingburnan and Holingeburne. It probably took its name from the spring which rises in the vale underneath the hill, in this parish.

THE PARISH of Hollingborne is situated much the same as that of Harrietsham last described, close to the great ridge of chalk hills, at the foot of which is the village called Hollingborne-street, in which at the south end of it stands the church and vicarage, and near them a well-looking brick mansion, of the time of queen Elizabeth, which by its appearance must have had owners of good condition in former times, but what is remarkable the rector of Hollingborne claims some rooms in this house in right of his rectory at this time. The road through Newnham-bottom from Ospringe and Canterbury passes through Hollingborne-street, and thence through Eyhorne, commonly called Iron-street, in this parish, where there are two good houses, one belonging to Robert Salmon, esq. who resides in it, and the other built not many years since by Mr. John Weeks, who died possessed of it in 1785. Hence the road leads on, and joins the Ashford high road through Bersted to Maidstone. The southern part of this parish consists mostly of a deep sand, the whole of it below the hill is well watered by some small streams, which running southward join the Lenham rivulet in its way to Maidstone. Nearer the street the soil becomes a chalk, which continues to the summit of the hill, at the edge of which stands Mr. Duppa's house, whence the remaining part of this parish northward, situated

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on high ground, and exposed to the cold bleak winds, is but a wild and dreary country, with thick hedges, rows, and frequent coppices of wood, mostly of hazel and oak, and small unthriving trees of the latter dis-

persed among them; the soil a deep tillage land, wet and very poor, being a red cludgy earth, covered with quantities of flint stones. On Eyhorne green, or as it is commonly called Broad-street, in this parish, in October yearly, two constables are chosen, one for the upper, the other for the lower half hundred of Eyhorne, each of which district consists of the twelve adjoining parishes, the borsholders in which, and the several boroughs in them, except such as are chosen at the different court leets, are chosen here likewise.

This parish, with the manor of Elnothington in it, together with the rest of the hundred of Eyhorne, was antiently bound to contribute to the repair of the sixth pier of Rochester bridge.

ÆTHELSTAN ETHELING, son of Ethelred II. gave by his will in 1015, to Christ-church, in Canterbury, his lands at Hollingborne, with their appurtenances, excepting one plough-land, which he had given to Siferth. In the MSS. in Bennet college library, Cambridge, of the evidences of Christ-church, Canterbury, intitled Thorn, printed in Decim. Script. f. 2221, this gift is said to have been made in 980; a very improbable circumstance, the king, his elder brother, at that time being but fourteen years of age.

These lands he had bought of his father, and gave them, with his consent, to Christ-church, L. S. A. that is, free from all secular service, excepting the trinoda necessitas, in like manner as Adisham had been given to it.

The manor of Hollingborne remained part of the possessions of the church of Canterbury at the time of the conquest, when the revenues of it were enjoyed as one common estate by the archbishop and his convent; but archbishop Lanfranc, after the ex=

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ample of foreign churches, separating them, in the partition Hollingborne fell to the share of the monks, and was allotted for their subsistence, (or ad Cibum, as it was usually termed) and it is accordingly thus entered in the book of Domesday, under the general title of Terra Monachorum Archiepi, i. e. the land of the monks of the archbishop.

The archbishop himself holds Hoilingeborde. It was taxed at six sulings. The arable land is twenty-four carucates. In demesne there are two, and sixty-one villeins, with sixteen borderers, having twenty-three carucates. There is a church, twelve servants, and two mills, and eight acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of forty hogs. In the whole, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth twenty pounds, and now it is worth thirty pounds. To this manor there adjoins half a suling, which never paid scot, this the bishop of Baieux rents of the archbishop.

At this time, the whole of the above premises seems to have been valued at thirty pounds.

King Henry II. granted to the monks of Christ-church a charter for their lands at Hollingborne upon the Hills. In the 10th year of king Edward II. the prior obtained a charter of free-warren for his manor of Hollingborne, among others; about which time it was, with its appurtenances, valued at 46l. 9s. 8d.

King Henry VI. by his letters patent, in his 25th and 26th year, granted to the prior a market, to be held at this place weekly on a Wednesday, and a fair yearly on the feast of St. Anne./t

William Selling, who was elected prior in the next reign of king Edward IV. anno 1472, during the time of his holding that dignity, greatly improved the prior's apartments here. After which, it seems to have undergone no material alteration till the disso=

/t Rot. Cart. anno 25 and 26 Henry VIII. N. 30.

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lution of the priory, which was surrendered into the hands of king Henry VIII. in the 31st year of his reign.

The manor of Hollingborne did not remain long in the hands of the crown; for the king settled it, by his dotation charter, in his 33d year, on his new-erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, part of whose possessions it now remains.

There is a court-leet and court baron regularly held by the dean and chapter for this manor, which extends likewise into the adjoining parishes of Hucking, Bredhurst, and Harrietsham, the quit-rents of it called Beadle-rents, being about forty-two pounds per annum.

BUT THE DEMESNE LANDS of this manor have been from time to time leased out by the dean and chapter at a reserved rent of 10l. 9s. The year after the grant of it to them, they demised them by lease to I. Reynolde, as they did anno 19 Elizabeth to William Purefoy, in whose family they remained till the beginning of king James I.'s reign. After which the Fludds held them in lease, and continued so to do, till their interest in them was passed away to W. Alabaster, D. D. After which these premises were held in succession by Bargrave, Boys, Farewell, and Gookin, till the year 1684, when Sir Thomas Culpeper, had a lease of them, in whose family they continued till John Spencer Colepeper, of the Charterhouse, passed away his interest in them to the Hon. Robert Fairfax, who held them in 1758, and then alienated his lease to Francis Child, esq. banker in London, whose brother Robert Child, esq. of London, banker, dying in 1782, the trustees of his will, Robert Dent and John Keyser, esqrs. are now in the possession of his interest in the lease of these demesnes, under the dean and chapter, besides which the dean and chapter have several other lands and woods here leased out by them to different persons.

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ELNOTHINGTON is a manor of eminent account in this parish and Bersted, which appears by the book of Domesday to have been part of those possessions given by William the Conqueror to his half-brother Odo, bishop of Baieux, under the general title, of whose lands it is thus entered in that record, under the name of Alnoitone.

Hugo de Port holds Alnoitone. It was taxed at three sulings. The arable land is eight carucates. In demesne there are two carucates, and eighteen villeins, with six

borderers, having six carucates. There is a church and eight servants, and two mills and an half, of seventeen shillings. There are five acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of forty hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth nine pounds, and as much when he received it, now ten pounds, and yet it pays twelve pounds.

To this manor there belong three mansions of land in Rochester, and they pay five shillings per annum. Osuard held it of king Edward.

About four years after the above survey, the bishop of Baieux fell into disgrace, and this, among the rest of his estates, became confiscated to the crown.

In the reign of king Edward I. this manor of Elnothington was held by William de Port, as half a knight's fee, of Robert de St. John; after which it came into the possession of a family, which assumed their surname from it, and in a deed of Adam de Twisden, which bears date in the 21st year of that reign, William de Elnothington is one of the witnesses to it.

In the reign of king Edward III. Sir Arnold de St. Leger, of Ulcomb, was in possession of it; in the 42d year of which reign, he made a composition with several of his tenants for the lands they held of this manor. From him it passed in an uninterrupted descent down to Sir Warham St. Leger, of Ulcomb, sheriff in the 2d year of queen Elizabeth, and after=

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wards chief governor of Munster, in Ireland, in which province he was unfortunately slain in 1599. However, some years before his death, he alienated it, with Greenway-court, in this parish, to Francis Culpeper, esq. second son of William Culpeper, esq. of Losenham and Wigsell, who afterwards resided at Greenway-court, under which a more ample account of him may be seen. His son Sir Thomas Culpeper, of Greenway-court, succeeded him in this manor, of which he died possessed in 1661; since which this manor has passed in like manner as that estate down to Rob. Child, esq. of London, banker, the trustees of whose will, Robert Dent and John Keysall, esqrs. are now in the possession of it.

GREENWAY-COURT was formerly esteemed a manor, the mansion of which was a seat of good account in this parish. It is situated close at the foot of the chalk hill, near a mile eastward from Hollingborne church, and was possessed antiently by a family, who took their surname from their habitation at it; one of whom, William, son of Gilbert de Greenwaye, was owner of it, and resided here in the year 1236, as appears by a register of Christ-church, in Canterbury. How long they continued possessors of this estate, I do not find; but it next became the property of the family of Arte-leze. Sampson atte Leze, of Sheldwich, was owner of it in the 26th year of king Edward III. as was his descendant, Marcellus atte Lese, afterwards, who left two daughters his coheirs; to one of whom, Cecilie, and her husband, Valentine Barrett, esq. of Perry-court, he by his deed, anno 15 Richard II. gave all his lands and tenements in Hol=

lingborne, and elsewhere in the hundred of Eyhorne. They, by deed and fine levied anno 22 Richard II. passed this estate away to Thomas Wottone, for one hundred marcs of silver.

In the 22d year of king Henry VI. William Wotton, son and heir of Thomas Wotton, conveyed

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to Walter Langle, esq the manor or messuage of Grenewey. From this name this estate passed in the reign of king Edward IV. to Ralph St. Leger, esq. of Ulcomb, sheriff of this county in the 8th year of it, in whose descendants it continued down to Sir Warham St. Leger, of Ulcomb, chief governor of Munster, in Ireland, in queen Elizabeth's reign, and he alienated it with the manor of Elnothington above described, to Francis Culpeper, esq. who was the son of William Culpeper, esq. of Losenham, in this county, and of Wigsell, in Sussex, being the son of Walter, by Anne his wife, only daughter and heir of Henry Aucher, esq. of Losenham, in Newenden, which Walter was son of Sir John Colepeper, of Bedgbury, in Goudhurst, living in the reign of king Edward IV. under which parish a further account of him may be seen. William Culpeper before-mentioned, had by Cicelie, daughter of Edward Barrett, seven sons, of whom Sir John, of Wigsell, in the reign of James I. was ancestor of the lords Colepeper, the heir of which family married Thomas, lord Fairfax, possessor of Leeds-castle in her right; Francis, the second son, purchased Greenway-court, as before-mentioned; Thomas was the the third son, and ancestor of the Culpepers, of St. Stephen's, near Canterbury; Dr. Martin Culpeper, the fourth son, lies buried in Kingsnorth church; and Walter, the fifth son, settled at Hunburne, in Oxfordshire, and left an only daughter and heir. Francis Culpeper, esq. afterwards resided at Greenway-court, where he died in 1591, and was buried in this church, leaving an only son, Sir Thomas Culpeper, who likewise resided at Greenway-court, though he had purchased Leeds castle. He died at the former in 1661, and was buried in Holingborne church, having had by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of John Cheney, esq. of Guestling, in Sussex, three sons and eight daughters. Of the former, Sir Cheney, the eldest, inherited Leeds-castle, where a

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further account of him may be seen; Francis, the second son, died young; and Sir Thomas Culpeper, the third son, became possessed of Greenway-court, where he resided.

His grandson, John Spencer Colepeper, esq. was of the Charter-house, and alienated Greenway-court to the hon. Robert Fairfax, of Leeds-castle, who afterwards parted with it to Francis Child, esq. of London, banker, on whose death in 1763, it came to his brother and heir-at-law Robert Child, of London, banker, who died in 1782, and the trustees of his will, Robert Dent and John Keysall, esqrs. are now in the possession of it.

RIPPLE is a reputed manor and seat in this parish, which had owners of that name, for in the 30th year

of Edward I. Richard de Ripple held at his decease this and other lands in the parish of Hollingborne, in lease of the prior and convent of Christ-church, in Canterbury; but it did not continue long afterwards in his name, for before the latter end of Edward III.'s reign, it was become the property of the family of Septvans; one of whom, Sir William Septvans, died possessed of it in the 25th year of that reign, and was succeeded in it by his son William Septvans, who not long afterwards conveyed it to John Gower, who died possessed of it in the 39th year of that reign, and from thence, not many years afterwards, it was alienated to Sir John Brockhull, whose descendants resided at Aldington, in the adjoining parish of Thurnham. In them this manor continued down to Henry Brockhull, esq. of Aldington, who died in 1596 possessed of the manor of Ripple, leaving two daughters his coheirs; of whom Anne, by marrying Mr. John Taylor, gent. entitled him to this estate, which he alienated to Sir Martin Barnham. He was son of Francis Barnham, esq. sheriff of London anno 1570, the eldest son of Stephen Barnham, of Southwick, in Hampshire, of the privy chamber to king Henry VIII. whose son I

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take to have been Nicholas Barnham, serjeant-at-law in the very beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign. Francis Barnham bore for his arms, Sable, a cross engrailed, between four crescents, argent; and had four sons; of whom Martin, before-mentioned, was the eldest, and Benedict the fourth, was alderman and sheriff of London in 1592, and dying in 1598, left his five daughters his coheirs.

Sir F. Barnham, the purchaser of this manor, afterwards resided at Hollingborne-hill, and was sheriff in the 40th year of Q. Elizabeth. He died in 1610, and lies buried in this church, being succeeded in the manor of Ripple by his eldest son (by his second wife, daughter of Sir Martin Calthorpe, of London) Sir F. Barnham, who was of Hollingborne, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Sampson Lennard, esq. of Chevening, sister of Henry, lord Dacre, by whom he had fifteen children, ten of whom, six sons and four daughters, survived her. Of the sons, Dacre was the eldest, and Robert, the second, was seated at Boughton Monchensie, and afterwards created a baronet, under which parish a further account of him and his descendants may be seen. In his descendants this manor remained till it was at length sold to Duckesbery, in which name it continued down to Mr. John Duckesbury, of Bersted, who dying some years ago, left Mary his widow in the possession of it, and she having since remarried with Mr. Hodsoll Sale, of Bersted, he is now in her right, entitled to it.

MURSTON is another manor in this parish, which in antient deeds and court rolls was usually written Moston, and in the reign of Edward I. was the property of a family who assumed their name from it; but they were extinct here before the beginning of Richard II.'s reign, when it was become the estate of

/u Among the Harleian MSS. No. 6019, is a folio, containing evidences belonging to Hollingborne, from Sir Francis

Wood, in whose descendants, several of whom lie buried in the church-yard of this parish, as appears by their wills in the Prerogative-office, in Canterbury, it continued for several centuries, for it remained the property of one of them at the restoration of king Charles II. Soon after which it was passed away to Chaloner, in which name it continued till Reynolds Chaloner, gent. who bore for his arms, Three mascles, on a chevron a cinquefoil, alienated this manor, with other premises in this parish, to Christopher Vane, lord Barnard, who died in 1723, having by his will given this manor, with Snagsbrook, Claypitts, and other lands in this parish, as well as all his other estates here and elsewhere in this county, to his second son William, viscount Vane, who afterwards resided at Fairlawn, near Wrotham.

His only son and heir William, viscount Vane, dying s. p. in 1788, by will devised this manor, with his other estates in this county and elsewhere, to David Papillon, esq. of Acrise, who sold this manor, with the rest of his estates in this parish, in 1791, to Lewis Cage, esq. of Bersted, who settled them on his eldest son of the same name, and he is the present possessor of them.

PEN-COURT is a manor and seat in Hollingborne, which was formerly more properly called Pende-court, from a family who were antiently owners of it, and resided at it; but before the end of king Edward III.'s reign, this name was extinct here, for John Donnett, of Silham, in Rainham, died possessed of it in the 36th year of that reign; his descendant James Donnett, left an only daughter and heir Margerie, who carried this seat in marriage to John St. Leger, of Ulcomb, sheriff of this county anno 9 Henry VI. and in his descendants it continued down to Sir Warham St. Leger, of Ulcomb, sheriff in the 2d year of queen Elizabeth, and he alienated it, with Elnothington, Greenway-court, and other estates in this parish, to

Francis Culpeper, esq. afterwards of Greenway-court, who died possessed of it in 1598, and his son, Sir Thomas Culpeper, alienated it to Mr. Marc Quested, of London, who upon his death settled it for ever on the warden and commonalty of the Company of Fishmongers in London, as trustees of his alms-houses, founded in the adjoining parish of Harrietsham, the endowment of which he directed to be paid out of the yearly profits of this manor, as has been already mentioned, and as such the company are now entitled to the inheritance of it.

HOLLINGBORNE-HILL is a seat and estate in this parish, so called from its situation on the summit of the chalk-hill above Hollingborne-street. It was formerly called Eyotts, and in 1609 was in the possession of Sir Martin Barnham, who that year built a new mansion on the scite of it, in which he resided, as did his eldest son Sir Francis Barnham, but he afterwards parted with it to Gabriel Levesey, esq. on whose death it came to his son and heir Sir Michael Levesey, and

he conveyed all his interest in it, in the year 1623, to Sir John Hayward, second son of Sir Rowland Hayward, alderman of London, and twice lord-mayor, (by his second wife Catherine, daughter of Customer Smith). Sir John Hayward, during his residence at this seat, was sheriff in the last year of James I. and bore for his arms, Or, a bull's head, caboshed, between three mullets, sable./w He died in 1636, without issue, having by his last will bequeathed his manor of Minster, in the Isle of Shepey, to charitable uses, before which, in 1632, he conveyed it to Cheney Culpeper, esq. of Greenway-court, and he in 1652 passed it away to Henry Pelham, esq. who by his will in 1658, devised it to his nephew George Pelham, who dying s. p. in 1686, it came by his will, as well as the entail made in that of his uncle, to his brother Charles Pel-

/w See in Harl. MSS. No. 1174-279, his match and descent.

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ham, esq. who left a son Charles, then an infant, to whom by his will in 1688, he gave the fee of it, and enjoined him to sell it as soon as he came of age, which he did in 1705, (a fine being levied that year for this purpose) to Baldwin Duppa, esq. descended of the same family as was Brian Duppa, bishop of Winchester, who died in 1662, and Sir Thomas Duppa, gentleman usher of the black rod to king Charles II. but their consanguinity I cannot learn. He bore for his arms, Azure, a lion's gamb erased in fess, between two chains barways, or. In the year 1707 he settled this estate on his only son, Baldwin Duppa, esq. though he lived many years after this, and dying in 1737, was buried in this church, where there is a monument erected to his memory. Baldwin Duppa, esq. the son, in 1717, rebuilt this seat on the scite of the old one, and came to reside at it in 1722, and in 1735 served the office of sheriff, and dying unmarried in 1764, was buried in this church, having by his will bequeathed it, with all his other estates, to his kinsman, the Rev. Mr. Richard Hancorn, (whose grandmother was Mr. Duppa's father's eldest sister) with an injunction for him to take the name and arms of Duppa, for which an act passed anno 5 George III. He afterwards quitted the clerical profession, and took the addition of esquire. He resided here, and died in 1789, having married Miss Baas, of Hackney, by whom he had no issue.

Upon his death this, with his other estates, came to his brother Baldwin Hancorn, who took the name of Duppa, as did his son, Baldwin Duppa Duppa, esq. the present possessor of this seat of Hollingborne-hill, where he now resides./x

/x See vol. iv. Additions, p. 565.

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CHARITIES.

THREE PIECES of land near Runham, in Lenham, in the occupation of John Butler, of Harrietsham, at the rent of 5l. 5s. per annum, were given, one half to the poor of Hollingborne, having no relief. The donor of them unknown, vested in the minister and churchwardens, now of the annual

produce of 2l. 8s. 3d.

MRS. ELIZABETH CAYSER, of Hollingborne, widow, by her will in 1612, left 20l. to purchase a piece of land in fee-simple, out of the rent of which she directed, that every year for ever, upon the day after her death, (Sept. 22, 1615,) 10s. should be distributed amongst twenty of the poorest people of Hollingborne, and 5s. amongst ten of Leeds, and 5s. amongst ten of Bromfield, by the minister, churchwardens, and overseers of the respective parishes, and that the residue of the rents and profits should be yearly distributed by them amongst the poor of Hollingborne, upon the said 22d of September. The piece of land that was purchased in consequence of the above-mentioned devise, in 1720, lies north-west of Broad-street, in Hollingborne, and is called Little Dane. It contains seven acres, and is in the occupation of John Featherstone, at the yearly rent of 2l. 5s.

DAME FRANCES NORTON, widow, sister of Judith, wife of Robert Austen the elder, esq. of Heronden, gave an estate, purchased in 1719, by deed enrolled, of 35l. per annum, in Hollingborne, for the joint benefit, in equal moieties, of the parishes of Tenterden and Hollingborne. By which she directed, that the profits of the estate to each parish, should be divided into seven divisions; four parts thereof to be applied in putting out apprentices the children of parents having no parochial relief. The three other parts to be distributed to the ministers of those parishes, each 20s. a piece for two annual sermons, to be preached in their respective parishes on the 1st of November, or All Saints, and on the 1st of January. And the residue of the three parts, to ten poor widows or housekeepers, one year in money, and the second year in black and white stuff or cloth gowns, and so alternately for ever; such persons having no parochial relief, and hearing the said two sermons in their own respective parish churches.

This charity was vested in twenty trustees; but the donation and disposition of the profits of the estate, was to be made at the choice of the late Robert Austin, esq. of Heronden, her nephew, deceased, and of his heirs for ever, with the approbation of the churchwardens and overseers of the poor.

This charity, by a commission of charitable uses, was settled in 1748, and the deed enrolled was confirmed, and the estate vested in twenty new trustees jointly, to be renewed when reduced to

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five, and also, that the monies unapplied should be laid out in another purchase, (after the charge of fixing the charity should be satisfied) which was made accordingly, in a farm of 15l. a year in Hollingborne and Hucking, and settled as directed by a deed enrolled. And the trustees, or any four or more of them, are empowered from time to time, to direct the churchwardens or overseers, and their successors for ever, in the due and regular annual performance, execution, and preservation of this charity.

JOHR SNOTHE, of Hollingborne, by his will in 1529, devised a piece of land, called Potokks, at Greenstreet, in this parish, the yearly rent of it to be employed to keep an obit yearly in this church on the nativity of the Virgin Mary, viz. to the curate for so doing, 6d. and the remainder to be distributed yearly in meat and drink to the poor in this church, yearly on that day for ever.

HOLLINGBORNE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton; and is exempt from the jurisdiction of the

archdeacon.

The church, which is dedicated to All Saints, is a handsome building, consisting of three large isles, with a chancel at the end of the middle one, and a square tower at the west end. The chancel is much enriched with the monuments of the family of Culpeper, of Greenway-court, and for two of the lords Culpeper, one of them by Rysbrack; on the north side is one for Sir Martin Barnham and his two wives, in 1610, their three figures kneeling at a desk, and underneath their children. At the east end of the north isle there is a small neat chapel, raised up several steps to give room for a vault underneath, in which lie the remains of all this branch of the Culpeper family. The sides of the chapel are filled with black escutcheons, and square tablets of black marble alternately, only two of these among the numbers of them are filled up, and those with younger branches of the family settled elsewhere, a proof of the disappointment of the vain endeavours of the builder to transmit the memory of his descendants to posterity.

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On the middle of the pavement is a beautiful raised monument of white marble, and the figure of a lady, lying at full length, in the habit of the times, of exceeding good sculpture, in memory of Elizabeth, lady of Sir Thomas Culpeper, daughter of John Cheney, esq. of Sussex, obt. 1638. In the isle a monument for Nich. Chaloner, esq. obt. 1706. Against the north wall of the north isle for two of the family of Duppa, and at the lower end of the church, for the Plummers, Collins's and Dykes. In the middle isle a stone, on which have been the figures of a man and woman in brass, but two shields of arms remain, being quarterly, first and fourth, A chevron, engrailed on a chief, three fleurs de lis; second and third, Three fishes, wavy, fessways, in pale.

There is belonging to this church, a most superb altar-cloth, and a pulpit-cloth and cushion, of purple velvet, ornamented with different figures of fruits of pomegranets and grapes, wrought in gold, the needlework of the daughters of Sir John Colepeper, afterwards created lord Colepeper, who employed themselves for almost the space of twelve years in the working of them, during their father's absence abroad with king Charles II.

The communion plate is very handsome, and answerable to the above-mentioned furniture, being mostly the gift of the family of Colepeper, and some of it of Baldwin Duppa, esq.

John Eweyn, by his will proved in 1527, gave a table of alabaster, to stand upon the altar of St. John the Baptist in this church; and money to the repair of St. John's chapel in it. John Aleff, parson of Holingborne, as appears by his will in 1537, was buried in the way beside the porch-door, on the right hand, and that there was set in the wall, nigh his grave, a stone with a plate of sculpture, mentioning where and when he was buried. He had before been vicar of

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Little Chart, and of St. Laurence Wolton, as he was

then of St. John's Sherburne, in Hampshire.

The church of Hollingborne, to which the chapels of Hucking and Bredhurst were antiently annexed, is a sinecure rectory, with a vicarage endowed. The rector of Hollingborne is at this time patron of the perpetual curacy of the chapel of Bredhurst. The archbishop is patron both of the rectory and of the vicarage of Hollingborne, the vicar of which is col-
lated to this vicarage, with the chapel of Hucking annexed.

The vicarage was endowed before the year 1407, in which year Arthur Sentleger, the rector, granted to William Maunby, vicar of this church, a messuage, with its appurtenances in this parish, for the habita-
tion of himself and his successors for ever./y In arch-
bishop Chichele's register, at Lambeth, there is an unauthenticated writing of a composition, made about the year 1441, for it is without date, between Wil-
liam Lyeff, then rector here, and John Ffylde, vicar, upon the assignation of a proper portion for the en-
dowment of this vicarage in future times.

The rectory of Hollingborne is valued in the king's books at 28l. 15s. 5d. and the tenths at 2l. 17s. 6½d. The vicarage is valued in them at 7l. 6s. 8d. and the yearly tenths at 14s. 8d. The vicarage in 1640 was valued at eighty-six pounds, and the communicants were then 271. It is now of the yearly certified value of 70l. 16s. 8d.

The vicarage was augmented twenty pounds per annum, by lease between Ralph Staunton, rector, and Sir Thomas Culpeper, of this parish.

The name of Culpeper, or Colepeper, is so vari-
ously spelt in different deeds and records, that it is impossible to keep with any rule to either spelling; on all the monuments, and in the parish register, (excepting in two instances in the last) it is spelt Culpeper.

/y See Ducarel's Repertory, p. 18.

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CHURCH OF HOLLINGBORNE, with the CHAPEL OF HUCKING annexed.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Archbishop of Canterbury. Gauselinus Cardenalis, in 1316./z

John Joscelin, obt. 1603./a

John Boys, S. T. B. ind. Feb.

1604.

John Warner, S. T. P. resigned

1637./b

Samuel Bernard, S. T. P. Jan,

15, 1637./c

Anthony Saunders, A. M. ind.

Dec. 1669, resig. 1677.

Ralph Staunton, A. M. inducted

Oct. 1677.

Mathew Brailsford, S. T. P. ob.

1733./d

Edmund Bateman, S. T. P. Feb.

1734, obt. 1751.

John S. Hill, S. T. P. 1751, ob.

1757.

Francis Dodsworth, A. M. November 1757, resigned April 20, 1774./e

John Cautley, A. M. July 1774, obt. March 1, 1797./f

VICARS.

..... White, obt. 1623.

William Cragge, ind. 1623-4, obt. 1637.

George Bonham, 1637 to 1647.

Phineas Cosby, 1641, ob. 1652.

/z Gauselinus Johannes, bishop of Alba and Cardinal, was prebendary of Driffield, in the church of York, of Lude, in that of Lincoln, of Sallow, in that of Litchfield, parson of the churches of Hackney and Stepney, in the diocese of London, of Pagham, in the diocese of Chichester, of Hollingborne and Lyminge, in Canterbury diocese, and Hemingborough, in York diocese, anno 1343. Rymer's Fœd. vol. v. p. 364.

/a Rym. Fœd. vol. viii. p. 11.

/b He vacated this rectory on his promotion to the see of Rochester.

/c Rym. Fœd. vol. xx. p. 219.

/d Dean of Wells.

/e Treasurer of the church of Salisbury, and in 1774, vicar of Doddington.

/f Rector of St. Rumbald's, in Colchester, and in 1778, presented to the vicarage of Tenham.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Archbishop of Canterbury. Thomas Yardley, 1652 to 1660.

John Shrawley, about 1660.

William Thomas, 1661, obt. 1681.

Thomas Gregorie, 1681, ob. June 17, 1696.

Edward Waterman, 1696, obt. 1725.

Thomas Taylor, 1725, obt. 1726.

Thomas Saul Hancock, presented March, 1727, obt. Aug. 16, 1714./g

Benjamin Waterhouse, 1741, resigned 1770./h

Joseph Todd, A. B. Dec. 1770, obt. June, 1773.

William Hassell, B. A. October 1773, obt. Dec. 1790.

Edward Hasted, A. B. collated July, 1790, the present vicar.

/g Rector also of Wormshill, where

he lies buried.
/h And vicar of Westwell.

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LEEDS

IS the next parish southward from Hollingborne. Kilburne says, that one Ledian, a chief counsellor to king Ethelbert II. who began his reign in 978, raised a fortress here, which was called in Latin, from him, Ledani Castrum, and in process of time in English, LEEDS. This castle was afterwards demolished by the Danes, and continued in that situation till the time of the Norman conquest.

THE PRESENT CASTLE is situated at the south-east boundary of this parish, adjoining to Bromfield, which includes a part of the castle itself. It is situated in the midst of the park, an ample description of it the reader will find hereafter. The Lenham ri-

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vulet takes its course through the park, and having supplied the moat, in which the castle stands, and the several waters in the grounds there, and having received into it the several small streamlets from Hollingborne, and one from the opposite side, which comes from Leeds abbey, it flows on, and at a small distance from Caring street, in this parish, adjoining to Bersted, the principal estate of which name there belongs to the Drapers company, it turns a mill, and then goes on to Maidstone, where it joins the river Medway. The high road from Ashford and Lenham runs close by the outside of the pales of Leeds park, at the northern boundary of the parish next to Hollingborne, and thence goes on towards Bersted and Maidstone, from which the park is distant a little more than five miles; here the soil is a deep sand, but near the river it changes to a black moorish earth. Southward from the castle the ground rises, at about three quarters of a mile south-west from it is Leeds abbey, the front of which is a handsome well-looking building, of the time of queen Elizabeth. It is not unpleasantly situated on a gentle eminence, and is well watered by a small stream which rises just above it, and here turns a mill. It is well cloathed with wood at the back part of it, to which the ground still keeps rising; adjoining to the abbey grounds westward is Leeds-street, a long straggling row of houses, near a mile in length, having the church at the south end of it; here the soil becomes a red unfertile earth much mixed with flints, which continues till it joins to Langley and Otham.

LEEDS was part of those possessions given by William the Conqueror to his half-brother Odo, bishop of Baieux; accordingly it is thus entered, under the general title of that prelate's lands, in the survey of Domesday, taken in the year 1080.

Adelold holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Esledes. It was taxed at three sulings. The arable land is twelve

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carucates. In demesne there are two carucates, and twenty-eight villeins, with eight borderers, having seven

carucates. There is a church, and eighteen servants. There are two arpendes of vineyard, and eight acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of twenty hogs, and five mills of the villeins. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth sixteen pounds, the like when he received it, now twenty pounds, and yet it pays twenty-five pounds. Earl Leuuin held it.

Of this manor the abbot of St. Augustine has half a suling, which is worth ten shillings, in exchange of the park of the bishop of Baieux. The earl of Ewe has four demns of this manor, which are worth twenty shillings.

The mention of the two arpendes of vineyard in the above survey, is another instance of there having been such in this county in early times, some further observations of which the reader will find in the description of the parish of Chart Sutton, not far distant, and he will likewise observe, that at the above time the bishop of Baieux had a park here, which he acquired by exchange with the abbot of St. Augustine, who must therefore have had possessions here before that time.

On the bishop of Baieux's disgrace, about four years after the taking of the above-mentioned survey, this estate, among the rest of his possessions, became confiscated to the crown.

After which it was granted by king William to the eminent family of Crevequer, called in antient characters Creveceur, and in Latin, De Crepito Corde, who at first made Chatham in this county their seat, or caput baroniæ, i. e. the principal manor of their barony, for some time, until they removed hither, being before frequently written Domini de Cetham.

Robert, son of Hamon de Crevequer, who had probably a grant of Leeds from the Conqueror, appears to have held it of the king, as of his castle of Dover, in capite by barony, their barony, which consisted of five knight's fees, being stiled Baronia de Cre-

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vequer. He erected the castle here, to which he afterwards removed the capital seat of his barony. This castle being environed with water, was frequently mentioned in antient writings by the name of Le Mote. In the north-west part of it he built a chapel, in which he placed three canons, which on his foundation of the priory of Leeds, in the 19th year of king Henry I. he removed thither.

His descendant, Hamon de Crevequer, lived in the reign of king Henry III. in the 19th year of which, he was joined with Walterand Teutonicus, or Teys, in the wardenship of the five ports, and the next year had possession granted to him of the lands of William de Albrincis or Averanches, whose daughter and heir Maud he had married. He died in the 47th year of king Henry III. possessed of the manor of Ledes, held of the king in capite, as belonging to his barony of Chatham; upon which Robert, his grandson, viz. son of Hamon his son, who died in his life-time, succeeded him as his heir, and in the 52d year of that reign, exchanged the manor of Ledes, with its appurtenances, together with a moiety of all his fees, with Roger de Leyburne, for the manors of Trottesclyve and Flete. He left William de Leyburne, his son and

heir, who in the 2d year of king Edward I. had possession granted to him of the manor of Ledes, as well as of the rest of his inheritance, of which Eleanor, countess of Winchester, his father's widow, was not endowed./k

His son, William de Leyborne, observing that the king looked on the strength of this fortress with a jealous eye, in the beginning of king Edward 1st's reign reinstated the crown in the possession of both the manor and castle; and the king having, in his 27th year mar=

/i See more of the Crevequers under Chatham, vol. iv. p. 205.

/k Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 14. See more of this family under Leyborne, vol. iv. p. 498.

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ried Margaret, sister of Philip, king of France, he settled them, being then of the clear yearly value of 21l. 6s. 8d. among other premises, as part of her dower. She survived the king her husband, who died in 1307, and in the 5th year of the next reign of king Edward II. by the king's recommendation, appointed Bartholomew de Badlesmere, a nobleman of great power and eminence, and much in that prince's favor, governor of this castle./l She died possessed of them in the 10th year of that reign; on which they came once more into the hands of the crown, and in the beginning of the next year the king appointed Bartholomew de Badlesmere, above-mentioned, governor of this castle, as well as of that of Bristol. In the 11th year of that reign, the king granted to him in fee, this manor and castle, and the advowson of the priory of Ledes, in exchange for the manor of Addresley, in Shropshire. Being possessed of great possessions, especially in this county, he was usually stiled, the rich lord Badlesmere of Ledes. Being puffed up through ambition and his great wealth, he forgot his allegiance, and associated himself with the earl of Lancaster, and the discontented barons; which the king being well informed of, resolved, if possible, to gain possession of this strong fortress of Ledes: to effect which, under pretence of the queen's going on a pilgrimage to Canterbury, she set forward for that city with a large train of attendants, and, with a secret intention of surprising this castle, sent her marshal with others of her servants, to prepare lodging for her and her suit in it. The lord Badlesmere's family, that is, his wife, son, and four daughters, were at that time in it, together with all his treasure, deposited there for safety, under the care of Thomas Colepeper, the castellan, who refused the queen's servants admittance, and on her coming up, peremptorily

/l Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 57. See more of the Badlesmeres under Chilham and Badlesmere.

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persisted in denying her or any one entrance, without letters from his lord. The queen, upon this, made some attempt to gain admittance by force, and a skirmish ensued, in which one or more of her attendants were slain, but being repulsed, she was obliged to relinquish her design, and to retire for a lodging elsewhere.

The king, chagrined at the failure of his scheme, and highly resenting the indignity offered to the queen,

sent a force under the earls of Pembroke and Richmond, to besiege the castle; and those within it finding no hopes of relief, for though the lord Badlesmere had induced the barons to endeavour to raise the siege, yet they never advanced nearer than Kingston, yielded it up. Upon which, the lady Badlesmere and her children were sent prisoners to the tower of London, Thomas Colepeper, the castellan, was hung up, and the king took possession of the castle, as well as of all the lord Badlesmere's goods and treasures in it. But by others, Thomas de Aldone is said to have been castellan at this time, and that the castle being taken, he, with the lord Badlesmere's wife, his only son Giles, his daughters, Sir Bartholomew de Burgershe, and his wife, were sent to the tower of London by the king's order; and that afterwards, he caused Walter Colepeper, bailiff of the Seven Hundreds, to be drawn in a pitiable manner at the tails of horses, and to be hung just by this castle; on which Thomas Colepeper, and others, who were with him in Tunbridge castle, hearing of the king's approach, fled to the barons.

After which the lord Badlesmere, being taken prisoner in Yorkshire, was sent to Canterbury, and there drawn and hanged at the gallows of Blean, and his head being cut off, was set on a pole on Burgate, in that city. Upon which the manor and castle of Leeds, became part of the royal revenue and the castle re-

Pat. Roll, anno 15 Edward II. Oct. 17, dat. apud turrin, ps. 1 ma.

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mained in a most ruinous condition till the year 1359, anno 34 Edward III. in which year that munificent prelate, William of Wickham, was constituted by the king, chief warden and surveyor of his castle of Ledes, among others, having power to appoint all workmen, to provide materials, and to order every thing with regard to building and repairs; and in those manors to hold leets and other courts of trespass and misdemeanors, and to enquire of the king's liberties and rights; and from his attention to the re-edifying and rebuilding the rest of them, there is little doubt but he restored this of Leeds to a very superior state to whatever it had been before, insomuch, that it induced king Richard to visit it several times, particularly in his 19th year, in which several of his instruments were dated at his castle of Ledes; and it appears to have been at that time accounted a fortress of some strength, for in the beginning of the next reign, that unfortunate prince was, by order of king Henry IV. sent prisoner to this castle; and that king himself resided here part of the month of April in his 2d year.

After which, archbishop Arundel, whose mind was by no means inferior to his high birth, procured a grant of this castle, where he frequently resided and kept his court, whilst the process against the lord Cobham was carrying forward, and some of his instruments were dated from his castle of Ledes in the year 1413, being the year in which he died. On his death it reverted again to the crown, and became accounted as one of the king's houses, many of the principal gentry of the county being intrusted with the custody of it.

In the 7th year of king Henry V. Joane of Navarre, the second queen of the late king Henry IV. being accused of conspiring against the life of the king, her son-in-law, was committed to Leeds-castle, there to remain during the king's pleasure; and being after=

/n Lowth's Life of Wickham, p. 23.

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wards ordered into Sir John Pelham's custody, he removed her to the castle of Pevensey, in Sussex.

In the 18th year of king Henry VI. archbishop Chichele sat at the king's castle of Leeds, in the process against Eleanor, duchess of Gloucester, for sorcery and witchcraft.

King Edward IV. in his 11th year, made Ralph St. Leger, esq. of Ulcomb, who had served the office of sheriff of this county three years before, constable of this castle for life, and annexed one of the parks as a farther emolument to that office. He died that year, and was buried with his ancestors at Ulcomb.

Sir Thomas Bourchier resided at Leeds castle in the 1st year of king Richard III. in which year he had commission, among others of the principal gentry of this county, to receive the oaths of allegiance to king Richard, of the inhabitants of the several parts of Kent therein mentioned; in which year, the king confirmed the liberties of Leeds priory, in recompence of twenty-four acres of land in Bromfield, granted for the enlargement of his park of Ledes.

In the 4th year of king Henry VIII. Henry Guildford, esq. had a grant of the office of constable of Leeds castle, and of the parkership of it; and in the 12th year of that reign, he had a grant of the custody of the manor of Leeds, with sundry perquisites, for forty years. He died in the 23d year of that reign, having re-edified great part of the castle, at the king's no small charge.

But the fee simple of the manor and castle of Leeds remained in the hands of the crown, till Edward VI. in his 6th year, granted them, with their appurtenances in the parishes of Leeds, Langley, and Sutton, to Sir Anthony St. Leger, lord deputy of Ireland, to hold in capite by knight's service.

His son, Sir Warham St. Leger, succeeded him in this manor and castle, and was afterwards chief governor of Munster, in Ireland, in which province he was un=

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fortunately slain in 1599, but before his death he alienated this manor and castle to Sir Richard Smyth, fourth son of Thomas Smyth, esq. of Westenhanger, commonly called Customer Smyth.

Sir Richard Smyth resided at Leeds-castle, of which he died possessed in 1628, and was buried in Ashford church, where there is a costly monument erected to his memory.

Sir John Smith, his only son, succeeded his father, and resided at Leeds castle, and dying s. p. in 1632, was buried in this church; upon which his two sisters, Alice, wife of Sir Timothy Thornhill, and Mary, of Maurice Barrow, esq. became his coheirs, and entitled their respective husbands to the property of this manor

and castle, which they afterwards joined in the sale of to Sir T. Culpeper, of Hollingborne, who settled this estate, after his purchase of it, on his eldest son Cheney Culpeper, remainder to his two other sons, Francis and Thomas. Cheney Culpeper, esq. resided at Leeds-castle for some time, till at length persuading his brother Sir Thomas Culpeper, of Hollingborne, (then his only surviving brother, Francis being dead s. p.) to cut off the entail of this estate, he alienated it to his cousin Sir John Colepeper, lord Colepeper, only son of Sir John Culpeper, of Wigsell, in Sussex, whose younger brother Francis was of Greenway-court, in Hollingborne, and was father of Sir Thomas Culpeper, the purchaser of this estate as before-mentioned.

Sir John Colepeper represented this county in parliament in the 16th year of king Charles I. and being a person, who by his abilities had raised himself much in the king's favor, was made of his privy council, and chancellor of the exchequer, afterwards master of the rolls, and governor of the Isle of Wight. During the troubles of that monarch, he continued stedfast to the

/o Philipott, p. 214. Irish Peer. vol. iii. p. 172 et seq.

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royal cause, and as a reward for his services, was in 1644 created lord Colepeper, baron of Thoresway, in Lincolnshire.

After the king's death he continued abroad with king Charles II. in his exile. During his absence, Leeds-castle seems to have been in the possession of the usurping powers, and to have been made use of by them, for the assembling of their committee men and sequestrators, and for a receptacle to imprison the ejected ministers, for in 1652, all his estates had been declared by parliament forfeited, for treason against the state. He died in 1660, a few weeks only after the restoration, and was buried at Hollingborne. He bore for his arms, Argent, a bend ingrailed gules, the antient bearing of this family; he left by his second wife Judith, daughter of Sir Thomas Culpeper, of Hollingborne, several children, of whom Thomas was his successor in title and estates, and died without male issue as will be mentioned hereafter, John succeeded his brother in the title, and died in 1719 s. p. and Cheney succeeded his brother in the title, and died at his residence of Hoston St. John, in 1725, s. p. likewise, by which the title became extinct; they all, with the rest of the branch of the family, lie buried at Hollingborne.

Thomas, lord Colepeper, the eldest son, succeeded his father in title, and in this manor and castle, where he resided, and having married Margaret, daughter of Signior Jean de Hesse, of a noble family in Germany, he left by her a sole daughter and heir Catherine, who intitled her husband Thomas, lord Fairfax, of Cameron, in Scotland, to this manor and castle, with his other estates in this neighbourhood.

The family of Fairfax appear by old evidences in the hands of the family to have been in possession of lands in Yorkshire near six hundred years ago. Richard Fairfax was possessed of lands in that county in the reign of king John, whose grandson William Fairfax, in the time of king Henry III. purchased the manor of

Walton, in the West Riding, where he and his successors resided for many generations afterwards, and from whom descended the Fairfax's, of Walton and Gilling, in Yorkshire; of whom, Sir Thomas Fairfax, of Gilling, was created viscount Fairfax, of the kingdom of Ireland, which title became extinct in 1772; and from a younger branch of them descended Sir Thomas Fairfax, of Denton, who lived in queen Elizabeth's reign, and changed the original field of his coat armour from argent to or, bearing for his arms, Or, 3 bars gemelles, gules, surmounted of a lion rampant, sable, crown'd, of the first, and was father of Sir. T. Fairfax, who was, for his services to James and Charles I. created in 1627 lord Fairfax, baron of Cameron, in Scotland. He died in 1640, having had ten sons and two daughters; of whom, Ferdinando was his successor; Henry was rector of Bolton Percy, and had two sons, Henry, who became lord Fairfax, and Bryan, who was ancestor of Bryan Fairfax, late commissioner of the customs; and colonel Charles Fairfax, of Menston, was the noted antiquary, whose issue settled there.

Ferdinando, the second lord Fairfax, in the civil wars of king Charles I. was made general of the parliamentary forces, and died at York in 1646. His son, Sir Thomas Fairfax, succeeded him as lord Fairfax, and in all his posts under the parliament, and was that famous general so noted in English history during the civil wars, being made commander in chief of all the parliamentary forces; but at last he grew so weary of the distress and confusion which his former actions had brought upon his unhappy country, that he heartily concurred in the restoration of king Charles II. After which he retired to his seat at Bilborough, in Yorkshire, where he died in 1671, and was buried there, leaving by Anne, daughter and coheir of Horatio, lord Vere of Tilbury, a truly loyal and virtuous lady, an only daughter; upon which the title devolved to Henry Fairfax, esq. of Oglethorpe, in Yorkshire, his first

cousin, eldest son of Henry, rector of Bolton Percy, the second son of Thomas, the first lord Fairfax. Henry, lord Fairfax, died in 1680, and was succeeded by his eldest son Thomas, fifth lord Fairfax, who was bred to a military life, and rose to the rank of a brigadier-general. He represented Yorkshire in several parliaments and marrying Catherine, daughter and heir of Thomas, lord Colepeper, possessed, in her right this manor and castle, and other large possessions, as before-mentioned.

He died possessed of them in 1710, leaving three sons and four daughters, Thomas, who succeeded him as lord Fairfax; Henry Culpeper, who died unmarried, in 1734; and Robert, of whom hereafter. Of the daughters, Margaret married David Wilkins, D. D. and prebendary of Canterbury, and Francis married Denny Martin, esq. Thomas, lord Fairfax, the son, resided at Leeds-castle till his quitting England, to reside on his great possessions in Virginia, where he continued to the time of his death. On his departure from England, he gave up the possession of this manor and

castle, with his other estates in this neighbourhood, to his only surviving brother, the hon. Robert Fairfax, who afterwards resided at Leeds-castle, and on his brother's death unmarried, in 1782, succeeded to the title of lord Fairfax. He was at first bred to a military life, but becoming possessed of Leeds castle, he retired there, and afterwards twice served in parliament for the town of Maidstoue, as he did afterwards in two successive parliaments for this county. He was twice married; first to Marsha, daughter and coheir of Anthony Collins, esq. of Baddow, in Essex, by whom he had one son, who died an infant; and, secondly, to one

/p In the British Museum, among the Harleian MSS. are several pedigrees of this family, and likewise more than one MSS. copy of the memorial of the parliamentary general Thomas, lord Fairfax, of his military transactions during his command as such. No. 1786, 2315, and 6390.

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of the daughters of Thomas Best, esq. of Chatham, who died s. p. in 1750. Lord Fairfax dying s. p. in 1793, this castle and manor, with the rest of his estates in this county, came to his nephew the Rev. Denny Martin, the eldest son of his sister Frances, by Denny Martin, esq. of Loose, who had before his uncle's death been created D. D. and had, with the royal licence, assumed the name and arms of Fairfax. Dr. Fairfax is the present possessor of this manor and castle, and resides here, being at present unmarried.

A court leet and court baron is held for the manor of Leeds, at which three borsholders are appointed. It is divided into six divisions, or yokes as they are called, viz. Church-yoke, Ferinland-yoke, Mill-yoke, Russerken-yoke, Stockwell-yoke, and Lees-yoke.

Leeds castle is a magnificent pile of building, being built of stone, at several times, and of different architecture; notwithstanding which, it has altogether a fine effect. It is pleasantly situated in the midst of a beautiful park, and is incircled by a large moat of running water, in which there is great plenty of fish, especially pike, which are so large as frequently to weigh between thirty and forty pounds. At the entrance to the castle are the remains of an antient gateway, which has been pulled down to within about a yard of the ground. What is left, shews it to have been very strong; the groove for the portcullis is still remaining. A little to the north-west of it is the ruin of a very antient building, perhaps that part of the castle in which Robert de Crevequer placed the three chaplains at his first erection of it, as has been already mentioned before.

The approach to the castle is over a stone bridge of two arches, and under another antient gateway, which, with the part already described, seems to have been part of the old fortress, built by the Crevequers, and not demolished at the time the rest of it was. Within the last-mentioned gate, is an handsome quadrangle or court, and on the right hand a building, which seems

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by the architecture, to be of the time of William of Wickham, and might be part of what he erected here. That part at the further side of the square, opposite the

entrance, contains the state or principal apartments, which has had a handsome uniform front of rustic stone work added to it; the windows of it, though sashed, are arched in the gothic taste, and the parapet is embattled. Behind this building, over a bridge of two arches, formerly a draw bridge, but now built on and inclosed as a passage, there is a large building, being the extremity of the castle; this is a handsome structure, of sightly workmanship, intended no doubt both for beauty and strength, and seems to be of the age of king Henry VIII. If so, in all likelihood, it was erected by Sir Henry Guildford, who was constable of it in that reign, and, as has been already mentioned, re-edified this castle at the king's charge. The scite of this building, from the strength and situation of the place, was most probably where the antient keep of the castle was formerly placed.

On the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 3, 1779, his majesty king George III. and his consort queen Charlotte, after having reviewed the grand camp on Cocksheath, honored this castle with their presence. The next day they received here the compliments of the nobility, general officers, and many of the principal gentry of the county, as well of the mayor, and other members of the corporation of the neighbouring town of Maidstone; and next morning set out, amidst the acclamations of thousands, for London, highly pleased with this castle and its environs, and the reception they met with from the possessor of it.

ROBERT DE CREVEQUER, with the assistance of Adam de Crevequer his son, in the year 1119, founded A PRIORY at Leeds for black canons regular, of the order of St. Augustine, and by his charter gave them a scite for the founding of their church, in honor of St. Mary and St. Nicholas, and other convenient build-

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ings for the religious, as it was then inclosed and bounded off. And he gave them the forstall, which was before their gate, and the land which lay on both sides of it; which gift was afterwards confirmed by Daniel de Crevequer his son, as it was by his son Robert, who gave them the mill of Brandescompe, in Ledes, and free common in all his fricht here, to feed their cattle in, at all times of the year; and that their conventual church being vacant, they should have the free custody of it, and the disposal and ordering of all their possessions and goods; and he gave them his wood, called East-park, with the lands adjoining to it, in this parish, in pure and perpetual alms.

Robert, son of Hamon de Crevequer, junior, anno 3 Edward I. confirmed all the gifts made to the canons of Ledes by his ancestors or himself, within his barony as before-mentioned; and that on a vacancy, they should chuse their priors, reserving, however, the approbation of them, as had been used of old time to his ancestors./q

Pope Innocent III. in 1198, confirmed the subjection of this priory to the jurisdiction of the see of Canterbury. And Edward III. in his 41st year, by letters of inspeximus, confirmed to the canons of the church of Ledes, i. e. the priory, then of his patronage, all the former donations made by the Crevequers to them.

The archdeacon of Canterbury claimed the privilege of installing the prior of Ledes, at which time he staid at the priory for two nights and a day, and received his victuals and drink for that time, but nothing further.

In the 8th year of king Richard II. anno 1384, the total of the spiritualities and temporalities of this priory was valued at 220l. 12s. 8d.

In which reign Thomas Hazlewood, canon here, after he had taught towards his old age, applied himself to reading and writing history. He wrote many things,

/q Dugd. Mon. vol. ii. p. 110 et seq.

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and among others, a work which he entitled, A Compendious Chronicle.

King Richard III. in his first year confirmed the liberties of this priory.

James Goldewelle, LL. D. bishop of Norwich, in the reign of Henry VII. finding this convent deeply in debt, and unable to support their usual hospitality, relieved them bounteously, insomuch, that they acknowledged him in some measure as the founder of their house. And the bishop, being rather desirous for the health of his soul, than the repayment of the money, founded a chantry of one priest, at the altar of the Virgin Mary, in the south part of the nave of this conventual church; to which the prior and convent acceded, by their instruments in 1487. On Dec. 22, 1534, anno 26 Henry VIII. the prior and convent of the house or priory of Lyddis signed the act of succession and the king's supremacy; at which time there were, a prior, supprior, and ten canons, in this priory, who then signed this instrument.

In which situation it remained till the 31st year of Henry VIII. when an act passed, for confirming to the king and his successors all religious houses, which had been suppressed since the former act of the 27th year of that reign, or might be in future suppressed. In consequence of which, the prior and convent of Leeds, among others, were in a manner constrained to surrender their house, lands, and possessions, then valued at 362l. 7s. 7d. per annum, into the king's hands. This being one of those religious houses, which by the statute of 31 Henry VIII. is capable of exemption from tithes; such being surrendered into the king's hands, in as free and ample a manner as the religious themselves held and enjoyed the same./r Thomas Day was the last prior of it who surrendered this priory into the

/r See Burn' Eccles. Law, vol. iii. p. 382.

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king's hands in 1539, anno 31 Henry VIII. and had a pension of eighty pounds per annum allowed to him.

The prior of Ledes was summoned to parliament anno 49 Henry III. but I do not find any summons directed to him afterwards.

The arms of this priory were, Argent, a cross voided, gules, in imitation of their founders the Crevequers, who bore, Gules, a cross, or.

The chartulary, or ledger-book of this priory, is now in the possession of Sir Beversham Filmer, bart.

Leeds abbey, by which name it has been long

known, by the antient remains of it, appears to have been a spacious building. The church of it is said to have been in size and beauty equal to many of our cathedrals. There was a noted figure of the Virgin Mary in it, beside the altar of St. Katherine. There were likewise altars in it dedicated to St. Martin and St. Anne. In this church, Leland, Itin. vol. vi. p. 7, says, were buried three of the Crevequers, Robert, Robert, and Thomas. Guido Mone, who was prebendary of Stow Longa, in Lincoln cathedral, and afterwards bishop of St. David's, died at his house at Charlton, in Kent, in 1407, and was buried here. Joane Goodherst, widow, by her will in 1485, directed to be buried in the church of this priory, under the tomb of John Iprys, esq. her late father, if it conveniently might be, but if not, then in the cemetery of the parish church, near the burying-place of her husband. There are not any remains of this church now left.

The year after the dissolution of the priory, the king demised to Sir Anthony St. Leger, for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of 22l. 17s. 2d. the house and scite of this priory, with all houses, mills, &c. within the precinct of it, and lands therein mentioned, containing together three hundred and twenty-three acres, and other premises, in the tenure of the said Anthony St. Leger; all which were in this parish, and lately belonged to the late priory here; excepting all houses

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and buildings within the precinct of it, which the king had already ordered to be pulled down and carried away. In which state it continued till the reign of king Edward VI. when that king, by his letters patent, in his 4th year, granted to Sir Anthony St. Leger, of Ulcomb, knight of the garter, &c. the scite of the priory, and all orchards, gardens, &c. and all those demesne lands and woods of this priory, lying in Leeds, Langley, Sutton Valence, and Bromfield, containing by estimation two hundred and twenty-nine acres, to hold of the king in capite by knight's service. But the rest of the estates of this dissolved priory, being by far the greatest part of the manors and possessions of it, were settled by king Henry VIII. in his 33d year, on his new-founded dean and chapter of Rochester, an account of which may be seen in different parts of this history.

Sir Anthony St. Leger died possessed of this estate in 1559, and was succeeded in it by his son Sir Warham St. Leger, of Ulcomb, who in the 15th year of Elizabeth vested it in trustees for the sale of it, and they quickly afterwards sold it to Norden, who soon afterwards parted with it to Francis Colepeper, esq. of Greenway-court, in Hollingborne, who not long after transmitted it back again to Norden, and he immediately afterwards alienated it to William Covert, whose son William Covert, esq. resided here, and new built the front of the house, as it now remains, and repaired and re-edified much of the rest of the antient buildings of the priory, over a stone portal on the west side of which, the initials of his name, W. C. and the date, 1598, still remain.

In the 6th year of king James I. he sold this priory, or abbey of Leeds, as it came then to be called, with

the lands belonging to it, being then held in capite, to Sir William Meredith, of Stansty, in Denbighshire, and then removed to Vintners, in Boxley. Sir William

/s See an account of the St. Legers under Ulcomb.

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Meredith afterwards resided here, and bore for his arms, Azure, a lion rampant, or.

His son, William Meredith, esq. was of Leeds-abbey, and in the 14th year of James I. purchased of Sir Warham St. Leger other lands and woods in the adjoining parishes, held in like manner, and six years afterwards, anno 1622, was created a baronet. He had by his first wife six sons, and six daughters: of whom, Richard, the second, but eldest surviving son, succeeded him in title; and Roger, the sixth, was a master in chancery, but died s. p. One of the daughters, Elizabeth, married Sir Henry Oxenden, bart. of Deane, whose second wife she was, by whom she had a numerous issue, from one of whom the late Sir Geo. Oxenden, bart. was descended. He died in 1675, and was succeeded by his eldest surviving son, Sir Richard Meredith, bart. who had six sons and five daughters; of whom Sir William Meredith, bart. the eldest son, was of Leeds-abbey, and died unmarried; Henry, the second son, was a colonel in the army, and left an only daughter Susanna, born in 1710. He died in 1711, at Leeds-abbey, in his father's life-time; Richard, the third son, succeeded his brother William in the title and in this seat, and died unmarried; Thomas, the fourth son, represented this county in the 12th year of William III. and died before his brothers s. p. Philip died unmarried; and Roger, the sixth son, succeeded to the title of baronet and this seat, on the death of his brother Sir Richard, who died unmarried in 1723.

Sir Roger Meredith, bart. resided at Leeds-abbey, and in 1727 was chosen to represent this county in parliament. He married Mary, daughter of Francis Tyssen, esq. of Shacklewell, widow of Samuel Gott, esq. and dying in 1738, s. p. was buried in a vault in the south chancel of this church, having a handsome monument erected to his memory, and by his will devised this seat, among the rest of his estates, to his niece Susanna, (only daughter of his brother colonel Henry

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Meredith, before-mentioned) in tail general; remainder to several different persons in tail male.

Mrs. Susanna Meredith resided at Leeds-abbey, where she died unmarried in 1758, and her uncle Sir Roger Meredith, having omitted to devise the fee of this estate after the above-mentioned remainders, it became vested in her, as his sole heir; she, therefore, by her will, devised the fee of it to her heir at-law, Sir George Oxenden, bart. the direct descendant of her grandfather, Sir Richard Meredith's sister Elizabeth.

On Mrs. Meredith's death, unmarried, Walter Hooper, esq. of London, the intermediate remainders having ceased, became possessed, by the limitation in Sir Roger Meredith's will, of this seat and estate, and resided here, where he died in 1758, s. p. on which, it came by the entail above-mentioned, to his nephew,

William Jumper, esq. of Stockbury, as tenant in tail male likewise, who afterwards resided here, and in the year 1761 served the office of sheriff for this county, He joined with Sir George Oxenden, bart. in whom the fee of it was vested by Miss Meredith's will, in the sale of this seat, with the estate belonging to it, in 1765 to John Calcraft, esq. of Ingress, who made considerable improvements and additions to the house and the grounds adjoining to it. He bore for his arms, Per fess, argent and ermine, three lions passant-guardant, in pale sable, all within a bordure, wavy, azure, granted in 1770, and died possessed of it in 1772, devising this, among the rest of his estates, to his eldest son, John Calcraft, esq. who married Elizabeth, third daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Pym Hales, bart. deceased, and at times resides here, being the present possessor of this estate; to which there belongs a manor, called Barnes Garden, for which a court baron is regularly held.

/t Edmondson's Heraldry, vol. ii. appendix of arms.

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IN THE HAMLET OF NASH, in this parish, about a quarter of a mile westward from Leeds-park, is a house called BATTLE-HALL, which from the remains of gothic architecture in it, seems to be of some antiquity, for there is still remaining in it, a large gothic stone arch, supported by two images, which reaches entirely to the top of the house; there is also, a door-case of stone, in which is a groove for a portcullis, which seems to have led into some place of safety; there is besides, on the other side of the house, a fair-place for holy water. Some have supposed this to have been the place where Robert de Crevequer, the founder of Leeds-castle, had placed the three canons, which he afterwards removed to Leeds-priory on his foundation of it. But the most antient parts of this building seem to be of a much later date, and if that was the purpose of it, the house must have been rebuilt since. Whatever it was, it remained a lay fee, and in the reign of Henry VII. was in the possession of Robert Chambre, who in the 16th year of that reign, released his claim and right to Robert Wotton, gent. of Boughton Malherb, Christopher Porter, clerk, &c. in his tenement, called Battaile-hall, with its appurtenances, situated at Nash, in Ledes. It afterwards came to be the property of the Coverts, of Leeds-abbey, with whom it staid till Sir John Covert passed it away to Mr. Harsnet; after some intermediate owners it came into the possession of Mr. Samuel Quested, of whom it was bought by the Hon. Robert Fairfax, who repaired and fitted it up for his residence, till his removal to Leeds-castle; since whose death it is become, with the rest of his estates, the property of his nephew the Rev. Dr. Denny Martin Fairfax, the present owner of it.

CHARITIES.

MRS. ELIZABETH CAYSER, of Hollingborne, widow, gave by will, in 1612, a sum of money to buy land, which has been since purchased in that parish; out of the rents of which she directed, there should be yearly paid on the anniversary of her

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death, Sept. 22, 5s. among ten of the poorest of the parish of Leeds, by the minister, churchwardens, and overseers of it.

ARCHBISHOP SANCROFT gave a silver cup and plate, for the service of the sacrament.

CHARLES LUMSDEN, gent. in 1732, gave the sum of 200l. as an augmentation of the minister's salary, on condition of his residing, otherwise the yearly income of it to be given to the poor of this parish, vested in the three per cents. in the name of the archbishop, and of the annual produce of 6l.

MRS. SUSANNA MEREDITH, of Leeds-abbey, gave a complete set of communion-plate on Easter day, 1751.

THE HON. ROBERT FAIRFAX gave four new bells, and other additional ornaments to the steeple of this church.

The poor relieved here constantly are about 28, casually 25.

LEEDS is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton.

The church, which is situated at a small distance northward from Leeds-street, is dedicated to St. Nicholas. It has three isles and three chancels, with a remarkable square low tower at the west end, and on it a low small spire. There are remains of good painted glass in the windows.

The north chancel has belonged beyond memory to the possessors of Leeds-abbey. In it lie buried many of the Meredith family, whose monuments still remain there; particularly a most superb marble one, richly embellished with arms, supporters, &c. for Jane, daughter of Sir Thomas Palmer, widow of Sir William Meredith, bart. the first purchaser of the Leeds-abbey estate. She afterwards married John, earl of Carbery, and died in 1643. The south chancel was purchased by that family some years ago of the Wollett's; in a vault in it, among others, lies buried Sir Roger Meredith, bart. who has a handsome monument erected to his memory.

Robert de Crevequer, at the time of his founding the priory of Leeds, gave to the canons there the advowsons of all the churches of his estate, and among them the advowsons of the churches of Ledes and Bromfield, with fifty acres of land in this parish, which

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gift was confirmed by several of his descendants, as they were by king Edward III. in his 41st year, by letters of inspeximus.

In the 8th year of king Richard II. the church of Leeds was valued at 13l. 6s. 8d. per annum, the whole profits of it being then in the possession of this priory, the cure of it being supplied by the religious themselves. In which situation it continued till the dissolution of the priory, in the 31st year of Henry VIII. when it was, with all its possessions, surrendered into the king's hands, as has been already mentioned. The year after which, the king demised, among other premises, to Sir Anthony St. Leger, the rectory, with the chapel of Bromfelde, with their appurtenances, lately belonging to the priory there, for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of twenty pounds.

But the fee of it remained in the crown, till queen Elizabeth, in her 3d year, having taken into her hands several manors, lands, &c. parcel of the revenue of the

see of Canterbury, granted to archbishop Parker several rectories and parsonages in lieu of them; among which latter was this rectory or parsonage of Leeds, with its appurtenances, which has ever since continued parcel of the possessions of his successors, archbishops of Canterbury.

Soon after the above-mentioned exchange, the archbishop demised this rectory, and the chapel of Bromfield, with all tithes, commodities, &c. excepting the advowson of the church of Leeds, to Jerome, Millicent and Thomas Brett, for their lives, the latter of whom conveyed the lease of it to William Covert, esq. to whom archbishop Whitgift, anno 33 Elizabeth, granted a lease of it for twenty one years, at 20l. per annum, and the like exception, with a covenant for the tenant to repair all buildings, and the chancel of the church of Leeds and chapel of Bromfield. Since which

/u Dugd. Mon. vol. ii. p. 111, 112.

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it has been held in lease of the several archbishops in like manner, the term renewable every seven years by the possessors of Leeds abbey, and as such the interest of it is now vested in John Calcraft, esq. of Leeds-abbey.

The cure of the church of Leeds, before the surrendry of the priory, having been constantly served by one of the religious of it, there was no vicarage endowed of it; after the dissolution of the priory, therefore, it was esteemed as a perpetual curacy, in the gift of the possessor of the rectory, and after that, was granted, with its appurtenances, by which this advowson passed likewise, anno 3 Elizabeth, to the see of Canterbury. The archbishops constantly excepted the advowson of the church of Leeds out of the several leases demised of it, and it still continues in the gift of the archbishop, who collates a perpetual curate to the church of Leeds, with the chapel of Bromfield annexed.

The antient stipend or pension to the curate of Leeds was, anno 3 Elizabeth 7l. 6s. 8d. and to the curate of Bromfield five pounds, which continued so till the restoration of king Charles II. when archbishop Juxon, in 1661, in conformity to the king's letters mandatory, augmented this curacy, by adding the sum of thirty pounds per annum, to be paid by the lessee of the great tithes of this parish, to the former old pension above-mentioned of 12l. 6s. 8d./w

About the year 1765, Sir Philip Boteler, bart. of Teston, gave two hundred pounds towards the augmentation of this curacy, which was increased by the like sum from the governors of queen Anne's bounty.

It is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of 44l. 14s. 4d./x

/w Kennet's Impropr. p. 258, /x Bacon's Lib. Regis.

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CHURCH OF LEEDS.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. CURATES OF LEEDS,

With the chapel of BROMFIELD

annexed.

Archbishops of Canterbury. William Cragge, 1618.
 Jonathan Browne, 1621.
 Matthew Laurence, in 1622.
 John Blackburne, 1624.
 John Lockwood, 1625.
 Richard Marsh, March 25,
 1635.
 William Francis, September 29,
 1641.
 Nathaniel Willmott, in 1643.
 Thomas Parramore, 1647.
 Thomas Chowning, 1659.
 Thomas Showell, ejected in
 1662./y
 John Moore, September 29,
 1664.
 James Wilson, May 10, 1665.
 Edward Waterman, May 28,
 1685.
 Edward Harrison, June 16,
 1725, obt. 1760.
 Denny Martin Fairfax, D. D.
 Nov. 14, 1760, the present
 curate./z
 /y See Calamy's Life of Baxter,
 p. 286.
 /z See Leeds castle before.

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BROMFIELD.

THE next parish south-eastward from Leeds is Bromfield, called in Domesday, Brunfelle, and probably took its name from the quantities of broom and heath, with which the greatest part of this parish was then covered.

THE PARISH of Bromfield extends towards the north as far as Leeds-castle, part of which, as well as of the park, is within the bounds of it. The Lenham rivulet

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flows through the northern part of it. Near the stream there is some tolerable fertile meadow ground. The church is situated on a rise on the northern side of the parish, which is but of moderate extent from east to west; above the church the lands are poor and heathy, where there is a warren, which has for a long time been the property of the owners of Leeds-castle, as it is now of the Rev. Dr. Fairfax. Towards the south the parish extends further, near two miles, quite across Kingswood, (a large tract of wood, being three miles long and one broad) to Chartway street, near the summit of the quarry hills, the northern side of which street is in this parish, and opposite one in East Sutton, near which the soil partakes much of the quarry stone. There is no village, and but few habitations in the parish; towards the eastern part of it is the small manor of Roses; there is a fair held here on Whit-Monday yearly. Besides which there is not any thing further in this parish worth notice.

THIS PLACE was part of those possessions, given by William the Conqueror to his half-brother Odo, bishop of Baieux, under the general title of whose lands it is

entered in the survey of Domesday as follows:

The same Robert (Latinus) holds to ferme Brunfelle. Adelold held it of the bishop. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is . . . In demesne there are two carucates, and five villeins, with ten borderers, having one carucate and an half. There is one mill of six shillings and eight pence, and pasture of fifteen shillings. There are twelve servants, and eight acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of twenty hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth four pounds, now one hundred shillings. Aluvin held it of earl Goduin. To this manor there belonged certain free land for three oxen, and was worth five shillings.

After the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, and the confiscation of his estates, about four years after the taking of the above survey, this place, with the ad-

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joining parish of Leeds, was granted by the Conqueror to the noble family of Crevequer, of whom it was held afterwards by a family, who took their surname from it; one of whom, William de Bromfeld, held it in the reign of Henry II. as one quarter of a knight's fee. In the reign of king Edward I. Henry de Hoo held this estate of the barony of Crevequer; after which, it seems to have been blended in the same vicissitude of owners, that the manor of Leeds was, of which a more ample account may be found under the description of that manor and castle, and as such this manor is now in the possession of the Rev. Dr. Denny Martin Fairfax, of Leeds-castle.

CHARITIES.

MRS. ELIZABETH CAYSER, of Hollingborne, widow, by will in 1612, left a sum of money to buy a piece of land, which has been since purchased in that parish, and out of the rent of it, she directed, that yearly on the anniversary of her death, which happened on Sept. 22, 1615, five shillings should be distributed among the poorest persons of this parish, by the minister, churchwardens, and overseers of it, for the time being./a

The poor constantly relieved are about nine, and casually eighteen.

BROMFIELD is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Margaret, was given by Robert de Crevequer to the priory of Ledes, on his foundation of it, together with that of Ledes, and the advowsons of all the churches of the barony of Crevequer; which gift was confirmed from time to time by his descendants, and by Edward III. in his 41st year, by his letters of inspeximus, and by several archbishops of Canterbury. After which, it appears to have been esteemed as a chapel to the church of Leeds, and as such to have been included in the

/a See a further account of it under Hollingborne.

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several valuations made of that church. In which state it continued till the dissolution of the priory of Leeds, in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. when it was, with

all its possessions, surrendered up into the king's hands, since which, being esteemed as a chapel to the church of Leeds, it has passed as such, down to the present time, and under the like circumstances, being now as a chapel to that church, held in lease by John Calcraft, esq. of Leeds-abbey, as has been more fully related before, under the description of Leeds church.

A list of the curates of this church has already been given under the description of the church of Leeds.

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BERSTED.

BERSTED lies the next parish north-westward from Leeds. It was antiently written Bergestede, and most probably took its name from its situation, Berg, in Saxon, signifying a hill, and stede, a place or village.

THE PARISH lies mostly on what may be called high ground, a pleasant, and the greatest part of it a dry situation; the soil is in general a deep sand, though towards the south-west part it partakes of the quarry rock, and on the south side of the Lenham river a black moorish soil of fertile meadow ground. This river parts it towards the south from Ofham, another smaller stream, which rises near Boxley, separates it on the western side from that parish and Maidstone, leaving within the bounds of it a part of the hamlet of Maginford. Besides the above, this parish is watered by two or three other smaller rivulets, which rise northward, and run here into the Lenham river, the easternmost of them separating it from Hollingborne and Leeds. The high road from Ashford and Lenham towards Maidstone, runs along the northern boundaries of it, passing over Bersted-green, the houses round

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which form the parish village, near it stands the church; besides this there are two other hamlets, called Ware and Roseacre-streets. In the south-east part of the parish is the seat of Milgate, pleasantly situated and well-clothed with trees, at the back of which the ground descends to the river, and at a small distance that of Lower Milgate, so called from its lower situation still nearer the river.

A fair used to be held here on Holy Cross day, September 14, now by the alteration of the style, changed to Sept. 25, for pedlary, toys, &c.

The noble family of Bertie own this parish to have been their most antient habitation in this kingdom, for they are said to have possessed lands in it near the parsonage, at Strutton-street, and elsewhere in this neighbourhood, as early as the reign of king Henry II. and among the Harleian MSS. there is a grant of arms, anno 2 Henry VI. to Bartie, of Berested, in Kent; they continued here in king Henry the VIIIth.'s reign, as appears by an antient rental of that time, and there are still lands, called Barty lands, in this parish and Thurnham; and from those of this name settled here, in a direct line was descended the dukes of Ancaster, now extinct, and from them the lady Willboughbye, of Eresbye; the earls of Abingdon, and other distinguished branches of this family claim their descent.

The manors of Leeds, Moathall, and Thurnham,

extend over this parish, in which there is an estate belonging to the former of them, which has constantly passed through the same succession of owners, from the family of Crevequer, who were proprietors of it in the reign of William the Conqueror, to the Rev. Dr. Denny Martin Fairfax, of Leeds-castle, who is at present in the possession of it.

MILGATE is an eminent seat, situated in the south-east part of this parish, which was formerly esteemed a manor, though it has long since lost the reputation of ever having been one.

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The family of Coloigne antiently possessed this estate; one of whom, Robert de Coloigne, died possessed of it in the 35th year of king Edward III. In process of time, his descendants came to be called Coluney; one of whom, Thomas Coluney, as appears by an old survey of Bersted, possessed it in the 14th year of Edward IV. Soon after which, that is, in the beginning of king Henry VII.'s reign, it was become the property of the family of Stonehouse, whose antient seat was at Haslewood, in Boughton Malherbe.

Robert Stonehouse, esq. was of Bersted, at the latter end of king Henry VIII.'s reign. His son, George Stonehouse, esq. was clerk of the green cloth to queen Elizabeth, and resided at West Peckham, where he died in 1575, whose eldest son William was created a baronet anno 4 Charles I. and Nicholas, the second, was of Boxley, in this county. He bore for his arms, Argent, on a fess sable, between three hawks volant, azure, a leopard's face, between two mullets, or. In the beginning of the reign of queen Elizabeth he alienated this seat to Thomas Fludd, esq. afterwards knighted, who was son of John Fludd, esq. of Mor-ton, in Shropshire, and bore for his arms, Vert, a chevron between three wolves heads, erased, argent; which coat, with his quarterings, was confirmed to him by Robert Cook, clarencieux, in 1572. He resided at Milgate, where he died in 1607, and was buried in this church, having considerably improved and augmented this seat. His son Thomas Fludd, esq. afterwards of Otham, succeeded him in this estate, which he alienated in 1624, to William Cage, of Farringdon, in Hampshire, barrister-at-law, who resided here. He was bred at Lincoln's-inn, an utter barrister, and was descended from Richard Cage, of Pakenham, in Suffolk. He bore for his arms, Per pale, gules and azure, a saltier, or, and a chief, ermine, which was an alteration

/b Vistn. co. Kent, 1619. Coll. Bar. vol. ii. p. 81.

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tion from the antient arms of this family, viz. Azure and gules, over all a saltier, or; and, together with an addition to the crest, was granted to him by St. George, clarencieux, in 1624, and in his descendants it continued down to Wm. Cage, esq. who was likewise of Milgate, and was sheriff in 1695, and represented the city of Rochester in several parliaments during queen Anne's reign. Of his sons, William died s. p. Lewis will be mentioned hereafter; and John was of Lower Milgate, esq. Lewis Cage, the second son, became at

length possessed of Milgate, where he resided, and left one son Lewis, and a daughter Catherine, who married first, Mr. George Eastchurch, of Maidstone; and secondly Christopher Hull, esq. but died s. p. On his death, Lewis Cage, esq. his son, succeeded him in this seat, where he now resides.

He married Annetta, second daughter and coheir of Edward Coke, esq. of the White Friars, in Canterbury, by whom he had four sons; Lewis Cage, esq. of Lower Milgate, who married Fanny, eldest daughter of Sir Brook Bridges, bart. the Rev. Edward Cage, rector of Easling, who married Jane, second daughter of Charles Van, esq. of Monmouthshire; John, who died in the West-Indies unmarried in 1789, and the Rev. Charles Cage, of Crismell, vicar of Bersted, who married Elizabeth, daughter of colonel Graham, and one daughter Catherine, as yet unmarried.

AT A SMALL DISTANCE westward from Milgate, there is a good house, called COMBES, alias LOWER MILGATE, which on the death of William Cage, esq. came to his youngest son John Cage, as before-mentioned, who died s. p. It is now the property of Mrs. Brander, the widow of Gustavus Brander, esq. and daughter of Francis Gulston, esq. by a daughter of William Cage, esq. Lewis Cage, esq. junior, at present resides in it.

/c See Harl. MSS. No. 1470-24-96, and 1507-70.

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MOAT-HALL is a manor in this parish, the mansion of which, from the materials with which it was built, was called Stonehouse. It antiently belonged to the neighbouring priory of Leeds, as appears by several old boundaries and papers, and was most probably part of those demesnes given to it at its first foundation, by Robert de Crevequer, in the reign of king Henry I. These demesnes appear by a rental of the time of king Henry VII. to have been held of the manor of Leeds, though they have been long since accounted parcel of this manor of Moat-hall.

On the dissolution of the priory in the reign of king Henry VIII. this manor, among the rest of the possessions of it, was surrendered into the king's hands, who afterwards, by his dotation-charter, in his 33d year, settled this manor, among other premises, on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom it remains at this time.

The present lessee of it, under the dean and chapter, is Mr. William Osborne. There is a court baron held for this manor.

AT A SMALL DISTANCE southward from the church lies an estate called OTTERIDGE, formerly Oterashe, which in the reign of king Henry VIII. belonged to Simon Bertyn, one of the brethren of St. Bartholomew's hospital, beside Sandwich, who by will in 1530, devised it to Jeffry Merchant, of Rainham.

It afterwards came into the possession of the family of Munns, who continued possessors of it for several generations, till at length one of them sold it, with Aldington, in the adjoining parish of Thurnham, to William Sheldon, esq. whose descendant Richard Sheldon, esq. at his death, bequeathed it to his widow, and she

re-marrying with William Jones, M. D. entitled him to it. He died in 1780, leaving by her two daughters; Mary, married to Lock Rollinson, esq. of Oxfordshire, and Anne, to Thomas Russell, esq. and they in right of their wives, are respectively entitled to it.

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CHARITIES.

SIMON BERTYN, one of the brethren of St. Bartholomew's hospital, near Sandwich, owner of Otteridge, in this parish, which he devised, together with his messuage called Buds, with its lands and appurtenances, in Allynghton, beside Thurnham, by his will in 1530, to Jeffry Marchant, ordered that the said Jeffry and his heirs male, should for ever yearly distribute, on the first Sunday of Lent, in the church of Berghsted, to the parish clerk there, and to other poor people, four bushels of green peas; that is to say, to every one of them, one peck.

EDWARD GODFREY, gent. of Thurnham, gave by his will in 1709, thirty shillings yearly out of lands in this parish, called Crouch-field, for the schooling of poor children; half of them to be of this parish, and half of that of Thurnham. And he left 30s. yearly for the same use, to be paid out of an house called Rose-acre, in this parish; the payment of which has been constantly refused, upon pretence, that he had no right to devise that charge on it.

The poor constantly relieved are about forty-five; casually twenty five.

BERSTED is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Sutton.

The church is situated on high ground, at a small distance southward of Bersted-green. It is dedicated to the Holy Cross, and is a handsome building, consisting of two isles and two chancels, with a square beacon tower at the west end of it. On three corners of the summit of the tower, are the figures of three dogs, or bears sejant, for they are so defaced by great length of time, that they can but be guessed at. If they represent the latter, they might have been placed there in allusion to the name of this parish: if not, these figures might perhaps be the crest of the founder of the church. In this church in the Milgate chancel, are monuments for the Cage family, and for Robert Fludd, M. D. A memorial for William Godfrey, jun. in 1690; and for Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Bosville, esq. of Bradburne, justice and clerk of the court of wards, married first to Edward Mabb, gent. of this

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parish; and secondly, to William Godfrey, of Bersted, yeoman, obt. 1614. In the porch, against the east wall, is a small monument for Stephen Mason, of Boxley, citizen and vintner of London, obt. 1560, arms, A chevron, between three tuns, or barrels.

There were some lands and tenements in this parish, given by several persons, who stiled themselves the fraternity of the Holy Cross of Bersted, for a priest to sing mass yearly for one quarter of a year, in this church.

The church of Berghstede, with all its rights and appurtenances, was given in the reign of Henry I. by Robert de Crevequer, son of Hamo de Crevequer, junior, to the priory of Leeds, then founded by him;

which gift was confirmed by Baldwin, archbishop of Canterbury, in the reign of Henry II. who then appropriated this church to the canons there, towards the finding of lights and ornaments in their church. Archbishops Theobald and Hubert confirmed it likewise, as did John, prior, and the convent of Christ-church, in 1278, by the description of the church of Berghe-stede, with the tithes of Strutton. King Edward III. likewise confirmed it by his charter of inspeximus in his 41st year.

This church, together with the advowson of the vicarage, remained part of the possessions of the priory of Leeds till the dissolution of it, in the reign of king Henry VIII. when it was surrendered up into the king's hands, among other estates belonging to it.

After which, the king, by his dotation charter, in his 33d year, settled both the parsonage and advowson of the vicarage of this church on his new-founded dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom they now remain.

On the intended dissolution of deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles I. the possessions of the dean and chapter of Rochester, in this parish, were surveyed in 1649, by order of the state; when it was returned, that the parsonage or rectory of Bersted consisted of a messuage, barns, &c. which, with the tithes

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and glebe land of forty acres, were of the improved rent of 46l. 8s. per annum, which were let anno 13 Charles I. at the yearly rent of 9l. 13s. 4d. and four bushels of malt, for the term of twenty-one years; and the lessee covenanted to discharge the pension of forty shillings to the vicar, and to repair the chancel of the church. Out of which lease was excepted, the advowson of the vicarage, and the portion of tithes called Vintners Portion.

The vicarage is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of thirty pounds, the yearly tenths of which are 12s. 9d.

In 1649, the vicarage was valued in the above-mentioned survey at twenty pounds per annum.

The parsonage is leased out by the dean and chapter to Mr. John Packman, but the advowson of the vicarage they reserve in their own hands.

The vicarage is endowed with all manner of tithes, except grain, and the vicar now enjoys the above-mentioned pension of forty shillings from the lessee of the dean and chapter.

CHURCH OF BERSTED.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Richard Sheldon, S. T. P. in
1613.

Henry Pawson, A. M. April 22,
1614, resigned 1616.

Thomas Ingood, A. M. June 27,
1616, resigned 1624.

Richard Sheldon, S. T. P. Nov.
8, 1624.

Francis Drayton, resig. 1667.

John Collins, A. M. March 10,

1667, obt. 1677.
Thomas Gregory, A. B. Sept. 18,
1677, obt. 1685.
Francis Smith, A. M. Sept. 22,
1685.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Thomas Woodhouse, April 24,
1691, obt. 1693.

Henry Dering, A. M. Dec. 16,
1693, obt. 1720./d

Thomas Price, clerk, Dec. 21,
1720, obt. 1724.

Samuel Hales, 1724, resigned
1733./e

Henry Rand, A. M. July 1733,
obt. 1765.

Samuel Markham, LL. B. De=
cember 12, 1765, resigned
1767.

Henry Jones, A. M. 1767, resig.
1773./f

Arnold Carter, A. M. presented
1773 resig. 1783./g

Richard Jacobs, A. M. 1783,
obt. Aug. 11, 1794.

Charles Cage, A. M. presented
1794, the present vicar./h

/d He was also vicar of Thurnham,
where he lies buried.

/e He was presented to Chart Sutton
in 1733.

/f A minor canon of Rochester. –
And he exchanged this vicarage with
Mr. Carter, for the vicarage of Chart
Sutton.

/g A minor canon of Rochester. –
Before vicar of Chart Sutton. He re=
signed this vicarage for W. Peckham.

/h And vicar of Bredgar.

Master Freeman Sonds, second son of Sir George
Sonds, of Lees-court, having been executed at Pinen=
den-heath, on August 21, 1655, for the unhappy mur=
der of his elder brother, was brought that day to Ber=
sted church, and interred in it.

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OTHAM.

THE next parish southward from Bersted is Otham,
which although it is situated within the hundred of Ey=
horne, is yet within the civil jurisdiction of the mayor
and corporation of the town and parish of Maidstone.
This jurisdiction, as the charter expresses it, extends

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only to the cognizance and determination of actions
and replevins, and to no other purpose whatsoever.

THIS PARISH is much covered with woods, espe=
cially in the western part of it. Towards the north it
is bounded from Bersted by the Lenham rivulet, which

here turns a mill, called Otham mill. The soil is in the southern part of it poor, consisting of a loose red earth, intermixed with small gravelly stones; towards the north-west towards Wellington-street and Maidstone, it partakes of the quarry-stone, where it is much more fertile, and is kindly for fruit and hops, of which latter there are several plantations. In the northern part, the soil is fertile, consisting of a fine loam, the land letting from 20 to 30s. an acre, and near the rivers the meadows are very good. Near the middle of the parish is Gore-court, a low modernized building, almost surrounded by woods, and at no great distance northward the parsonage, a modern sashed building, beyond which the church stands; at the back of Gore-court, about half a mile distance, in a more open country, is Otham-street, and beyond it the manor of Stoneacre.

OTHAM was given by William the Conqueror to his half-brother Odo, bishop of Baieux, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the survey of Domesday:

Goisfrid de Ros holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Oteham. It was taxed at one suling, and one yoke. The arable land is two carucates and an half. In demesne there is one, and nine villeins, with three borderers, having one carucate. There is a church, and two servants, and one mill of five shillings, and three acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of eight hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth four pounds, when he received it three pounds, now four pounds. Alwin held it of king Edward.

On the bishop's disgrace soon after the taking of the above-mentioned survey, this, among the rest of his estates, came into the hands of the crown, and appears

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to have been held by a family, who took their name from hence.

Peter de Otham held this estate as one knight's fee, in the reign of king Henry III. as appears by the Testa de Nevil, and it seems that he held it in sergeantry; his daughter and heir Loretta carried it in marriage to William de Valoyns, whose family was possessed of large estates in the eastern parts of this county.

William de Valoigns is mentioned in the Testa de Nevil to have paid aid for lands at Petham, Ashford, and Otham, in the 20th year of king Henry III. and died possessed of Otham in the 10th year of Edward I. His wife Loretta survived him, and possessed this estate, which she afterwards gave to her two sons, Walter and Robert de Valoigns, by the description of the manor of Otham, with the advowson of the church, and in the iter of J. de Berewick and his associates, anno 21 Edward I. she produced the deed of this gift, which is recorded in that iter at length./i They held it in the next reign of Edward II. as one knight's fee, of the honor of Albermarle; but in the 20th year of king Edward III. it was partly alienated from this family, for Isabel, widow of Walter de Valoigns, Richard Colyn, and master Nicholas de Sandwich, then paid respective aid for it.

Nicholas de Sandwich appears to have died in pos=

session of this manor in 1370, anno 45 Edward III. being then rector of this parish. He lies buried in this church, being a younger son of the Sandwich's, of Sandwich, in this county, and bore for his arms, Or, on a chief dancette, azure, a mullet, argent, for difference. After which it passed into the family of Fremingham; and John, son of Sir Ralph de Fremingham, of Lose, died in the 12th year of Henry IV. possessed, among other premises, of the manor and advowson of the church of Otham, and leaving no issue,

/i Plac. Jur. & Assisis. See Harris's Hist of Kent, p. 231.

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he devised this estate by will to feoffees, who next year, assigned it over according to the directions of it to John, son of Reginald de Pimpe, and his heirs male, with remainder to Roger Isle, as being the nearest of blood to him. His descendant Reginald died possessed of them in the 23d year of Henry VIII. After which this manor and the advowson came into the possession of Sir Henry Isley, who soon afterwards conveyed them to Thomas Hendley, esq. of Coursehorne, in Cranbrooke, whose ancestor was Walter Hendley, esq. of that place, who married first the daughter of John Hales, baron of the exchequer, by whose second wife the Hendleys of Wales are descended. They bore for their arms, Pale, bendy, azure and gules, eight martlets, three, two, and three, or. His descendant, John Hendley, esq. possessed them at the restoration of king Charles II. He married Priscilla, daughter of Thomas Fludd, esq. of Gore court, in this parish, by whom he had Bowyer Hendley, esq. sheriff in 1702, and his grandson William Henley, esq. of Gore-court, is now entitled to the fee of them.

GORE-COURT is a seat in this parish, which with lands here, called Colyns, alias Old-hole, (no doubt, called Colyns, from Richard Colyn, who was owner of Otham manor in the reign of Edward III. as before-mentioned, and perhaps now usually known by the name of Otham-hole), was once esteemed part of the manor of Otham, and seems to have had the same owners, till they came into the possession of Sir Henry Isley, in the reign of king Henry VIII. who alienated them to Thomas Astrey, and he, in the 3d year of king Edward VI. conveyed them by deed and fine to Walter Hendley, esq. and Thomas Hendley, esq. his son, the former of whom, the next year, released the whole of it to the latter, and he, that year, sold this estate to Ralph Buffkin, by deed and fine. He bore for his arms, Or, a chevron, between three helmets, azure, and in his descendants this estate remained till the reign of

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king James I. when it was alienated to Mr. Nathaniel Powel, of Ewehurst, in Sussex, who soon afterwards conveyed it to Thomas Fludd, esq. descended from David Fludd, or de Fluctibus, of Salop, and bore for his arms, Vert, a chevron, between three griffins heads erased, argent. He resided here, and by Catherine his wife, daughter of Lewin Buffkin, esq. of this parish, left two sons, Thomas, and Lewin, who was M. D. Thomas Fludd, esq. the eldest son, succeeded him in

this seat, and was sheriff in 1652. He left two sons, Alabaster and Thomas, and a daughter Priscilla, married to John Hendley, esq. of this parish.

Alabaster Fludd, esq. his eldest son, was of Gore-court, whose great-grandson, Peter Fludd, to satisfy incumbrances, conveyed it in trust to Mr. Benjamin Howel, gent. who about the year 1712, passed it away by sale to Bowyer Hendley, esq. of this parish, sheriff in 1702 as before-mentioned. He died possessed of it in 1742, leaving two sons, William and Walter, and four daughters, of whom Anne, the youngest, married the Rev. Samuel Horne, rector of this parish.

William Henley, the eldest son, above-mentioned, altered the spelling of his name, leaving out the letter d in it. He resided at Gore-court, where he died in 1757, and was buried with his ancestors here, leaving one son William, and several daughters. William Henley, esq. the son, afterwards resided here, and married a foreign lady, Dorothy Hannah Louisa Harriot, said to be countess of Berghausen, in Germany, naturalized by act in 1781. She died s. p. in 1793. A commission of lunacy has been some years since taken out against Mr. Henley, the committee, in which is the Rev. Mr. Horne, his brother in-law, who is now, as such, in the possession of the manor of Otham, Gore-court, and his other estates in this county.

STONEACRE is a manor in the eastern part of this parish, which for some centuries was the seat of the family of Elys, or Ellis, as they afterwards spelt their

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name, a branch of which was likewise seated at Kennington, in the eastern part of this county. John Ellys possessed this seat, and resided here in the reign of king Edward II. as appears by the deeds relating to it. His descendant John Elys, esq. died in 1467, and lies buried in this church. He bore for his arms, Or, on a cross sable, five crescents argent, as they were painted on glass in the window next his pew in the church, and in a window at Stoneacre. In whose descendants it continued till it was at length alienated by Mr. George Ellis, about the year 1710, to Mr. George Waterman, whose heirs, about the year 1735, conveyed it by sale to William Horsemonden Turner, esq. of Harrietsham, since which it has passed in like manner as Harrietsham already described before, together with his other estates in this county, down to William Baldwin, esq. of Harrietsham-place, the present owner of it.

CHARITIES,

THOMAS HENDLEY, ESQ. youngest son of Gervas Hendley, esq. of Coursehorne, gave a house and land, now let at 4l. per annum, to the poor of this parish, vested in the minister and churchwardens. He died in 1590, and lies buried in the chancel of this church.

The poor constantly relieved here are about twelve, and casually six.

OTHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton.

The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, in it are monuments for the Hendleys, of this parish, and one

for Lewin Buffkin, esq. of Gore-court; and a memorial for John Elys, of Stoneacre. This church, from the earliest account of time, has ever been considered as an appendage to the manor of Otham, and as such is now in the patronage of William Henley, esq. of Gore-court.

It is valued in the king's books at 9l. 17s. 3¹/₂d. and the yearly tenths at 19s. 8³/₄d.

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In 1578, the communicants here were ninety-two. In 1640, it was valued at forty-five pounds per annum. Communicants one hundred and twenty-one.

King Edward II. in his 19th year, confirmed to the rectory of Otham, four acres of land in this parish, for a chantry.

CHURCH OF OTHAM.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Nicholas de Sandwich, obt.
1370./k

Peter Hensle, May 7, 1567.

John Brome, S. T. P. March
10, 1595, obt. 1625.

William Hude, A. M. Nov. 18.
1625, obt. 1630.

Thomas Wilson, B. A. 1630, sus=
pended 1635, restored 1639,
obt. 1651./l

John Davis, obt. July 11,
1677./m

Mathias Rutton, Nov. 6, 1677,
obt. Aug. 12, 1701./n

William Simmonds, A. M. Feb.
13, 1701, resig. 1727./o

Samuel Horne, June 27, 1727,
obt. Aug. 18, 1768./p

William Horne, A. M. 1769, the
present rector.

/k He lies buried in this church.

/l He was presented by Mr. George Swinnoek, who had purchased the next presentation to it, and wrote his life. He was a zealous puritan, and was suspended by the high commission, for dilapidations of his parsonage, and other matters. He died about 1651. See Newton's History of Maidstone, p. 132.

/m Newton's History of Maidstone, p. 68. He was also curate of Maidstone, where he lies buried.

/n He lies buried in this church.

/o He was likewise dean of Battle.

/p He lies buried in this church, having had several children; one of whom, Dr. George Horne was president of Magdalen college, in Oxford, afterwards dean of Canterbury, and then bishop of Norwich, who died in 1792, and lies buried at Eltham; and

another is the Rev. Wm. Horne, who succeeded him in this rectory, and is likewise rector of Brede, in Sussex.

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THURNHAM

LIES the adjoining parish northward from Bersted. It is written in Domesday, Turneham, and is supposed to take its name from the antient castle situated in it, Thurn in Saxon signifying a tower, and ham a village.

THE PARISH of Thurnham, though healthy, is yet from the nature of its soil an unpleasant situation, and is rather an unfrequented place, of but little thoroughfare; the high ridge of chalk hills cross it, close to the foot of which is the church with the court-lodge and parsonage, and at a small distance eastward Aldington court, having a double avenue of trees leading from it, almost to Bersted-green, to which this parish joins southward, near which the soil partakes of the sand; near the foot of the hills, the soil approaches the chalk, where the inclosures are large and open, having but few trees in the hedge-rows to shelter them, and the land poor and flinty; on the edge of the summit of the hill are the remains of Thurnham castle, an account of which will be given hereafter. From hence, on the hill northward, the country is wild and dreary, lying high, and much exposed to the bleak northern aspect; the soil here is very poor and wet, a heavy tillage land of a kind of red earth, covered with quantities of flints, mostly low rented, at five shillings an acre, or rather less; the hedge rows here are broad, and the fields large. In the north-east part is a large quantity of wood-land, called Binbury wood, near which the high road from Maidstone through Detling leads on towards Stockbury valley and Key-street, through this part of Thurnham, on the west side of this road; just before you descend to the low country is Binbury manor pound, and at a field or two distance behind it, the house itself.

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In the south part of this parish, where it joins to Bersted, there is a vein of white sand, which upon alderman Lewin and lady Mantle's laying the foundation for the improvement of the glass-works in this kingdom, and the sending over Michael Racket, and other Italians, to carry on that manufacture, was found to be of the greatest use in their composition for making glass, and is now well known among the glass-workers, by the name of Maidstone sand, and the pits themselves are become noted, for their vast caverns arched underground.

THURNHAM was given by William the Conqueror to Odo, bishop of Baieux, his half-brother, of whom it was held by Ralph de Curva Spina, or Crookthorne, as the name was called in English, as appears by the following entry in the book of Domesday, under the general title of the bishop's lands:

Ralf Curbespine holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Turneham. It was taxed at three sulings. The arable

land is eight carucates. In demesne there is one, and sixteen villeins, with eighteen borderers, having four carucates. There is a church, and six servants, and one mill of six shillings, and four acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of forty hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth ten pounds, now twelve pounds, and yet it pays fourteen. Sbern Biga held it of king Edward.

On the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, in the 19th year of the Conqueror's reign, this place was seized into the king's hands, among the rest of his estates, and was afterwards granted to Gilbert Magminot; being held of the king in capite by barony, by the tenure of maintaining a certain number of soldiers, from time to time, for the defence of Dover castle. This manor and Binbury, in this parish, together with Kersony, in River, parcel of the twenty-four knight's fees, which

/q See Deptford, and Cowdham, vol. i. of this history, p. 346. vol. ii. p. 60.

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made up the barony of Magminot, of which Deptford was the head or chief.

Of the family of Magminot, and of their heirs the Says, Thurnham was held by a family which took their name from their possessions in it. Robert de Turnham held this estate in the reign of king Henry II. and was the founder of the priory of Combwell, in Goudhurst, to which he gave part of his possessions in this parish. He left two sons, Robert and Stephen; the former of whom attended king Richard I. in his noted expedition to the holy land, and he died in the 13th year of king John's reign, without issue male, and was succeeded by his brother Stephen de Turnham, who having ratified his father's grants to the priory of Combwell, died before the 16th year of that reign, as it should seem s. p.

In the beginning of the reign of king Edward I. Sir Roger de Northwood, of Northwood, in the Isle of Shepey, possessed the manor of Thurnham, with Binbury, and other estates in this parish, and died in the 13th year of that reign, in whose descendants, who had summons to parliament, among the barons of this realm, they continued down to Roger de Northwood, who on his father, Sir John de Northwood's death, anno 2 Richard II. succeeded to them./r

He alienated the manor of Thurnham to Robert Corbie, esq. of Boughton Malherb, whose sole daughter and heir Joane carried it in marriage to Sir Nicholas Wotton, who anno 3 Henry V. was lord-mayor. His descendant Sir Edward Wotton, procured his lands in this county to be disgavelled by the acts both of 31 king Henry VIII. and 2 and 3 king Edward VI. and from him this manor descended to his grandson Sir Edward Wotton, of Boughton Malherb, created lord Wotton, baron of Marley, whose

/r See Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 662. vol. ii. p. 270. See more of this family under Northwood manor, in Milton, hereafter.

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son Thomas, lord Wotton, dying in the 6th year of

Charles I. without male issue, Catherine, his eldest daughter and coheir, carried this manor in marriage to Henry, lord Stanhope, son and heir to Philip, earl of Chesterfield, who died in his father's life-time. Upon which, his widow Catherine, lady Stanhope, became again possessed of it, and quickly after transferred it by sale to Mr. John Godden, of London, whose son William Godden, esq. of Westwell, alienated it, in 1694, to William Cage, esq. of Bersted, and his descendant John Cage, esq. youngest son of William Cage, esq. of Milgate, sold this manor, together with the parsonage or rectory impropriate of Thurnham, to Sir Edward Dering, bart. who died possessed of them in 1762, and his son Sir Edward Dering, bart. of Surrenden, in this county, is the present owner of them, together with the manors of Newnham, alias the Rectory, and Castle Godard, in this parish. A court leet and court baron is held for the manor of Thurnham.

BINBURY, antiently written Bingebery, is an eminent manor in this parish, lying on the summit of the chalk-hills at the north-west extremity of it.

This manor is included in the description in Domesday recited before, as part of the bishop of Baieux's possessions, and coming into the king's hands, was granted to Gilbert Magminot, to hold as before-mentioned in capite, by barony. After which it passed with the manor of Thurnham, to the family of that name, and afterwards to the Northwoods; during the time of its continuance in which family, in king Edward the III^d's reign, a melancholy accident happened at Binbury as appeared by the old evidences of the lord Wotton's family: the lady Northwood standing on a precipice of the hill, to see a fox dug out, the earth, being loose and sandy, sunk under her, and the hanging hill shooting down upon her, she was stifled to death with the pressure, before any assistance

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could be given to her. In this name of Northwood this manor continued down to Roger de Northwood, who died possessed of it in the last year of Henry V. His heirs, in the beginning of the next reign, passed it away to Thomas Thwaits, who in the 8th year of it, conveyed his interest in it to William Gascoigne, of the family of Gascoigne, of Gawthorpe, in Yorkshire, who bore for their arms, Argent, on a pale sable, a demi lucy, or, in whose name it continued till the beginning of king Edward IV's reign, and then it was alienated to Cutt, or Cutts, for the name was spelt both ways, whose descendant Sir John Cutt, possessed this manor in the reign of king Henry VIII. He was treasurer of the household, and resided at Horeham hall, at Thaxsted, in Essex, which house he had built. He had a younger brother Richard, from whom descended John Cutt, created in 1690 lord Cutt, of Gowran, in Ireland, and died s. p. They bore for their arms, Argent, on a bend engrailed, sable, three plates, in each a martlet of the second; those of this county bore this coat within a bordure, argent, and gules./s He died in 1520. Sir Henry Cutt, his grandson, was of Cambridgeshire, and died in 1603 s. p. very soon after which, his heirs alienated this manor to Sir Samuel

Lennard, of West Wickham, in this county, who died possessed of it in 1618, and was succeeded in it by his eldest son, Sir Stephen Lennard, created a baronet in 1642. After which this manor passed in his descendants in like manner as that of West Wickham described in the second volume of this history, down to Miss Mary Lennard, who marrying John Farnaby, esq. he became in her right possessed of it. They joined in the sale of it in 1785, to authorize which an act passed that year, to James Whatman, esq. of Boxley, who exchanged it for other lands elsewhere, with Heneage, earl of Aylesford, and he is the present owner of it.

/s See Morant's Essex, vol. ii. p. 590.

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ALDINGTON, usually called Addington, and now comprehended within the bounds of this parish, was formerly a distinct parish of itself. It was, as well as Thurnham, part of those possessions given by William the Conqueror to his half-brother Odo, bishop of Baieux, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the survey of Domesday, taken about the year 1080:

Ansgotus of Rochester holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Audintone. It was taxed at two sulings. The arable land is three carucates and an half. In demesne there are two, and seven villeins, with five borderers having one carucate and an half. There is a church and four servants, and six acres of meadow, and one mill of four shillings and two pence. Wood for the pannage of ten hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth four pounds, now seven pounds. Goduin and Alunin held it of king Edward for two manors.

These two manors continued afterwards as such, ONE OF WHICH, from its situation, and from the noble family which possessed it, was called ALDINGTON COBHAM, alias EAST-COURT.

Henry de Cobham, of Cobham, was possessed of this manor in the reign of king John, and his eldest son John de Cobham, of Cobham likewise, died in the 28th year of king Edward I. possessed of it, holding it in capite by the service of one knight's fee. He seems to have been succeeded in it by his next brother William, usually afterwards stiled of Aldington, who was a justice itinerant, both in the reigns of king Henry III. and Edward I. and died, far advanced in years, anno 14 Edward II. s. p. being succeeded in this manor by Reginald his nephew, stiled likewise Cobham, of Aldington, son of his eldest brother John de Cobham, by his second wife. His son, Reginald de Cobham, in the 14th year of Edward III. procured a charter of free-warren in all the demesne lands

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within his manor of Aldington by Thornham, among others. He died in the 35th year of that reign, possessed of this manor, held of the king in capite, as of the castle of Rochester, then in the king's hands, by the service of paying to the ward of that castle, in lieu of all service. In whose descendants, of the name of

Reginald, seated at Sterborough-castle, in Surry, whence his descendants were called Cobhams, of Sterborough, it continued down to Reginald de Cobham, who dying in the 24th year of Henry VI. was succeeded by his eldest surviving son, Sir Thomas Cobham, whose only daughter and heir Anne, carried it in marriage to Sir Edward Borough, of Gainsborough, in Lincolnshire. His descendant, William, lord Borough, in the 12th year of queen Elizabeth, sold this manor of Aldington East-court, to Henry Brockhull, who was likewise possessed of the other part of Aldington, called from its situation, and the family which possessed it ALDINGTON SEPTVANS, alias WEST-COURT. Of this family of Septvans, was Roger de Septvans, who possessed this manor in the reign of Richard I. and was with that king at the siege of Acon, in Palestine, and it remained in his descendants down to William Septvans, who died in the 25th year of Edward III. holding this estate, then called West-court, alias Septvans, as the moiety of the manor of Aldington, in manner as above-mentioned. After which it did not remain long in this name, for John Gower died possessed of it in the 39th year of that reign; and from thence, not many years afterwards, it was alienated to Sir John Brockhull, in whose descendants resident here it continued down to Henry Brockhill, esq. of Aldington, who in the 12th year of queen Elizabeth, purchased of William, lord Burgh, the other moiety of Aldington, by the name

/t See more of the Cobhams of Sterborough, vol. iii. of this history, p. 211.

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of the manor of Aldington East-court, as has been already related. He died in 1596, and was buried in Bersted church, and bore for his arms, Gules, a cross engrailed between twelve cross-crosetts fitchee argent; quartered with those of Criol. He left two daughters his coheirs, Anne and Martha, the former of whom, by the death of her sister, became at length his sole heir, and marrying Mr. John Taylor, gent. entitled him to these estates, on which he afterwards resided, being the grandson of William Taylor, of Shadoxhurst, he alienated them to Sir Richard Smith, of Leeds-castle, who died in 1628, and his heirs soon afterwards alienated them to Ralph Freke, esq. descended from those of Dorsetshire, who having married Cecilie, fifth daughter of Sir Thomas Culpeper, of Hollingborne, fixed his residence at Aldington West-court. She died in 1650, after which he sold them to Mr. John Munns, of Bersted, in which name they remained till they were conveyed by sale to William Sheldon, esq. His grandson Richard Sheldon, esq. resided at Aldington, where he kept his shrievalty in 1717, bearing for his arms, Sable, a fess between three sheldrakes, argent, and dying in 1736, was buried in Thurnham church, having by his will given these manors to his widow, who in 1738, remarrying with William Jones, esq. M. D. entitled him to this seat, and the manors of Aldington Cobham and West-court, at the latter of which he resided. He died in 1780, leaving two daughters his coheirs, Mary, mar=

ried to Lock Rollinson, esq. of Oxfordshire, and Anne, to Thomas Russell, esq. who, in right of their wives, became respectively entitled to these manors, which they afterwards joined in the sale of to the hon. Rev. Jacob Marsham, LL. D. second surviving son of the late lord Romney, who is the present possessor of them and resides at Aldington-court.

THE CHURCH of Aldington was dedicated to St. Peter, and continued a separate parish church from

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that of Thurnham, till it was united to it by agreement made in 1583, between Henry Brockhull, esq. lord of the manor and patron of it, and William Merri-
rick, vicar of Thurnham, which was confirmed sede vacante by master William Aubrey, L. D. guardian of the see of Canterbury, and ordinary pro tempore. Since which it has been accounted as a chapel to that church. In this church was buried Nicholas Brockhull, esq. lord of Aldington Westcourt, anno 2 Edward IV.

ON THE VERY BROW of the chalk hill, are the remains of an antient fortification, now called THURNHAM CASTLE, but formerly Godard's-castle, and the hill on which it stands, from thence, Godard's-hill.

Darell, in his treatise De Castellis Cantii, affirms, that this castle was founded by Godardus, a Saxon, from whom it took its name. Leland calls it the castle of Thorne, and says, it was in his time entirely a ruin. He says, "Sir John Cutte, under treasurer of England, bought of one Savelle, a main of fair lands in Yorkshire, then being in trouble, the lordship of Godhurst, with the ruins of a castle, (meaning this of Thurnham) standing about two miles from the banks of the Medway, and the like distance from Maidstone.

"This lordship at that time was partly a ground much overgrown with thornes and bushes, and was worth but xx markes by the year, then it was cleared, and the value much enhanced, and much goodly wood was then about it."

Sir John Cutte was then lord of the adjoining manor of Binbury, as has been already mentioned; but the scite of the castle has been long since alienated from the possessors of that manor.

William Pope, vicar of the church of Aldington in 1464, was buried in the church-yard, close to the south-west corner of the steeple. Wills, Prerog. off. Cant.

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The scite of Thurnham-castle is on the brow of the great chalk-hill, about half a mile northward of the church, and as much eastward from the high road on the top of Detling-hill. The walls which remain are built of rude flint, honey-combed and almost eaten up by the weather and length of time. That part which is now standing of them is on the north side of the area of the castle: they are about fourteen feet high, and near three broad. The rest of the walls are demolished to the foundations, which are, notwithstanding, mostly visible. The area contains about a quarter of an acre of ground. On the east side of it was the keep, being an artificial mount, in the middle

of which there is an hollow, as if the ground had fallen in and filled a cavity underneath. It appears to have been walled round, especially towards the south, where the chalk below having been dug away perpendicularly up to the bottom of the foundations, they have most part of them tumbled down into the chalk-pit underneath, where large fragments of them lie. The entrance seems to have been from the north.

It is very probable, from the Roman urns, and other remains of that nation, found about this hill, that it was first erected by them, and was possibly one of their speculatory stations or watch-towers, as well to secure this pass, as to overlook the approaches of their enemies through the valley below.

CHARITIES.

FOUR HOUSES, known by the name of Church-houses, now let to the overseers of the poor for 40s. per annum, and four acres of land, called Church-lands, let at three guineas per annum, were given to the poor of this parish by persons now unknown.

EDWARD GODFREY, of this parish, gent. gave by will in 1709, twenty shillings yearly, out of lands in Bersted, called Crouch-field, to be distributed yearly among the poor of this parish not receiving alms, vested in Mr. Watts, of Gravesend, and the vicar of this parish. He likewise gave by his will 30s. yearly out of the same lands, for the schooling of poor children; half of them to be of this parish, and half of that of Bersted. And he left 30s. more by his will for the like use, to

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be paid out of an house called Roseacre, in Bersted; the payment of which has been constantly refused, on pretence that he had no right to devise such charge on it.

MRS. MARY DERING, daughter of Henry Dering, vicar of this parish, by her will in 1725, gave to the poor of this parish twenty-six penny loaves, to be distributed yearly on Christmas day for ever; and for that purpose, she deposited 10l. in the minister's and churchwarden's hands, to be put out to use, which was accordingly done, but the money is now lost by the persons being in indigent circumstances.

The poor constantly relieved are about forty-two; casually, about eighteen.

THURNHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a small building, consisting of one isle and two chancels, having a low pointed steeple at the west end, in which hang three bells. In it are monuments for the Sheldons, several of whom lie buried here, as does Sir Henry Cutt, in the chancel founded in honor of him by lady Barbara his wife, who afterwards married William Covert, esq. of Boxley, and dying in 1618, was buried here likewise.

This church, with its appurtenances and lands, called Hoch and Casteye, were given, among other premises in the reign of king Henry II. by Robert de Thurnham to the priory of Combwell, at Goudhurst, at that time founded by him; which gift was confirmed by his son, Stephen de Thurnham, and by king Henry III. by his charter of inspeximus in his 11th year.

The church of Thurnham was, within a few years afterwards, appropriated to the above-mentioned priory, with the consent of Richard, archbishop of Canterbury, who likewise granted a confirmation of it to them. To the rectory belonged a manor, called NEWENHAM, alias THE RECTORY OF THURNHAM, which, with its appurtenances, consisting of certain premises and lands, called Howe-court and

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Canons-barns, part of the gift of Robert de Thurnham, as before-mentioned, remained in the possession of the priory till the 27th year of king Henry VIII. when by the act for the suppression of all such religious houses, whose revenues did not amount to the clear yearly value of two hundred pounds, and for giving the same to the king; this priory was next year surrendered up into the king's hands. These premises in the parish of Thurnham remained but a small time in the crown, for the king in his 29th year granted them to Thomas Culpeper, to hold in capite by knight's service, but he did not possess them long, for it appears by the escheat-rolls, that they were again in the crown in the 34th year of that reign, for that year the king granted the rectory of Thurnham, with its appurtenances, among other premises, to Sir John Gage, comptroller of his household, to hold in like manner, and he alienated it to Sir Edward Wotton, who died in the 6th year of Edward VI. possessed of the manor and rectory of How-court and Canons-barns, and the advowson of the vicarage of Thurnham. From him they descended down in like manner as the manor of Thurnham above-described, till they came with it into the possession of John Gage, esq. of Combe, who sold the parsonage or rectory impropriate, with the manor and lands belonging to it, and all its appurtenances, to Sir Edward Dering, bart. whose son of the same name is now possessed of it, as has been already mentioned before, but the advowson of the vicarage, with the rectory of Aldington annexed, was sold by him in 1740 to Mr. Joseph Smallwell, of Maidstone, who in 1753 conveyed it to Mr. Henry Hodson, whose son the Rev. Henry Hodson, vicar of this parish, is now entitled to it.

/w Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 3. Ibid. anno 38 Hen. VIII. pt. 13. See Combwell in Goudhurst.

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In the 8th year of king Richard II. the church of Thurnham with Aldington was valued at 33l. 6s. 8d. In 1640 it was valued at forty pounds per annum. Communicants one hundred and fifty-seven. This vicarage is valued in the king's books at 8l. 0s. 10d. and the yearly tenths at 16s. 1d.

The vicarage of Thurnham, with the church of Aldington annexed to it, is endowed with all kind of vicarial tithe in the former, and all manner of tithes in the latter.

CHURCH OF THURNHAM, with the CHURCH OF ALDINGTON annexed.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Priory of Combwell. Thomas Reynolds, S. T. B. July 25, 1597, obt. 1600.

Benjamin Carrier, S. T. B. March 27, 1600, resigned 1613.

John Crompe, A. M. July 8, 1614, obt. 1641./x

William Sutton, Nov. 6, 1661, obt. Nov. 28, 1673./y

Henry Dering, A. M. 1673, ob. Dec. 26, 1720./z

Jonathan Soan, 1720, obt. Jan. 14, 1768./a

Henry Hodson, A. M. presented Feb. 10, 1768, the present vicar./b

/x He was of C. C. C. college, Cambridge, and wrote several religious tracts.

/y He lies buried in this church.

/z Ibid.

/a And master of the king's school, in Rochester. He was likewise vicar of Woodnesborough.

/b He is also rector of Sandhurst by dispensation, dated 1768.

HAVING NOW DESCRIBED the southern part of this hundred, lying below the chalk hills, I shall proceed to the remaining part of it, lying above or on the northern side of them, beginning with the parish of Otterden, which lies almost on the summit of them.

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OTTERDEN

LIES the next parish northward from Lenham, being written in the survey of Domesday, Otringedene, in antient deeds, Otteringden, and in later ones Ottringden, alias Otterden.

That part of this parish lying north-westward of the valley, which is between the church and Hall-place, which includes Otterden-place, that church, and the scite of the dilapidated church of Monketon, is in the division of West Kent; and the remaining or south-east part of it, including Hall-place, the scite of the dilapidated church of Boardfield, and the whole hamlet of it, is in that of East Kent.

THE PARISH of Otterden lies a little more than a mile from the summit of the chalk hills, and being greatly exposed to the north-east, is very bleak and cold. The hills in it are very frequent and steep; the land is in general very poor and barren, consisting of a loose red earth, mixed with such quantities of flints, that in the bottom of the valleys they entirely cover the surface of the ground, notwithstanding which, the most corn grows where they are thus numerous. The parish, especially in the north-east part, is greatly interspersed with coppice wood, which mostly consists of beech, intermixed at places with hazel and birch,

and some few ash and willow stubbs. The roads are very narrow, and from the frequency and steepness of the hills, and the quantities of loose flints in them, are very unpleasant and unsafe to travellers.

Nearly in the middle of the parish is Otterden-place, situated on an eminence, having a most extensive prospect towards the north-east, over the neighbouring country, and the channel beyond it. It is a very large pile of building, the more antient part of

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it being seemingly of king Henry the VIIIth.'s reign, though some of it has been lately taken down purposely to lessen the size of it; at not more than one hundred yards distance from it is the new church of Otterden, which, from its form, and having no steeple, looks more like some apartment belonging to the mansion than what it really is; about half a mile westward is the parsonage, a modern brick building.

It has a small village of a very few houses, called Otterden-street, the cottages in general standing single and dispersed over different parts of it, and are very meanly built; in short, poverty and health may be truly said to be the characteristic of these parts, as well as of those others, throughout this county, which lie on the northern side of this range of hills, near the summit of them, but extending in breadth only a few miles, in some more, in others less; to which district the whole of the above description may be said to be well adapted, almost in every particular.

THIS PLACE was part of the possessions given by William the Conqueror to his half-brother Odo, bishop of Baieux, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the survey of Domesday:

The same Adam, son of Hubert, holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Otringedene. It was taxed at half a suling. The arable land is two carucates. In demesne there is one, and two villeins, with four borderers, having half a carucate. There are two servants, and one acre of meadow. Wood for the pannage of five hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth ten shillings, now thirty shillings. To this manor belong two plats of ground in Canterbury, of twelve pence. Alward held this manor of king Edward.

About four years after the above survey, on the bishop's disgrace, all his estates were seized on by his brother, and this among them became confiscated to the crown,

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This manor afterwards came into the possession of a family which took their name from it. Ralph de Ottringden held it of William de Leyborne, as one knight's fee, in the reign of Henry III. His grandson Sir Laurence de Ottringden, died possessed of it in the beginning of king Edward II.'s reign, leaving an only daughter and heir, who carried this manor in marriage to Peyforer, from which name it passed into that of Potyn; one of which, Nicholas Potyn, was possessed of it in the reign of Richard II. and left an only daughter Juliana, who carried it in marriage to Thomas St. Leger, second son of Ralph St. Leger,

of Ulcomb, knight of the shire anno 51 Edward III. He afterwards resided at Otterden, where he kept his shrievalty anno 20 Richard II. and dying in the 10th year of Henry IV. was buried under a tomb erected for him in this church, near the high altar. His arms being, Fretty, on a chief, two mullets, impaling semee of fleurs de lis, were on his tomb; which last are said in the Aucher pedigree, to be those of Juliana Potyn his wife; but it must be here remarked, the similarity of this coat to that of Peyforer, which was, Six fleurs de lis, whose daughter and heir Philipott says she was.

He left one daughter and heir Joane, and his widow Juliana, surviving, who died possessed of this manor in the 5th year of Henry V. on which, Joan their daughter, then the wife of Henry Aucher, esq. of Losenham, in Newenden, entitled her husband to the possession of it. He was son of Henry, the eldest son of Nicholas Aucher, of Losenham, and married first Isabella At-Towne, of Throwleigh, by whom he had two sons, Thomas, of Losenham, and Robert, ancestor to the Auchers of Westwell. His second wife was Joan, daughter and heir of Thomas St. Leger, as above-mentioned, by whom he had an only son Henry, who succeeded to this manor of Otterden,

/c MSS. attested pedigree of Aucher and St. Leger.

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and resided here. This branch of the family of Aucher bore for their arms four coats quarterly; first, Aucher, ermine, on a chief, azure, three lions rampant, or; second, St. Leger, fretty, azure and argent, on a chief, or, two mullets, gules; third, Potyn, or Petevin, argent, semee of fleurs de lis, azure; fourth, Ottringden, ermine, a cross voided, gules. He died in 1502, and was buried in the north chapel of this church. His son, James Aucher, died in 1508, and lies buried at his father's feet. On his grave-stone was his effigies in brass, and at the upper corner of the stone, two shields of arms, one of the coat of Aucher; the other two coats, per fess, the upper one, Otterden; the lower one, St. Leger; at the lower part of the stone, in the centre, was the first of those shields impaling the second. His eldest son, Sir Anthony Aucher, married Affra, daughter of William Cornwallis, by whom he left three sons, John, who was of Otterden, Edward, who was of Bishopsbourne, whose descendants were baronets, and remained there till within these few years, and William, who was afterwards of Nonington.

John Aucher, esq. of Otterden-place, the eldest son, left an only daughter and heir Joan, who in the reign of queen Elizabeth marrying with Sir Humphry Gilbert, entitled him to this manor and seat. He bore for his arms, Argent, on a chevron, sable, three roses of the second, pierced, or. He passed them away in that reign to William Lewin, LL. D. descended from John Lewin, gent. of Hertfordshire. They bore for their arms, Lewin, party per pale, gules and azure, three stags heads, couped, or./d He afterwards resided here, and dying in 1598, was buried in the church of St. Leonard Shoreditch. He was a master in chancery, judge of the Prerogative-court of Canterbury, chancellor of Rochester, commissary of the faculties,

and dean of the peculiars, &c. He designed in his
/d Vistn. co. Kent, 1619. Pedigree Lewin.

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life-time to have been buried in Otterden church, and there is a superb monument erected in the north chancel of this church, a cenotaph, to his memory.

Sir Justinian Lewin, his eldest son, succeeded him in this manor, and resided here, where he died in 1620, and was buried in this church, where there is a costly monument erected to his memory. He left an only daughter and heir Elizabeth, who carried this estate in marriage to Richard Rogers, esq. of Brianston, in Somersetshire, who dying likewise without male issue, his daughter Elizabeth carried it in marriage, first to Charles Cavendish, lord Mansfield, eldest son and heir of William Cavendish, duke of Newcastle, who died s. p. by her; and secondly, to Charles Stuart, duke of Richmond and Lenox,^e who by fine and recovery in 1661, sold this manor and seat to George Curteis, esq. afterwards knighted.

Sir Geo. Curteis resided at Otterden-place, where he died in 1702, and was buried in the north chancel of this church, bearing for his arms, Argent, a chevron between three bulls heads, caboshed, sable. He left one son and heir George Curteis, esq. who succeeded his father in this estate, and died in 1710, leaving an only daughter Anne, who carried it in marriage to Thomas Wheler, esq. eldest son of Sir George Wheler, D. D. prebendary of the church of Durham, the son of colonel Charles Wheler, of Charing, the son of Thomas Wheler, esq. of Tottenham, in Middlesex, by Anne, daughter of Sir Nicholas Gilbourne, of Charing. Sir George Wheler had been a great traveller into several parts of Asia, of which he published an account, as well as several other learned treatises. He was a good benefactor to Wye school, under which a further account may be seen of him. They bore for their arms, Vert, on a fess, or, three lions rampant of the first. Mr. Wheler died in 1716, s. p. and she surviving him,

^e See more of the Stuarts, dukes of Richmond, under Cobham, vol. iii. of this history, p. 417.

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carried this estate again, within a few months afterwards, in marriage to Humphry Walcot, esq. of Worcestershire, who in 1725, in which she joined, passed it away by sale to Granville Wheler, esq. her first husband's next surviving brother, who afterwards resided at Otterden-place. He afterwards took holy orders, and became prebendary of Southwell, and rector of Lake, in Nottinghamshire. He was a gentleman who made early discoveries in the science of electricity, and was in other points of natural philosophy an ingenious and learned member of the Royal Society. Among other private, as well as public benefactions, he made an addition to that of his father, to Wye school, and was a good benefactor himself to this parish. He died at Otterden place in 1770, and was buried in the vault under the new church, which he had rebuilt, having been twice married; first, to Catherine, daughter of Theophilus Hastings, earl of

Huntingdon, and secondly, to Mary, daughter of John Dove, esq. by whom he had no issue, but by his former lady he had two sons and four daughters. Theophilus, the eldest son, died unmarried. Granville, the second, became his father's heir. Elizabeth-Anne, the eldest daughter, married Thomas Medhurst, esq. of Kippax, in Yorkshire; Frances died unmarried; Selina-Margaretta married the Rev. Mr. Wills; and Catherine-Maria married the Rev. Mr. Stewart Monteith, of Barrowby, in Lincolnshire. Granville Wheler, esq. the only surviving son, succeeded to this manor, with the seat of Otterden-place, where he for some time resided, but going abroad, he died at Dunkirk, in Flanders, in 1786, and being brought to England was buried in this church, leaving Sybilla-Christiana, his wife, second daughter of Robert Haswell, esq. of London, surviving, and by her, one son, Granville Hastings, an infant. She married secondly, the Rev. John Tattersall, chaplain in ordinary to his majesty, and he, with his wife, as tes-

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tamentary guardians of her son before-mentioned, are as such at present in the possession of this manor and estate.

BOARDFIELD, alias BORESFIELD, is a hamlet in the southern part of this parish, and esteemed to lie within the limits of the hundred of Faversham. It was once a parish of itself, having a church of its own. The manor of it was for many descents the property of that branch of the family of Cobham, which from their possession of Sterborough-castle, in Surry, were usually stiled of that place.

Reginald, son of John de Cobham, of Cobham, in this county, by his second wife, possessed this manor in the reigns of king Edward II. and III. in whose descendants of the same name it continued down to Reginald de Cobham, who died possessed of this manor in the 24th year of Henry VI. being succeeded in it by his eldest surviving son Sir Thomas Cobham, who died in the 11th year of Edward IV. leaving an only daughter and sole heir Anne, who carried it in marriage to Sir Edward Borough, of Gainsborough, in Lincolnshire, whose descendant, William, lord Burgh, in the 12th year of queen Elizabeth, alienated it to John Pakenham, who passed it away by sale within a few years afterwards to William Lewin, LL. D. after which this estate passed, in like manner as Otterden manor and place, in the same chain of ownership, down to Granville Wheler, esq. whose only son Granville Hastings Wheler, now an infant, is intitled to the inheritance of it, but it is now in like manner in the possession of his mother, and her second husband, the Rev. John Tattersal, as his testamentary guardians.

The church of Burdefield was antiently part of the possessions of the nunnery of Davington near Faversham.

/f See Chidingstone, vol. iii. of this history, p. 213.

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After the dissolution of that nunnery, and before many years had elapsed, this church most probably

fell to ruin, for even when Philipott wrote his Villare, in the reign of king Charles I. there was hardly one stone of it left upon another; however, the bounds of the church-yard are yet visible, which lies at the corner of a field, and being converted into tillage, the plough in its progress over it frequently turns up large stones, part of this antient dilapidated church. The land which surrounds the spot where the church stood, belongs to a farm called Waterditch, which belongs to the same owners as now possess the manor of West-Shelve, in Lenham.

It was formerly a rectory of itself, but is now esteemed as a chapel united to the parish church of Otterden, the patronage of which was in possession of the family of Lewin, and passed from them, in like manner as the manor of Boardfield and Otterden, to Granville Wheler, esq. who in 1778 alienated the advowson of the church of Otterden, with the chapels of Boardfield and Monkton annexed, to Edward Brydges, esq. of Wotton-court, who died in 1781, and his eldest son, the Rev. Edw. Timewell Brydges, rector of this parish, is the present possessor of it.

MONKETON is another hamlet, situated at the north-west extremity of this parish, which was formerly likewise accounted a parish of itself. The manor of it, which extends into the parish of Newnham, seems to have been given by Ralph Picot, to the abbeys of Faversham, at or soon after the foundation of it, and this gift was confirmed to it by Henry II. in his 11th year.

It has for many years had the same owners, as the manor of Sharsted, in Doddington, and passing in like manner from the family of Delaune, to that of Thornicroft, and from thence, since the death of Mrs. Anne Thornicroft in 1791, it came to her nephew,

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Alured Pinke, esq. now of Sharsted, the present possessor of it. A court baron is held for this manor.

FRID-FARM is an estate in this hamlet, being part of a considerable parcel of land here, in Newnham and in Easling, which was the property of Matthew, son of Hamon atte Frith, who in the reign of king Henry III. gave it, by the description of, all that land, with the mill standing on it, and all other its appurtenances, in Monkton, to the nunnery of Davinton, which gift was confirmed by king Henry III. in his 39th year.

After this nunnery had escheated to the crown in the 27th year of Henry VIII. the king granted the scite of it and this estate, among the other possessions of it, in his 35th year, to Sir Thomas Cheney, to hold in capite by knight's service, who in the 1st year of queen Elizabeth died possessed of this estate at Monkton, then known by the name of Fryde-farm, corruptly, no doubt, for Fryth's farm, being so named from the antient owner of it, above-mentioned, and was succeeded in it by his only son Henry, created lord Cheney, who in the 3d year of that reign, having levied a fine of all his lands, soon afterwards alienated this estate to Godden, from which name it was, not long afterwards, passed away to George Chute, or Choute, esq. of Bethersden, whose descendant, Edw.

Chute, esq. of that place, who died in the reign of Charles II. leaving Elizabeth his daughter, and at length sole heir, she entitled her husband Sir James Oxenden, knight and baronet, to the possession of it. In which name and family this estate has continued down to Sir Henry Oxenden, bart. of Broome, in Barham, who is the present possessor of it./h

The church of Monketon has been long dilapidated, though the exact ground plot of it is still visible, hav=

/g See more of the Cheney's under Eastchurch in Shepey.

/h See more of this family under Wingham and Barham.

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ing two very large yew-trees near it. It is situated in a wood of about half an acre.

The rectory of this church belonged to the nunnery of Davington, and after the escheating of it to the crown, was granted, in the 35th year of Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Cheney, together with Fryde-farm, as before-mentioned, to hold in like manner. His son Henry, lord Cheney, sold it to Godden, who alienated the advowson of this rectory, then esteemed as a cha= pel to the church of Otterden, with some estate like= wise in Monketon, to William Lewin, LL. D. after which it passed, in like manner as Otterden manor and place, in the same chain of ownership, to Granville Wheler, esq. who alienated the advowson of the church of Otterden, with this chapel, and Monketon annexed, to Edward Brydges, esq. of Wotton, whose eldest son, the Rev. Edward Timewell Brydges, rector of this parish, is the present owner of it.

HALL-PLACE is a seat situated in the south-east part of this parish, which was formerly esteemed a manor, though it has for many years lost the repu= tation of ever having been one.

At the time it had tenants and services belonging to it, this manor was the property of Roger Rey, as appears by an antient roll without date, in which mention is made of one Thomas Franklyn, who held some lands of this manor by the yearly rent and ser= vice of one red rose.

In the reign of Henry VII. this estate of Hall- place, then no longer reputed a manor, was the pro= perty of Cock, and in the 19th year of it, Eugenius Cock sold it to John Bunce, gent. of this parish, the son of Edward Bunce, who left his residence at Mal= mesbury, and came first into this county. They bore for their arms, Azure, on a fess, argent, three eagles displayed of the first, between three bears of the second./i

/i Vistn. co. Kent, 1619. Pedigree Bunce.

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His only son James Bunce was of Otterden, where he died in 1606, and was buried in the south chancel of this church, usually called Bunce's chancel, from their burials in it. He left several sons and daughters, of whom Simon, the eldest son, became his heir; James was of London, and ancestor of the Bunces of Otterden and of Kemsing; and Stephen resided at Boughton Malherb, and dying in 1634, was buried at Throwley, to the Bunces of which place he was an= cestor. Simon, his eldest son and heir, died possessed

of this seat in 1611, and was buried in the chancel above-mentioned, leaving Anne, his only daughter and heir, married to William Brockman, son and heir of Henry Brockman, esq., of Newington, near Hythe.

Soon after which, this seat was alienated to Mr. Paine, who was steward to Charles, lord Mansfield, and afterwards to Charles, duke of Richmond, owners of Otterden manor, the latter of whom made a considerable addition to this seat at his own expence, building a large and costly room to it, as a gift to the owner of it.

In his descendants resident at this seat, who all lie buried in this church, and bore for their arms, A fess, between three leopards heads, it continued down to Charles Paine, esq. who resided at it likewise, and died unmarried in 1741. Having no relations to inherit his estates, he devised this seat, among the rest of them, by his last will, to Christopher Creswell, a youth at that time in his family, and afterwards an officer in the army, who took on him the name of Paine, and died possessed of it, and unmarried, in 1764, and by his will devised this seat among his relations, and they not long afterwards, joined in the sale of it to the Rev. James Stephen Lushington, who resided here for some years, and then alienated it to the Rev. Wanley Sawbridge, second son of John Sawbridge, esq. of Ollantigh, who died possessed of it in 1796,

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unmarried, and dying intestate, it descended to his nephews, Samuel-Elias and Wanley Sawbridge, esqrs. who are the present possessors of it.

HERST is a manor in the west part of this parish, which in the reign of Richard II. was possessed by Richard at Lose, who by his will in the 18th year of that reign, directed it to be sold, which it most probably was, to one of the family of Filmer, who seem to have been resident here soon afterwards, for by an old court-roll of the adjoining manor of Monketon, which by its look seemed to be of that time, though the date of it was not legible, there was mention made of one Robert Filmour, for so the name was then spelt, who was then possessed of land in this parish, held of that manor, and there are at this time several of this name residing in this parish and its neighbourhood, who though now classed among the yeomen-freeholders, are probably descended from those of this name, seated at Herst, as above-mentioned.

The Filmers continued resident at Herst till Robert Filmer, esq. one of the prothonotaries of the common pleas, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, having purchased an estate in East Sutton, by Maidstone, removed thither; but it continued the property of his descendants till Sir Robert Filmer, bart. at the latter end of the reign of king Charles II. parted with it to the Rev. John Rumney, vicar of Sutton Valence, whose widow Amy sold it, in 1702, to Mr. Henry Knowles, whose son Mr. Richard Knowles, in 1763, conveyed it by sale to the Rev. Granville Wheler, esq. of Otterden-place, who with his eldest son, Granville Wheler, esq. next year conveyed it to the

Rev. John Lowther, rector of this parish, for the use of him and his successors, rectors of the parish of Otterden, for ever. This estate consists of about one hundred and sixty-eight acres of land, and was sold for 1100*l.* of which 1000*l.* was the benefaction of

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lady Elizabeth Hastings, and the remaining part of the Rev. Granville Wheler, esq. before-mentioned.

There has been, till almost within memory, a court baron held for this manor, though it has been disused for some years past.

BUNCES-COURT, alias POLLARDS, is a seat in this parish, which stands near a mile southward from Otterden-place. It was formerly the property of the family of Bunce, who resided at it for some years, whence it acquired the name of Bunces-court. They had likewise before been possessed of Hall-place, in this parish, in the description of which, an account of them has already been given, down to Simon Bunce, the eldest son of James Bunce, gent. of Otterden, who seems to have devised this seat to his second son James Bunce, who was a merchant of London, which city he represented in parliament. He died possessed of it in 1631, having by his will been a good benefactor to this parish. He was succeeded in this estate by his eldest son James Bunce, esq. sheriff of London anno 19 Charles I. and afterwards an alderman of that city, who being a zealous loyalist, endured much persecution, and was imprisoned in the tower, and his estates declared forfeited for high treason.

After the restoration of king Charles II. he was restored to his place of alderman, and to his estates, and received the honor of knighthood; and as a further consideration of his sufferings for the royal family, he had a warrant for a baronet's patent, which neither he, nor any of his descendants, ever took out. He left by Sarah his wife, daughter of Tho. Gipps, esq. two sons, Sir James Bunce, knt. who succeeded to his father's possessions at Kemsing, in this county, where his descendants still remain; and John, who became by his father's will possessed of this seat of Bunces-court, where he resided from time to time, but afterwards removing to East Greenwich, he alienated this seat to Mr. Roger Paine, of Hall-place, in this parish,

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who in the beginning of the present century alienated it to Knocke, in which name it continued till Mr. Richard Knocke, about the year 1756, passed it away by sale to Edward Chapman, esq. who made great additions to it, and afterwards resided here. He sold it to Stringer Belcher, esq. eldest son of Edward Belcher, esq. of Ulcomb, who dying a few years ago unmarried, it came to his brother Mr. William Belcher, of Ulcomb, the present owner of it.

THE PRIORY of Rochester was possessed of lands in this parish, called Prior and Goodman's lands, which at the dissolution of it in the reign of Henry VIII. came into the king's hands, and were granted by him in his 33d year, among other premises, to his new-founded dean and chapter of Rochester, who are still entitled to them, the present lessee of them being the

heirs of the late Granville Wheler, esq. of Otterden-place, deceased.

CHARITIES.

MR. JAMES BUNCE, gent. citizen and leatherseller of London, son of James Bunce, esq. of this parish, devised by his will in 1630, to the Leathersellers Company, of which he was a member, 350l. in trust, that they should pay 20s. yearly to the poor of this parish, 8l. per annum to the minister of it, for preaching three sermons yearly, one on the day of the deliverance in 1588; one on the 5th day of November, and a third on the 17th of that month, and for catechising the children of this parish, twenty Sundays in each year, and for paying 10l. every tenth year, to the repair of the Bunce's chapel in this church, where his ancestors lay interred, and the repair of the body of the church; and if the same was not demanded of them, then the whole produce of it to go to the support of the poor of the Leathersellers Company.

ROGER PAINE, ESQ by his will in 1701, gave the sum of 20l. to the rector, churchwardens, and overseers of this parish, in trust, for the interest of it to be applied to the relief of such poor housekeepers of it, as most regularly attended divine service, &c. Charles Paine, esq. his son and executor, with this money purchased of Henry Farley the elder, about four acres of land, called Wye-banks, and conveyed them to the rector and parish officers, and their successors for ever, in trust, for the uses above-mentioned.

The poor constantly relieved are about fourteen, casually 30.

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OTTERDEN is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Ospringe.

The antient church was dedicated to St. Laurence, and consisted of two small isles and a chancel, without a steeple, and stood about fifty yards eastward from the corner of Otterden-place; this building being greatly decayed and ruinous, lady Elizabeth Hastings, sister of George, earl of Huntingdon, at the instance of the Rev. Granville Wheler, patron of it, who had married her half-sister lady Catherine, among other acts of charity, devised by her will four hundred pounds towards the rebuilding of it. She died in 1739, and this sum, with the interest of it, before any thing was undertaken for that purpose, amounted to near five hundred pounds, when Mr. Wheler undertook the building of an entire new church here, which was begun in 1753, and completed in about a twelve-month's time, at the expence of five hundred pounds more out of his own purse, which he liberally gave towards it.

The new church, which is a neat elegant building of brick, ornamented with stone rustic quoins, window-cases, &c. is built, great part of it, on the foundations of the old church, which stood about twenty feet more towards the east, the grave-stones over the two rectors being then within the altar-rails. There was no steeple to the former church, nor is there any to the new one, which, with the modern elegance of the building, takes away all appearance of its being a church, on the outside view of it.

The monuments of the Lewins and Curteis's are preserved in a small recess on the north side of the

church, and have been well repaired and beautified, as has been the monument of Mr. Simon Bunce, and his wife, against the south wall of it. There are many of this family buried in this church, the last of whom

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were, Mr. Thomas Bunce, from Maidstone, in 1706, and Mrs. Anne Bunce, from Throwley, in 1737; but the grave-stones of this family are now covered by the pews of this new church, which are, nevertheless, fastened only with screws, in order to their being removed when occasion requires. There are several of the Paines, of Hall-place, likewise buried in this church. Underneath the church is a vault for the use of the Wheler family.

The rector was bound to repair the chancel of the old church.

The patronage of the church of Otterden was ever esteemed as an appendage to the manor, and continued so till Granville Wheler, esq. of Otterden-place, in 1778, conveyed it to Edward Brydges, esq. of Wotton-court, whose eldest son, the Rev. Edward Timewell Brydges, rector of this parish, is the present possessor of it.

It is a rectory, valued in the king's books at 6l. 14s. 2d. and is of the yearly certified value of 62l. 17s. 10d. the yearly tenths being 13s. 5d./k

In 1640 it was valued at eighty pounds. Communicants sixty-two.

The rector of Otterden is entitled to the great and small tithes of this parish, including those of the hamlets of Boardfield and Monketon, now within the bounds of it, the dilapidated churches of which, with their appurtenances, are now annexed as chapels to this rectory.

The scite of those churches, and about three acres of glebe land to each, are now held by the rector, as part of the appurtenances of this rectory.

/k Bacon's Lib. Regis.

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CHURCH OF OTTERDEN.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

The crown. William Slayter, D. D. Nov. 12, 1625, obt. February 14, 1646./l

George Curteis, esq. Joseph Heathfield, presented in 1668.

S. Pearse, in 1670, resigned 1682.

Thomas Robins, 1682.

The crown. John Symonds, A. M. 1701, ob. Feb. 21, 1747./m

Rev. Granville Wheler. Deodatus Bye, B. A. April 1748, resig. 1748.

John Lowther, November 1748, obt. Oct. 14, 1779./n

Edw. Timewell Brydges, A. M. instit. March 30, 1780, the present rector./o

/l Rym. Fœd. vol. xviii. p. 647.
and in 1625 a dispensation passed for
his holding the rectory of Newchurch
with this of Otterden. He was trea=
surer of the cathedral church of St.
David, and was buried in this church.
Wood's Ath. vol. ii. p. 111.

/m He was buried in this church,
having been likewise 53 years vicar of
Stalisfield.

/n He was a good benefactor to this
rectory.

/o Patron of this rectory, and patron
and rector of Wotton.

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WICHLING

IS the next parish north-westward from Otterden.
It is called in the book of Domesday, Winchelesmere;
in antient deeds, Winchelinges; and in later ones,
Wynchelyng and Wichling.

THIS PARISH is the whole of it situated in the di=
vision of West Kent, is much like that of Otterden last
described. It lies upon the hill, close on the east side
of the valley, through which the road leads from Os=
pringe through Doddington to Hollingborne-hill and
Maidstone. The lands init are very barren, and

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abound with flints, and on the western side they are
mostly chalk, and much covered with coppice wood.
It is a lonely unfrequented place, of but little or no
thoroughfare, and what village there is, stands round
a green near the church, at a small distance from
which is the parsonage.

THIS PARISH was part of those estates, given by
William the Conqueror to his half-brother Odo, bishop
of Baieux, under the general title of whose lands it is
described in the survey of Domesday as follows:

Hugo, the grandson of Herbert, holds of the bishop (of
Baieux) Winchelesmere. It was taxed at half a suling.
The arable land is one carucate, and there is in demesne
. . . . with three servants, and a church, and wood for
the pannage of five hogs, and in the time of king Edward
the Confessor, there were three houses in Canterbury be=
longing to this manor, paying forty pence. The whole
in the time of king Edward the Confessor, was worth
one hundred shillings, and afterwards, and now, forty
shillings.

Uluiet held it of king Edward, and could go whither
he pleased.

About four years after taking the above survey,
the bishop was disgraced, and the king his brother
seized on all his estates. After which, this manor
came into the possession of Jeffry de Peverel, to
whom it was assigned for his assistance in the defence
of Dover-castle, and with other lands made up the
barony of Peverel, as it was called, being held of that
castle in capite by barony.

In the reign of Henry III. it was in the tenure of
John de Mares, /p and after him of Fulk de Peyforer,

in the same reign, whose descendant William Peyforer, in the 20th year of Edward III. held it of the king in capite, as three parts of a knight's fee, at Wichling, held of the honor of Peverel, and by ward

/p Register of St. Augustine's monastery, cart. 441.

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to the castle of Dover. He alienated this manor soon afterwards to Roger Northwood, who died possessed of it in the 35th year of that reign, holding it by the service before-mentioned. In his descendants it continued down to John Northwood, esq. who died possessed of it anno 4 Henry V. leaving his two sisters his coheirs, who entitled their husbands, John Barley, esq. of Hertfordshire, and Sir John Norton, of this county, to their respective shares in it.

After which, the dean and canons of the college or free chapel of St. Stephen, in Westminster, seem to have become entitled to this manor, which, in the reign of king Henry VII. was in the tenure of John Dygges, esq. of Barham, who died possessed of it in the 19th year of that reign, holding it, as was found by the inquisition taken after his death, of the above-mentioned dean and canons, by homage and fealty, and the service of three parts of one knight's fee, and the yearly payment to the king's castle of Dover, as before-mentioned.

The dean and canons continued the proprietors of this manor till the dissolution of their college, which happened in the 1st year of king Edward VI. in consequence of the act for the suppression of all free-chapels, colleges, chantries, &c. by which they, as well as all their lands, revenues, &c. were surrendered up into the king's hands.

The year after which, this manor was surveyed by order of the king's court of augmentation, when it was returned, that it belonged to the late college of St. Stephen, and was of the yearly value of 6l. 6s. 8d. and that there was payable yearly out of it six-pence, to the sheriff twenty-five shillings for blanch-rent, and 1 1/2d. for castle-guard rent to Dover-castle.

King Edward VI. in his 3d year, granted this manor, with all its liberties and privileges, among others

/q Rot. Esch. an. 3 Edw. VI. pt. 3. Coke's Entries, p. 106.

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late belonging to the above-mentioned college, to Sir Thomas Cheney, with all its liberties and privileges, knight of the garter, lord warden, &c. whose son Henry, lord Cheney, about the middle of queen Elizabeth's reign, alienated this manor to Edward Filmer, esq. afterwards knighted by that queen, who was of East Sutton, in this county. His great-grandson Robert Filmer, esq. of East Sutton, was created a baronet in 1674, from whom this manor has descended down to Sir Beversham Filmer, bart. of East Sutton, the present possessor of it.

There are no charities belonging to this parish. The poor constantly relieved are about four, and usually ten.

WICHLING is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of

Sittingborne.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Margaret, consists of one small isle and a chancel, having a low pointed steeple at the west end of it. In it there is a memorial for Robard Filmar, of Wichelin, next brother to Sir Edward Filmer, the purchaser of this manor, who died in 1615; and one likewise for Annys, widow of Raynold Filmar, (fourth son of Sir Edward above-mentioned) who died in 1616. This church seems formerly to have been an appendage to the manor of Wichling; however that be, the family of Northwood possessed the advowson of it at the different periods of time in which they held the manor; and John Northwood died possessed of both anno 4 Henry V. s. p. leaving his two sisters his coheirs, who entitled their husbands, John Barley, esq. and Sir J. Norton to their respective inrerests in them.

After which, this advowson seems to have passed from them through the like chain of owners as the manor of Harrietsham, lately described, did, to William Stede, esq. of Harrietsham, and from him to William Stede, LL. D. who in the year 1656 sold it

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to Thomas Conway, whose descendant Michael Wilkins Conway, in 1763, alienated it to Unwin, and he has since, for two hundred and fifty pounds conveyed it by sale to Springhall, the present owner of it.

This rectory is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of twenty-four pounds, the yearly tenths being 8s. 2d.

In 1640 it was valued at fifty-five pounds. Communicants thirty-six.

In Tanner's Monast. p. 208, mention is made of pat. 18 Edward III. p. 1. m. 10. pro Capella de Wicheling, among the possessions of Minster nunnery in Shepey.

CHURCH OF WICHLING.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

James Partrich. Thomas Partrich, June 3, 1585,
obt. 1605.

Stede, family of, William Wilcocke, A. B. Sept.
27, 1605, obt. 1628./r

William Culpeper, February 8,
1628./s

The Crown, hac vice. Michael Hudson, A. M. April
22, 1653./t

William Stede, LL. D. Thomas Conway, A. M. Nov. 1,
1661.

The Crown, hac vice. Thomas Conway, jun. A. B. Dec.
6, 1690, obt. 1711.

Mary Conway. Thomas Nicholson, A. M. Nov.
21, 1711, obt. 1763.

Edward Baker. Arthur Clarke, A. B. Feb. 21,
1763, resigned 1767.

Mr. Richard Springhall. William Dormer, A. B. June 2,
1767, obt. Jan. 12, 1788.

William Wrighte, 1789, the
present rector.

/r He lies buried in this church.

/s Walk. Suff. Clergy, pt. ii. p. 220.

/t Rym. Fœd. vol. xix. p. 539.

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FRINSTED

LIES the next parish north westward from Wichling. It is written in Domesday, Fredenestede; in ancient deeds, Freyhanestede; and in later ones, most usually, Frensted, alias Wrensted.

That part of this parish northward of the church is in the division of East Kent, but the church itself, and the remaining part of it is in that of West Kent.

THE PARISH extends on both sides of the valley, called Syndall, or Newnham-bottom, through which the high road leads from Ospringe, through Doddington and Newnham, to Hollingborne hill, on each side of which the hills rise very steep, the summits of them being in general covered with wood grounds. On the east side of this valley, on the hill close to the woods, is Rinsted-court; and on the hill on the west, Yokes court, and Madams-court; and still further westward, the village and church. The soil of it is poor, and covered with flints, much like that of Wichling, before described; but the rising hills on each side of the valley are mostly chalk.

There is a district in this parish, consisting of about fifty acres of land, called Minis-hill, over which the manor of Whornes-place, near Rochester, claims jurisdiction.

This parish was part of those possessions which William the Conqueror gave his half-brother Odo, bishop of Baieux, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the book of Domesday, taken about the year 1080:

Hugh, the grandson of Herbert, and Adelold the chamberlain, holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Fredenestede. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is three carucates. In demesne Three villeins having seven

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oxen. There is a church, and two acres of meadow and an half, and wood for the pannage of two hogs. It is, and was worth, separately, twenty shillings. Leuvin held it of king Edward.

About four years after taking the above survey, the bishop was disgraced, and the king his brother seized on this estate, among the rest of his possessions, which were all confiscated to the crown. After which, this manor came into the possession of Jeffry de Peverel, and with other lands, made up the barony of Peverel, as it was then called, being assigned to him for the defence of Dover-castle, of which it was held by him in capite by barony.

Nicholas de Gerund afterwards held this manor, with the advowson of the church, of which he died possessed in the 52d year of Henry III. holding it of the king in capite, as one knight's fee. After which, the family of Crombwell became possessed of it; one of whom, Richard de Crombwell, was owner of it in the 8th year of Edward II. being younger brother of Sir John

de Crombwell, knight-banneret. Ralph de Crombwell, his successor, next year, obtained a charter of free warren for his lands in this parish, and at his seat here, since called Meriam-court, and now commonly, Madams-court.

In the next reign of king Edward III. this estate was again come into the possession of the family of Gerund, in which, however, it did not remain long, for Richard le Gerund leaving an only daughter and heir Maud, she carried this manor and seat in marriage to Sir Henry de Chalfhunt, who in the 20th year of that reign, paid aid for the manor of Wrensted, alias Frensted, with its appurtenances, holding it by the like service, as did his descendant Henry de Chalfhunt, at his death, in the 9th year of Richard II. when it was found, that John Bedeford, Roger Tournour, Sibill Jarconville, and Agnes, daughter of Walter at Style, were his heirs and next of kin; at which time it was

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likewise found, that this manor was held of the manor of Ospringe.

Soon after which, this manor, with the mansion-house, called Wrensted, and now most usually Rinsted-court, with Meriam, or Madams-court, and the advowson of the church of Wrensted, was conveyed by sale to Robert le Hadde, who was resident here in the reign of Henry IV. being descended from ancestors who had been resident at Chart Sutton, in this county, for many generations, Rob. Hadde being of that parish in the reign of Henry III. In his descendants this estate continued down to Henry Hadde, esq. of Frinsted, who died possessed of this manor, with the advowson of the church, and the other estates above-mentioned, in the 23d year of queen Elizabeth, leaving two sons, Arnold and Matthew, who was counsellor-at-law, of Lincoln's-inn, of which he was rector, the former of whom succeeded him here, and two years afterwards, anno 25 Elizabeth, alienated this manor, with its appurtenances, together with the rest of his estates in this parish, to Edward and George Hills. Arnold Hadde, esq. after the sale of this estate, resided in St. Alphage parish, in Canterbury, as his descendants did for several generations afterwards, till the end of the last century, and several of them lie buried in that church. They bore for their arms, Gules, three bucks heads caboshed, or, horned argent, between the horns of each a cross patee fitchee, argent./u

Edward and George Hills joined in the sale of the manor of Frinsted, with Rinsted, alias Wrensted-court, and the lands belonging to it, to Edward Jackman, esq. of Hornchurch, in Essex, and he, in the 5th year of James I. passed it away to Oliver Style, esq. of Watringbury, who died in 1622. Upon the death of whose descendant, Sir Thomas Style, bart. who died in

/u See Vistn. co. Kent, anno 1574 and 1619, and Register of St. Alphage's parish, in Canterbury.

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1702, an agreement was entered into by his heirs for a partition of his estates among them, which was confirmed by an act, passed anno 2 and 3 of queen Anne.

In this partition, the manor of Frinsted, with Rinsted-court, was allotted to Margaret, his only daughter by his second wife, who in 1716 sold it to Mr. Abraham Tilghman, descended from those of Snodland. He was a commissioner of the navy, and of the victualling-office, and dying in 1729, was buried in the south isle of this church, where there is a monument erected to his memory. He bore for his arms, Per fess, sable, and argent, a lion rampant, counterchanged, crowned, or. He was succeeded here by his son Abraham Tilghman, esq. who resided here till his death in 1779. He left by Olivia his wife, one of the two daughters and coheirs of Charles Finch, esq. of Chatham, one daughter Elizabeth, who married the Rev. Pierrepont Crompe, of Newnham, in Gloucestershire, son and heir of Thomas Cromp, esq. of Newnham, in that county, by Rebecca, the other daughter and coheir of Charles Finch, esq. He bore for his arms, Or, a chevron, voided gules, on a chief of the second, three escallops of the first. He afterwards resided here, and died in 1797, leaving his widow surviving, who now resides here, and one son Robert-Thomas, and a daughter, Henrietta-Maria, the former of whom is now entitled to the fee of this estate.

MADAMS-COURT, formerly called Meriams-court, as has been already mentioned, passed from Arnold Hadde in the 25th year of queen Elizabeth, with the rest of his estates in this parish, to Edward and George Hills, and they joined in the sale of Meriam, or Madams-court, to Archer, from which name it passed, in the reign of Charles I. to Thatcher, by a female heir of which family it passed in marriage to Batcheler, some of whose descendants lie buried in this church, one of whom, Mr. William Batcheler, at length alienated it to James Chapman, gent. of Milton, whose son Ed-

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ward Chapman, esq. of Otterden, died in 1765, leaving by his wife, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Dennis, of Leyborne, one son, James Chapman, esq. now of Faversham, who is the present owner of it.

YOKES-COURT is a manor in this parish, which in the reign of Henry III. was part of the possessions of Fulk de Peyforer, whose descendant William de Peyforer, in the 20th year of Edward III. paid aid for it as half a knight's fee, which he then held at le Yoke, in this parish, of the honor of Ledes.

He soon afterwards alienated this manor to Roger Northwood, who died in the 35th year of that reign possessed of this manor of Yoke, held of the king in capite, by the service of making his suit at the gate of the castle of Leeds, from month to month, in lieu of all other service whatsoever. His descendant, John Northwood, esq. died possessed of it anno 4 Henry V. leaving his two sisters his coheirs, who entitled their husbands, John Barley, esq. of Hertfordshire, and Sir John Norton, of this county, to their respective shares of their brother's estates.

From one of them this manor was alienated to John Dyggs, esq. of Barham, whose descendant James Dyggs, esq. of Barham, died in the 27th year of Henry VIII. then holding this manor in capite by knight's service. He left two sons, John, who was of Barham, and Leo-

nard, whose descendants were of Chilham-castle. His son John Dyggs, the eldest, succeeded him in this manor, and died in his life-time, leaving a son William, whose son Christopher Diggs, esq. of Barham, having levied fines of all his lands anno 15 and 17 Elizabeth, quickly afterwards alienated this manor to Archer, from which name, in the reign of Charles I. it passed by sale to Thatcher, of which name there were inhabitants of the adjoining parish of Wormsell, as appears by the parish register there, as early as king Henry the VIIIth's reign. These of Frinsted bore for their arms, Gules, a cross moline, argent, on a chief, or,

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three grasshoppers proper. In the name of Thatcher this manor continued, till by a female heir Mary, daughter of Thomas Thatcher, it went in marriage to Mr. Henry Bing, of Wickhambreux, on whose death, his son Mr. John Bing, became possessed of it. He died in 1766, and was buried in the north chancel of this church, leaving one son Henry, and two daughters; Mr. Henry Bing, the son, succeeded his father in the possession of this manor, of which he is the present owner. A court baron is held for it.

CHARITIES.

JOHN WIATT, of Milsted, by will in 1722, gave the moiety of several pieces of land in Milsted, Frinsted, and Wormsell, containing about twenty acres, for sending four poor children yearly to school, to learn to read, vested in the minister and churchwardens, and of the annual value of 2l. 4s.

The number of poor constantly relieved are about sixteen; casually twelve.

FRINSTED is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Dunstan, is situated westward from the village, but in the northern part of the parish; it consists of two isles and two chancels, the northern one belonging to the estate of Yokes-court, in it are several memorials for the Thatchers and the Bings. In the south isle is a monument for Abraham Tilghman, esq. who died in 1729. Against the north wall in this chancel, in a recess, is an antient tomb, with an engrailed arch over it. It has a square beacon tower at the west end of it, in which hang four bells. In the church yard is an altar tomb; under it, in a vault, lie buried A. Tilghman, esq. who died in 1779, and Olivia his wife; and the Rev. Mr. Crompe, and Henrietta-Maria, his daughter.

This church was formerly appendant to the manor of Frinsted, as has already been mentioned, and seems to have passed with it from Arnold Hadde, esq. toge-

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ther with the rest of his estates in this parish, to Edward and George Hills, who alienated the manor of Frinsted, with Rinsted-court, to Edward Jackman, esq. and Meriam-court, or Madams-court, as it is now called, together with the advowson of the rectory of Frinsted, to Archer, from which name it passed with it, to Thatcher, in whose descendants it continued till

Mary, daughter of Thomas Thatcher, carried it in marriage to Mr. Henry Bing, whose descendant, Mr. Henry Bing, gent. of this parish, is the present possessor of it.

In Strype's Stow's Survey, it is said, that in the reign of Edward III. the church of Frethensted, in the diocese of Canterbury, belonged to St. Catherine's hospital, near the Tower; and Tanner in his Monasticon, says, in patent 3 Edward III. p. 2, m. 2, is a licence for appropriating that church to the above-mentioned hospital, which cannot be reconciled to the records above-quoted, in which the advowson of the church of Frinsted is found to have been vested in the several owners of the manor of Frinsted.

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 9l. 11s. 8d. and the yearly tenths at 19s. 2d. and is of the yearly certified value of 71l. 7s. 4d.

In 1640 it was valued at sixty pounds. Communicants fifty.

CHURCH OF FRINSTED.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Henry Hadde, gent. Ralph Brockhull, May 14, 1580,
obt. 1623.

James Cripps, of Northfleet, gent. Henry Lambe, July 5, 1623
Bridges Lambe, for this turn. Richard Dawlinge, April 29,
1645.

Joseph Slaughter, obt. 1661.

Simon Hoppen, gent. Isaac Atkinson, Jan. 28, 1661,
resigned 1674.

Sybill Nightingale, widow. William Payne, A. M. January
26, 1674.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

Sybill Nightingale, widow. William Batcheler, obt. 1747./w

Richard Tylden, esq. Thomas Baker, A. B. April 1,
1748, obt. Jan. 1779./x

Henry Byng, gent. Edward Smith, A. M. Nov.
1779, resigned 1787./y

Richard Cook Tylden, A. M.
1787, the present rector./y

/w Also rector of Milsted.

/x He had a second presentation and induction to it on March 6, 1764, on his induction to the vicarage of Detling. He lies buried in Frinsted church.

/y A dispensation passed in 1779 for his holding Milsted with this rectory.

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WORMSELL.

WESTWARD from Frinsted, near the summit of the chalk hills, lies Wormsell, now vulgarly called, and as frequently written, Wormshill.

THAT PART of it northward of the church, including the borough of Bedmanton, is in the division of East Kent, but the rest of it, including the church and village, is in that of West Kent, to which division there=

fore this parish is esteemed to belong.

The parish is situated mostly on high ground, about three miles northward from the summit of the chalk hills, the high road through Newnham or Syndall-bottom towards Hollingborne, running along the southern part of it. It is parish so obscurely situated, and of so little thoroughfare, as hardly to be known. Being exposed to the northern aspect, it lies very bleak and cold. The church stands rather in the eastern part of it, having the village, consisting of a few scattered houses, at a small distance from it; about a mile north-westward is the hamlet of Bedmanton. The hills here are continual, and very sharp, the soil much the same, as in the adjoining parishes in the like high situation before-described, only the flints, if possible, lie thicker on the ground; the land is poor, and in general let at

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between five and six shillings an acre; at the northern boundary of the parish there is a considerable quantity of wood, consisting mostly of hazel and oak, with numbers of trees of the latter, interspersed among them, which are but small, never here growing to any size. In Henry the III.'s reign there was a family resident here, who took their surname from this parish.

Thomas Pepyr, of this parish, in his will anno 1460, mentions his chief place, called Rychemonds, with other lands here, which he gave to Julian his wife, and afterwards to Richard Pepyr, his son.

THIS MANOR was antiently esteemed as an appendage to the manor of Boughton Malherb, which was held of the manor of Ospring, and they had both, for a length of time, the same owners.

In the reign of Henry III. Robert de Gatton was possessed of the manors of Bocton and Wormesell, whose grandson Hamo de Gatton dying without issue male, Elizabeth, his daughter and coheir, carried both these manors, with their appurtenances, in marriage to William de Dene, who in the 10th year of Edward II obtained a charter of free-warren for his several manors in this county. Margery, the other daughter of Hamo de Gatton, married Simon de Norwood, and had all her father's lands in Surry. In one of the windows of the north chancel of this church are painted the arms of Simon de Norwood, Ermine, a cross engrailed, gules, charged with a bendlet, azure, impaling chequy, argent and azure. William de Dene died in the 15th year of Edward III. holding these manors with their appurtenances, of the king in capite, as of his castle of Dover, and paying to the ward of it. Thomas de Dene, his son and heir, succeeded him in both of them, and in the 20th year of Edward III. paid aid for them, at the making the black prince a knight, as one knight's fee in Bocton and Wormsell, which Hamo de Gatton before held of the king. He died possessed of them in the 23d year of it.

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The heirs of his son Thomas de Dene alienated these manors, with their appurtenance, to Robert Corbie, whose son and heir Robert Corbie, of Boughton Malherb, leaving an only daughter and heir Joan, she carried them in marriage to Sir Nicholas Wotton, twice

lord-mayor of London. His son Nicholas Wotton, esq. alienated this manor, together with the advowson of the church of Wormesell, to Thomas St. Nicholas, of Thorne, in Thanet, whose son and heir Roger St. Nicholas left an only daughter Elizabeth, who carried this estate in marriage to John Dingley, alias Dyneley, whose descendant Francis Dingley, esq. of Charlton, in Worcestershire, passed it away, at the latter end of the reign of queen Elizabeth, to William Sedley, esq. of the Friars, in Aylesford, created a baronet in 1611, in which name and family it continued down to Sir Charles Sedley, of St. Giles's in the Fields, London, great-grandson of Richard Sedley, younger brother of Sir Wm. Sedley, bart. of Aylesford, before-mentioned. He was created a baronet in 1702, and afterwards resided at the antient family seat of Scadbury, in Southfleet. He alienated this manor, with the advowson of the church, about the year 1712, to the president and governors of Christ's hospital, in London, for the benefit of that charity, part of the revenues of which it remains at this time. It still pays a castle-guard rent to Dover-castle. A court baron is still held for this manor.

BEDMANTION is a borough in this parish, which includes within its bounds the manor of that name, which has ever been esteemed as an appendage to the manor of Bobbing, with which it has been many years in the possession of the family of Tyndale, of North Cerney, in Gloucestershire, the present owner of it being lieutenant-colonel William Tyndale, esq. of that place.

Part of this borough is within the manor of Newington, near Sittingborne, as appears by the survey taken in 1650, of the late king's manors and revenues, the several freeholders of the borough of Bedmanton,

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in this parish, holding their lands in it, of that manor, in free socage tenure.

CHARITIES.

A PERSON UNKNOWN gave land to be applied to the use of the poor, vested in Henry Bing, and of the annual produce of 2l. The poor constantly relieved are about ten; casually twelve.

WORMSELL is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton.

The church is dedicated to St. Giles, and consists of two isles and two chancels, having a tower steeple at the west end of it. There are remains of good painted glass in the great east window. Several of the family of Tylden lie buried in it, they were for some time tenants of the manor here, where they resided till king James the 1st.'s reign, when they removed to Milsted. In the church yard are some tombs of the Thatcher's, and for the Woods who resided at Northwood, in this parish and Bicknor.

The patronage of this rectory has always been accounted an appendage to the manor, and as such has had the same owners, as has been already related, being now in the patronage of the president and governors of Christ's hospital.

The rectory is valued in the king's books at ten

pounds, and the yearly tenths at one pound, and is of the yearly certified value of 69l. 4s.

In 1640 it was valued at seventy-six pounds. Communicants seventy-three. It is now worth about two hundred guineas per annum.

CHURCH OF WORMSELL.

PATRONS,
Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

James Tong, gent. for this turn Robert Reader, Aug. 2, 1580,
obt. Sept. 6, 1607./z

/z He lies buried in the chancel of this church.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

Anne Keele, widow. Bartholomew Newman, A. M.
Feb. 10, 1607, obt. April 8,
1654./z

Richard Wilkinson.

T. Nightingale, A. M. obt.
1673.

Sir Charles Sedley, bart. William Payne, A. M. August
19, 1673, resigned 1681.

The Archbishop, by lapse. Giles Hinton, S. T. P. Jan. 23,
1681, obt. 1701.

Joseph Ayloffe, esq. and others. Edward Christmas, A. M. March
10, 1701, obt. 1715.

Richard Wood, A. M. Sept. 1,
1715, obt. 1721.

President and Governors of Christ's
hospital. Thomas Saul Hancock, A. M.
Dec. 1, 1721, obt. Aug. 15,
1741./a

Isaac Johnson, A. M. obt. 1767./b

Thomas Miller, A. M. July 23,
1767, obt. April 26, 1792.

Josiah Distornell, A. M. May,
1792, the present rector.

/z He lies buried in the chancel of
this church.

/a He was presented to the vicarage
of Hollingborne in 1727, and was buried
in the chancel of this church.

/b Also vicar of St. Dunstan's, near
Canterbury, by dispensation.

BICKNOR.

THE next parish north-westward is Bicknor, anciently written Bykenore, the south-west part of which is in the hundred of Eyhorne, and division of West-Kent; and the remainder in that of Milton, and division of East Kent; but the church and village being situated in the former part of it, this parish is esteemed to be in the division of West Kent.

BICKNOR is an obscure remote place, lying a little more than two miles northward from the summit of the chalk hills. It lies among the woods, mostly on high ground, and though with much hill and dale, yet

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the former are neither so steep nor so frequent as in Wormshill, and the adjoining parishes before described. It is a very healthy situation, but the soil is very poor, consisting mostly of an unfertile red earth, much intermixed with flints. The church and adjoining village, of only five or six houses, stand on the southern side of the parish, about a mile northward from which is the hamlet of Dean-bottom; near the south-east side of the village is a large quantity of wood ground, called Bicknor-wood, besides which there are several other small parcels of wood-ground, interspersed in different parts of it, equally poor with the rest of the lands in it; in the northern part of the parish is an estate called Northwood, lately belonging to the Chambers's, of Tunstall.

THIS PLACE was antiently part of the possessions of a family of the same name. Sir John de Bicknor held it, as half a knight's fee, in the reign of Edward I. and he, as well as Sir Thomas de Bicknor, accompanied that king to the siege of Carlaverock, in Scotland, in the 28th year of his reign, and are registered in the roll of those knights, who were made bannerets there by that prince. Their arms, being Ermine, on a chief azure, three lions rampant, argent, are still remaining on the roof of Canterbury cloysters.

In the 1st and 4th years of Edward II. Alexander de Bykenore, clerk, was treasurer of the exchequer in Ireland, and Thomas de Bykenore, in the 5th year of that reign, married Joane, eldest daughter and heir of Hugh de Mortimer, of Castle Richard. But before this, at the latter end of Edward I.'s reign, Bicknor was become the property of the family of Leyborne, one of whom, William de Leyborne, died possessed of it in the 3d year of Edward II. His son Thomas died in his life-time, so that his grand-daughter Juliana became his heir, and from her great inheritance was called the Infanta of Kent. She died without issue by either of her husbands, all of whom she survived, and possessed

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in her own right of this manor, in the 41st year of Edward III. but no one being found who could claim it as heir to her, it escheated to the crown, where it remained till the king, in his 50th year, granted it, among other premises, to the abbey of St. Mary Graces, on Tower-hill, then founded by him, by whom it was quickly afterwards demised to Sir Simon de Burley, for a term of years, which becoming forfeited by his attainer, Richard II. in his 12th and 22d years, granted and confirmed this manor to it, in pure and perpetual alms for ever.

This manor remained part of the possessions of the above-mentioned monastery till the dissolution of it in the 30th year of Henry VIII. when it was surrendered into the king's hands, together with all the lands and revenues belonging to it. After which, the king, in his 36th year, granted the manor of Bicknor to Christopher Sampson, who in the 2d year of Edward VI. passed it away to Sir Thomas Wyatt, and he soon afterwards alienated it to Thomas Reader, of Bredgar, yeoman, who about the latter end of queen Elizabeth's reign conveyed it to William Terry, and he in the reign of James I. partly by sale, and partly on account

of alliance, settled the property of it on William Aldersey, descended of an antient family of that name, settled at Aldersey, in Cheshire. His son, Thomas Aldersey, esq. of Bredgar, gave this manor by his will to his second son Farnham Aldersey, of Maidstone, and he died possessed of it in 1686. His son, of the same name, alienated it, about the year 1718, to Charles Finch, esq. of Chatham, whose daughter and heir Rebecca carried it in marriage to Mr. Thomas Cromp, of Newnham, in Gloucestershire, who was succeeded in it by his only son, the Rev. Pierrepont Cromp, of Frinsted, and he, in 1764, sold it to Abraham Chambers, esq. of Totteridge, in Hertfordshire, who resided here for some time. He died in 1782, and by his will gave this manor, among the rest of his estates, to his

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three sons, Samuel, Abraham-Henry, and William, who afterwards possessed them jointly, and upon a division made of them in 1795, this manor was allotted to the youngest, William Chambers, esq. the present possessor of it. There is no court held for this manor.

There are no parochial charities. The poor constantly relieved are about eight; casually three.

BICKNOR is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sittingborne.

The church, which is dedicated to St. James the Apostle, consists of a nave and two side isles, and a chancel, which is half the length of the church. The nave is double the height of the two isles. There is a low pointed steeple at the south-west corner of it.

It is a very antient and curious building, and appears by the short and clumsy size, and bases of the pillars, the zig-zag ornaments of their capitals, and the semi-circular plain arches in every part of it, to have been built in the time of the Saxons; indeed, the whole of it has marks of a very early period.

This church was antiently esteemed as an appendage to the manor of Bicknor, and as such was given, with it, by Edward III. in his 50th year, to the abbey of St. Mary Graces, on Tower-hill, where it remained till the dissolution of that monastery in the 30th year of king Henry VIII. when it became part of the possessions of the crown, as has been already related, where the patronage of it has continued to the present time.

This rectory is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of thirty-two pounds. In 1640 it was valued at fifty pounds. Communicants thirty-two.

The rector's house, or hovel, as it may more properly be called, is very singular and remarkably placed, for it is nothing more than a shed, built against the north side of the church, with a room projecting nearly

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across the isle, and under the same roof; a miserable habitation, even for the poorest cottager to dwell in.

CHURCH OF BICKNOR.

PATRONS,

Or by whom Presented. RECTORS.

The Crown. William Pettett, A. M. Nov. 2,
1620.

William Haughton, A. M. Mar.
7, 1636./d

Stephen Newman, A. M. April
8, 1662, obt. 1669.

Isaac Bates, A. M. June 7,
1669, obt. 1674.

William Elward, A. B. May 1,
1674, obt. 1704.

William Barklay, August 28,
1704, obt. Oct. 23, 1718./e

John Vigurs, clerk, Dec. 19,
1718, obt. Dec. 6, 1725./f

David Williams, August 29,
1726, obt. 1742.

William Marsh, March 10,
1743, the present rector.

/d Rym. Fœd. vol. xx. p. 215.

/e He lies buried in the north isle of
this church.

/f He was before minister of Scilly.
He died at Stockbury, and was buried
in that church:

HUCKING

LIES the next parish from Bicknor south westward,
in the hundred of Eyhorne, and western division of the
county. It is called in antient records, Houkynnge, and
took its name from its high situation.

HUCKING is a small unfrequented parish, but little
known, lying close to the summit of the chalk hills,
close to which the church stands, with two or three
houses near it, the rest being interspersed over different
parts of it. It lies on high ground, being much ex=
posed to the bleak northern aspect, and joins to that

/c See an engraving of it, and of the church above, p. 323.

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part of Hollingborne above the hills southward. It
has throughout a woody appearance, from the wide
hedge-rows round the fields, and on the north-west
side the parish joins to a large tract of woodland,
which reaches up almost to the church, the whole of it
is an unpleasant dreary country, the soil of which is
very poor, being chalky, and much covered with flint
stones. The rents of it amount to about 460l. per ann.

THE MANOR of Hollingborne, which was given to
the priory of Christ-church, in Canterbury, in the year
980, claims over this parish; subordinate to which is
the manor of Hucking-court, late the property of the
Rev. John Davis, of Mereworth, whose widow, Mrs.
Anne Davis, sold it to Baldwin Duppa Duppa, esq.
of Hollingborne-hill.

HUCKING, alias RUMPSTED, is a small manor in
this parish, which acquired its latter name from the
antient possessors of it. Sir Edward Rumpsted held it
in the reign of king Edward I. whose descendant, of
the same name, was an eminent man in the reign of
Edward III. How long it remained with them I do

not find; but in the 3d year of Henry VI. it was in the possession of Richard Peverell, and in the 25th year of it, Robert de Poynings died possessed of it, leaving Alianore, the wife of Sir Henry Percy, his cousin and next heir, who had thereupon possession granted of this estate, among the other lands of her inheritance, and in his father's life-time he succeeded likewise by this marriage to the baronies of Poynings, Bryan, and Fitzpain, by the former of which titles he received summons to parliament.

On his father's death, in the 33d year of that reign, he succeeded him as earl of Northumberland, and having engaged warmly in defence of Henry VI. was slain fighting on the king's part, at the battle of Towton-field, in the 39th year of that reign, being at the time of his death possessed of this manor.

The next year, being the 1st of Edward IV. an act of attainder passed against the deceased earl, among

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others. After which it became the property of the Peckhams, with whom it did not remain long, for in the reign of Henry VII. the title to it was vested in Henry Vane, esq. whose son Ralph Vane, esq. with the consent of his wife, conveyed it, in the 31st year of Henry VIII. to William Taylor, of Romney, son of John Taylor, of Shadoxhurst, from which name it was not long afterwards alienated to Edmund atte Wood, who died in the 5th year of queen Elizabeth, and was buried in Hollingborne church, in which name it staid till Richard Wood leaving a sole daughter and heir Eleanor, she carried this estate in marriage to Thomas Thompson, and he, with her assent, in the 9th year of king James, alienated it to another William Taylor, whose son and heir, in the reign of Charles I. transferred his interest in it by sale to Mr. John Stringer, of Goudhurst, who gave it to his youngest son Mr. Thomas Stringer, of that place. His two sons dying s. p. his daughter Katherine married to William Belcher, of Rochester, M. D. at length entitled him to this estate. He was succeeded in it by his eldest son the Rev. Stringer Belcher, rector of Ulcomb, who died in 1739, leaving four daughters his coheirs. They possessed this estate in undivided shares, of these one fourth part, which was possessed by Benjamin Neale Bayley, esq. in right of his wife Anne, the eldest daughter and coheir was alienated by their son to Edward Belcher; esq. of Ulcomb, younger brother of Mr. Stringer Belcher before-mentioned, who died possessed of it in 1778, and his only surviving son Mr. William Belcher, of Ulcomb, is at this time entitled to the fee of it.

Judith, the second daughter and coheir, on her death devised her fourth part to her sister Elizabeth Belcher, and she is now entitled to that, as well as her own fourth part, being one whole undivided moiety of it; and the remaining fourth part was carried in marriage by the other sister Sarah, to the Rev. Joseph Milner, of Aylesford, afterwards D. D. and he, in her right, still conti=

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nued owner of it at his death in 1784, and by his will devised it to his widow, who now possesses it.

There are no parochial charities. The poor relieved

constantly are about sixteen; casually six.

HUCKING is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton.

The church is dedicated to St. Margaret, and is exempt from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon. It has always been esteemed as a chapel to the church of Hollingborne; the vicar of that parish being collated to the vicarage of the church of Hollingborne, with the chapel of Hucking annexed. Both together are of the clear yearly certified value of 70l. 16s. 8d.

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STOCKBURY

IS the next parish northward from Hucking. It is called in the survey of Domesday, Stochingeberge, in later records, Stockesburie, and now Stockbury.

The western, which is by far the greatest part of it, lies in the hundred of Eyhorne, and division of West Kent, the remainder of it in that of Milton, and division of East Kent, over which part that manor claims, but the church and village being in the former district, the parish is esteemed as being in the former division of the county.

This parish lies on each side of the valley, called from it Stockbury valley, along which the high road leads from Key-street to Detling-hill, and thence to Maidstone; hence it extends on the hills on each side, for more than a mile. It lies mostly on high ground, and though exposed to the northern aspect, is not, especially on the northern side of the valley, near so bleak and cold as the parishes on the hills, lately before-described, nor is the soil, though much like them, and

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very flinty in general, quite so poor; and on the north side next to Hartlip and Newington, there is some land much more fertile, partaking more of the loam, and much less mixed with flints; the sides of the valley are covered with coppice woods, which extend round the western boundary of the parish, where there is some uninclosed. downe, being poor ruffit land, and a wild and dreary country.

On the north side of the valley, close to the summit of the hill, is the church, with the court-lodge near it, and a small distance further, on the north side of the parish, the village called Stockbury-street, in which stands the parsonage, and a little further Hill-greenhouse, the residence of William Jumper, esq. having an extensive prospect northward over the neighbouring country, and the channel beyond it, the former owners of which seat will be mentioned in the description of Yelsted manor hereafter; at a small distance southward from hence are the two hamlets of Guilsted and South-streets, situated close to the brow of the hill adjoining to the woods.

On the south side of the valley the woodland continues up the hills, westward of which is the hamlet of Southdean-green adjoining the large tract of woodland called Binbury wood. The manor of Southdean belongs to Mr. John Hudson, of Bicknor. On the eastern side of the woodland first mentioned is the ham-

let of Pett, at the south-east boundary of the parish, which was formerly the property and residence of a family of that name, Reginald atte Pett resided here, and by his will in 1456 gave several legacies to the church towards a new beam, a new bell called Treble, the work of the new isle, and the making a new window there. Near it is a small manor called the Yoke of Hamon atte Deane, and upon these hills the small manors are frequently called Yokes.

There is a fair for pedlary, toys, &c. formerly on St. Mary Magdalen's day, July 22, but now by the al-

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teration of the style, on August 2, yearly, which is held by order of the lord of the manor on the broad green before the Three Squirrels public-house in Stockbury valley.

On June 24, 1746, hence called the Midsummer storm, the most dreadful tempest happened that was ever remembered by the oldest man then living. The chief force of it was felt in the northern part of the middle of the county, and in some few parts of East Kent. It directed its course from the southward, and happily spread only a few miles in width, but wherever it came, its force was irresistible, overturning every thing in its way, and making a general desolation over every thing it passed. The morning was very close and hot, with a kind of stagnated air, and towards noon small, bright, undulated clouds arose, which preceded the storm, with a strong south wind; it raised a torrent, and the flashes of lightning were incessant, like one continued blaze, and the thunder without intermission for about fifteen or twenty minutes. When the tempest was over, the sky cleared up, and the remainder of the day was remarkably bright and serene. From an eminence of ground the passage of the storm might easily be traced by the eye, by the destruction it had made, quite to the sea and the waters of the Swale to which it passed. Neither the eastern or western extremities of the county felt any thing of it.

This place, at the time of taking the general survey of Domesday, in the year 1080, was part of the extensive possessions of Odo, the great bishop of Baieux, the Conqueror's half-brother, under the general title of whose lands it is thus described:

The same Ansgotus, de Rochester, holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Stockengeberge. It was taxed at two sulings. The arable land is . . . In demesne there are two carucates, and five villeins, with nine borderers having two carucates. There is a church, and two servants, and one mill of sixty-four pence. Wood for the pannage of

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fifteen hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth four pounds, now six pounds. Elveva held it of king Edward.

After the bishop's forfeiture of all his lands, which happened about four years afterwards, this place came into the possession of the family of Auberville, being held by them of Roger de St. John, as one knight's fee. Roger de Aubervill, or de Albrincis, was a man who held large possessions at the time of the general

survey before-mentioned. William de Aubervill, his descendant, in 1192, anno 4 Richard I. founded the priory of Langdon, in this county, and his descendant of the same name died possessed of the manor of Stockburie in the 36th year of Henry III. holding it by knight's service.

He left an only daughter and heir Joane, who carried it in marriage to Nicholas de Criol, a man of eminence in his time, who attending Edward I. at the siege of Carlaverock, in Scotland, was there made a knight banneret for his services performed at it, and in the 21st year of it he was allowed, by the justices itinerant, to have free-warren for all his estate here, except one plough-land, which was called Stannerland. He died possessed of this manor in the 31st year of that reign, and Philipott says many of their deeds bore teste, from their castle of Stockbury, which means no more, than its being one of the castellated seats of the family, as did his grandson John, in the 9th year of king Edward III. at which time he spell his name Keryell.

After which it remained in his descendants down to Sir Thomas Kiriell, knight of the garter, eminent for his services to the house of York, during the reign of Henry VI. but being taken prisoner at the battle of Bernards-heath, near St. Albans, fought anno 38 king Henry VI. in which the Yorkists were defeated, he was, by the queen's order, beheaded, notwithstanding the king had granted him his life, when it was found by inquisition, that he held this manor of the king in

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capite by knight's service, by homage, and paying to the ward of Rochester castle yearly, and to the king's court of Mylton. He died without male issue, leaving two daughters his coheirs, one of whom, Elizabeth, carried this manor in marriage to John Bouchier, whom she survived, and afterwards died possessed of it in the 14th year of Henry VII. holding it in manner as before-mentioned. Soon after which it appears to have been alienated to Robert Tate, who died possessed of it in the 16th year of that reign, holding it by the like service. His descendant William Tate, who in the reign of James I. alienated it to Sir Edward Duke, of Cosington, in Aylesford, whose widow held it in jointure at the time of the restoration of king Charles II.

Her son, George Duke, esq. alienated it to John Conny, surgeon, and twice mayor of Rochester, and son of Robert Conny, of Godmanchester, in Huntingdonshire. John Conny, together with his son Robert Conny, of Rochester, M. D. conveyed it in 1700 to Thomas Lock, gent. of Rochester, who bore for his arms, Parted per fess, azure, and or, a pale counter-changed, three falcons, volant of the second, and his widow Prudentia, together with her three sons and coheirs in gavelkind, Robert, Thomas, and Henry, in 1723, passed it away by sale to Sir Roger Meredith, bart. of Leeds-abbey, who dying s. p. in 1738, left it by will to his niece Susanna Meredith, in tail general, with divers remainders over, in like manner as Leeds-abbey before-described, with which it came at length, by the disposition of the same will, the intermediate remainders having ceased, to William Jumper, esq.

of Hill-green-house, in this parish, who resided at Leeds-abbey, and afterwards joined with Sir Geo. Oxenden, bart. in whom the fee of it, after Mr. Jumper's death without male issue, was become vested, in the conveyance of this manor in fee to John Calcraft, esq. of Ingress, who died in 1772, and by his will devised

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it to his son John Calcraft, and he sold it in 1794 to Flint Stacey, esq. of Maidstone, the present owner of it.

YELSTED, or as it is spelt, Gillested, is a manor in this parish, which was formerly part of the possessions of the noted family of Savage, who held it of the family of Auberville, as the eighth part of one knight's fee. John de Savage, grandson of Ralph de Savage, who was with Richard I. at the siege of Acon, obtained a charter of free-warren for his lands here in the 23d year of Edward I. Roger de Savage, in the 5th year of Edward II. had a grant of liberties for his demesne lands here, and Arnold, son of Sir Thomas Savage, died possessed of it in the 49th year of king Edward III. and left it to his son Sir Arnold Savage, of Bobbing, whose son Arnold dying s. p. his sister Elizabeth became his heir. She was then the wife of William Clifford, esq. who in her right became possessed of this manor among the rest of her inheritance, and in his descendants it continued till the latter end of king Henry VIII.'s reign, when Lewis Clifford, esq. alienated it to Knight, whose descendant Mr. Richard Knight, gent. of Helle-house, in this parish, died possessed of it in 1606, and was buried in this church; his descendant William Knight leaving an only daughter and heir Frances, widow of Mr. Peter Buck, of Rochester, who bore for his arms, Argent, on a bend, azure, between two cotizes, wavy, sable, three mullets, or. He died soon after the death of Charles I. when she entered into the possession of this manor, after whose death her heirs passed it away by sale to Sir William Jumper, commissioner of his Majesty's navy at Plymouth. He had been knighted in 1704, for his services, as well at the taking of Gibraltar, as in the naval engagement with the French afterwards, being at both commander of the Lenox man of war, who died at Plymouth, where he was buried in 1715. He bore for his arms, Argent, two bars gemelles, sable, between three mullets of six points, pierced, gules. His son, William Jumper,

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esq. was of Hill-green-house, as it is now called, and died in 1736, leaving by Jane his wife, daughter of Thomas Hooper, gent. one son, William Jumper, esq. of Hill-green, likewise, who sold it, about 1757, to the Rev. Pierce Dixon, master of the mathematical free school at Rochester, and afterwards vicar of this parish, who died possessed of it in 1766, leaving it in the possession of his widow, Mrs. Grace Dixon, (daughter of Mr. Broadnax Brandon, gent. of Shinglewell), who soon afterwards remarried with Mr. Richard Hull, of London, who resided at Hill-green-house, and afterwards sold this manor, together with that seat, to William Jumper, esq. the former owner of it, who now resides here, and is the present possessor of both of them.

COWSTED is another manor in Stockbury, which was antiently written Codested, and was possessed by a family who took their surname from it, and resided here. They bore for their arms, Gules, three leopards heads, argent; which coat was afterwards assumed by Hengham. William de Codested died possessed of this manor in the 27th year of Edward I. holding it of the king in capite by the service of one sparrow-hawk, or two shillings yearly at the king's exchequer, as did his son William de Codestede in the 3d year of king Edward III. when it was found by inquisition, that he held this manor by the above-mentioned service, and likewise a burgage in Canterbury, of the king, of the ferme of that city, and that Richard de Codestede was his brother and next heir, whose son John de Codestede, vulgarly called Cowsted, about the beginning of king Richard II.'s reign, leaving an only daughter and heir, married to Hengham, he became in her right possessed of it, and assumed her arms likewise.

His descendant, Odomarus de Hengham, resided here, who dying in 1411, anno 13 Henry IV. was buried in Christ-church, Canterbury, and it continued in his name till the reign of Henry. VI. when it was car-

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ried, partly by marriage and partly by sale, by Agnes, a sole daughter and heir to John Petyte, who afterwards resided here, and dying in 1460, lies buried with her within the Virgin Mary's chapel, or south chancel, in this church. One of his descendants, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, sold it to Osborne, and Edward Osborne, gent. died possessed of it in 1622, and lies buried in the north chancel of this church. He bore for his arms, Quarterly, argent, and azure, in the first and fourth quarter, an ermine spot, sable; over all, on a cross, or, five annulets, sable; whose son, of the same name, leaving an only daughter and heir Mary, she entitled her husband, William Fagg, to the possession of it.

His descendant, John Fagg, esq. of Wiston, in Sussex, was created a baronet on December 11, 1660, and died in 1700, leaving three sons, Sir Robert, his successor; Charles, ancestor of the present baronet, of whom an account will be given under Chartham; and Thomas, who married Elizabeth, widow of John Meres, esq. by whom he left a son John Meres Fagg, esq. of whom an account will be given under Brenset. /g Sir Robert Fagg, bart. his successor, left one son Robert, and four daughters, one of whom married Gawen Harris Nash, esq. of Petworth, in Sussex, and Elizabeth, another daughter, was the second wife of Sir Charles Mathews Goring, bart. of that county. Sir Robert Fagg, bart. the son, dying s. p. in 1740, devised this manor, with that of Cranbrooke, in Newington, and other estates in these parts, and in Sussex, to his sister Elizabeth, who entitled her husband Sir Charles Mathews Goring, bart. above-mentioned, to the possession of them. He left by her a son Charles Goring, esq. of Wiston, in Sussex, who sold this manor, with his other estates in this parish and Newington, to Edward Austen, esq. who is the present possessor of them.

/g See Kimber's Baronetage, vol. ii. p. 125.

IT APPEARS by the antient ledger book of the abbey of St. Austin's, near Canterbury, that the abbot and convent were antiently possessed of A PORTION OF TITHES issuing from the manor of Cowsted in Stockbury, which portion continued part of the possessions of the monastery till the dissolution of it, in the 30th year of Henry VIII. when the abbey, with all its revenues, was surrendered up into the king's hands.

This portion of tithes, or at least part of it, consist= ing of the great tithes of two hundred and thirty five acres of land, was afterwards granted in fee to Petytt, from which name it was alienated, with the manor of Cowsted, to Osborne, and it passed afterwards with it in like manor down to Sir Robert Fagg, bart. on whose death s. p. in 1740, one of his sisters entitled her husband Gawen Harris Nash, esq. by his will, to the possession of it, whose son alienated it to Charles Goring, esq. before-mentioned, and he sold it to Ed= ward Austen, esq. the present owner of it.

NETTLESTED is an estate here, which by the remains of the antient mansion of it, situated in Stockbury-street, appears to have been once a seat of some note. The family of Plot, ancestors to that eminent naturalist Dr. R. Plot, possessed it, at least as early as the reign of Edward IV. when William Plot resided here, where his descendants continued till Robert Plot, gent. of Nettlested, having, in the 2d year of queen Elizabeth, purchased Sutton barne in the adjoining parish of Bor= den, removed thither. His heirs alienated Nettlested to Mr. Richard Allen, of Stockbury, whose descendant Thomas Allen, afterwards, with Gertrude his wife, anno 9 George I. alienated it to Mr. John Thurston, of Chatham, whose son Mr. Thomas Thurston, of that place, attorney-at-law, conveyed it to that learned antiquary John Thorpe, M. D. of Rochester, who died possessed of it in 1750, and was buried in the chancel belonging to this estate, on the north side of Stockbury church. He left one son John Thorpe, esq.

of Bexley, whose two daughters and coheirs, Cathe= rina-Elizabeth married to Thomas Meggison, esq. of Whalton near Morpeth, in Northumberland, and Ethelinda-Margaretta married to Cuthbert Potts, esq. of London, are the present possessors of it./h

THERE is a portion of tithes, which consists of those of corn and hay growing on forty acres of the lands belonging to the estate of Nettlested, which formerly belonged to the almonry of St. Augustine's monastery, and is called AMBREL TANTON, corruptly for Almonry Tanton. After the dissolution of the above-mentioned monastery, this portion was granted by Henry VIII. in his 36th year, to Ciriack Pettit, esq. of Colkins, who anno 35 Elizabeth, passed it away to Robert Plot; since which it has continued in the same succession of owners, that Nettlested, above-described, has, down to the two daughters and coheirs of John Thorpe, esq. of Bexley, before-mentioned, who are the present owners of it.

CHARITIES.

A PERPETUAL ANNUITY of 2l. 10s. per annum was given in 1721, by the will of Mrs. Jane Bentley, of St. Andrew's, Holborne, and confirmed by that of Edward Bentley, esq./i her executor, payable out of an estate in the parish of Smeeth, which was, in 1752, the property of Mrs. Jane Jumper, and now of Mr. Watts; to be applied for the use of three boys and three girls, to go to school to some old woman in this parish, for four years, and no longer, and then 40s. more from it to buy for each of them a bible, prayer-book, and Whole Duty of Man.

MR. JAMES LARKIN, of this parish, gave by will an annuity, payable out of the lands of Mr. James Snipp, to the poor of this parish, of 1l. per annum produce.

SIX ACRES OF LAND, near South-street, were given by a person unknown to the like use, of the yearly produce of 2l. 8s. vested in the minister and churchwardens.

/h See an account of the Thorpes under Bexley. vol. ii. p. 167.

/i Mrs. Jane Bentley died Oct. 29, 1721, and Edward Bentley, esq. of Stockbury, on Jan. 18, 1735. They both lie buried in the north chancel of this church.

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AN UNKNOWN PERSON gave for the use of the poor a cottage on Norden green, in this parish, vested in the same, of the annual produce of 1l.

AN UNKNOWN PERSON gave for the like use a field, containing between two and three acres, lying near Dean Bottom, in Bicknor, now rented by Robert Terry, vested in the same, and of the annual produce of 12s.

A COTTAGE in the street was given for the use of the poor, by an unknown person, vested in the same, and of the annual produce of 1l.

The number of poor constantly relieved are about thirty-six, casually fifteen.

STOCKBURY is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sittingborne.

The church, which is both large and lofty, is very antient, and consists of a middle and two narrow side isles, a high chancel, and two cross ones. The pillars and arches in it are more elegant than is usual in country churches, and the former, on the north side, are of Bethersden marble, rude and antient. It has a square tower at the west end, in which hangs a peal of six bells, and is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen. In the great chancel lie buried several of the Hoopers, Knights, Bentleys, and Jumpers. The south chancel belongs to the Cowsted estate, in which lie buried the Pettits and Osbornes, and in the north chancel belonging to the Nettlested estate, Dr. Thorpe and his wife, formerly owners of it.

The church of Stockbury was part of the antient possessions of the priory of Leeds, to which it was given, soon after its foundation, by William Fitzhelt, the patron of it.

Hubert Walter, archbishop of Canterbury, in the reign of king Richard I. confirmed this gift, and approved this church to the use of the priory, reserving, nevertheless, from the perpetual vicar of it, the annual pension of one marc, to be paid by him to the prior and convent. Edmund, archbishop of Canterbury,

confirmed the above in 1237, anno 22 Henry III. and granted to them the further sum of ten marcs from it, to be paid half yearly by the vicar of it, which grants were further confirmed by the succeeding archbishops.

The church and vicarage of Stockbury remained part of the possessions of the above-mentioned priory till the dissolution of it, in the reign of Henry VIII. when it came, with the rest of the revenue of that house, into the king's hands.

After which, the king, by his dotation-charter, in his 33d year, settled both the parsonage and advowson of the vicarage of the church of Stockbury on his new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom they now remain.

On the abolition of deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles I. this parsonage was surveyed, by order of the state, in 1649, when it was returned, that the rectory or parsonage of Stockbury, late belonging to the dean and chapter of Rochester, consisted of a fair dwelling-house, dove-house, and other necessary buildings, yards, &c. and the tithes belonging to it, all which were valued at eighty pounds per annum, and the glebe-lands, containing one hundred and forty-four acres, were worth, with the above, 132l. 10s. all which premises were let by the dean and chapter, anno 16 king Charles I. to John Hooper, for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of 14l. 5s. 4d. That the lessee was bound to repair the chancel; and that the vicarage was excepted, worth fifty pounds per annum. /

The presentation to the vicarage of this church is reserved by the dean and chapter, in their own

/k See the further confirmations of it in the Register of Leeds priory.

/l Parliamentary Surveys, Augmentation office.

hands; /m but the parsonage continued to be leased out to the family of Hooper, who resided there; several of whom lie buried in this church, particularly John, son of James Hooper, gent. of Halberton, in Devonshire, which John was receiver of the fines, under king Philip and queen Mary, for the Marches, of Wales, and died in 1548. He married Frances, daughter of Sir Thomas Roberts, of Glassenbury. At length, by marriage of one of the daughters of Walter Hooper, esq. it passed to William Hugessen, esq. eldest son of John Hugessen, esq. of Stodmarsh. He resided here till his father's death, when he removed to Stodmarsh, and he is the present lessee of this parsonage, under the dean and chapter.

In the 8th year of king Richard II. the church of Stockbury was valued at 26l. 7s. 8d. /n

It is valued in the king's books at 9l. 11s. per annum, the yearly tenths being 19s. 1¹/₄d.

In 1640 it was valued at eighty pounds yearly income. Communicants one hundred and sixty.

CHURCH OF STOCKBUURY.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

John Crompe, resigned 1616.

Dean and Chapter of Rochester Henry Pawson, A. M. June 27,
1616, obt. 1628.

John Lorkin, A. M. March 26,
1628, deprived 1631./o

The King. Thomas Lane, A. M. April 2,
1631./p

Christopher Blackwood.

Dean and Chapter of Rochester John Maccubie, A. M. June 27,
1631; resigned 1638.

Thomas Lorkin, A. M. Jan. 11,
1638, obt. May 8, 1670./q

/m In the Consistory-court at Can=
terbury, there is a terrier of this vi=
carage, dated May 20, 1630.

/n Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 40.

/o He held Lympsfield with this
vicarage by dispensation. Rym. Fœd.
vol. xviii. p. 1007.

/p Rym. Fœd. vol. xix. p. 359.

/q He was prebendary of Rochester,
and lies buried in this church.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Dean and Chapter of Rochester Robert Dixon, S. T. P. Sept. 7,
1670, obt. 1711./r

James Axe, A. M. Sept. 10,
1711, obt. 1716./s

John Clough, A. M. April 10,
1716.

Charles Birbeck, B. A. 1721, ob.
Feb. 20, 1725./t

Isaac Finch, A. M. July 1725,
resigned 1737./u

Christopher Beeke, 1737.

John Butler, A. M. 1737, obt.
1747.

Richard Husband, A. M. July
31, 1747, resigned 1750.

Cæsar Curtis, A. B. August 6,
1750, obt. 1759.

Peirce Dixon, B. D. Oct. 22,
1759, obt. 1766./w

Thomas Frank, LL. B. Dec. 16,
1766, obt. 1795./x

James Jones, A. M. 1795, the
present vicar./y

/r He was prebendary of Rochester,
and vicar of St. Nicholas, in Rochester.

/s He was perpetual curate of Stroud.

/t He was minor canon of Rochester.

/u And vicar of Goudhurst.

/w And master of the mathematical
school in Rochester.

/x And vicar of Borden.

/y And vicar of Cobham, and usher
of Rochester grammar school.

BREDHURST.

THE last parish undescribed in this hundred is that of Bredhurst, which lies at the north-west corner of it, adjoining to the parish of Rainham northward, being wholly in the division of West Kent.

This place takes its name from its situation among the woods, Brade, in old English, signifying broad, and hurst a wood, i. e. the broad extended wood.

The manor of Hollingborne claims over a part of this parish. Bredhurst lies about two miles northward from the summit of the chalk hills, and joins that part of Boxley which lies above them; to the northward it

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joins Rainham, the churches being about two miles and a half apart. The parish is surrounded by an extensive range of woods, in it and the different adjoining parishes, the north-east part of this parish being almost covered with them. It is situated in so unfrequented a part of this county, that it is hardly known to any one, it lies mostly on high ground, and very cold and bleak. The hills here are very frequent and steep, the lands very poor and hungry, and the flint stones very numerous. The village is built round a green, with the church at a small distance eastward from it.

Almost adjoining to the church-yard northward, there is a wood, where the inhabitants have a report, that there was once a village, called Bredhurst town. Several wells are yet remaining in it.

At about a mile's distance from the church, is Kemsley-street, so called from a family who once resided at it; one of them, Isabella Kymsley, widow, of this place, by her will, in 1595, devised to her son John, the elder, two pieces of woodland in this parish, on condition, that he should yearly keep a drinking on All Saints day at night, to the value of a bushel and an half of wheat, and two bushels of malt, and sixteen-pence in cheese, till 46s. 8d. should be yearly laid out and expended.

The Kemsleys were buried in a chapel on the south side of this church, in which there was formerly a brass plate over Thomas Kemsley, esq. of Kemsley-street, who died in 1586.

THE MANOR of Bredhurst was antiently part of the possessions of the eminent family of Northwood, of Northwood Castenors, in Middleton; one of whom, John de Northwood, died possessed of it in the second year of king Richard II. as appears by the escheat-rolls of that year. And in this church was once a brass plate for William Northwood, and four of his sons, who lie buried here.

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Soon after which, this manor, with that of Mere-court, in the adjoining parish of Rainham, and the estates called Merethorne, now Meresbarrow, was purchased, among others, by John, duke of Lancaster, and others, feoffees in trust, for the performance of certain religious bequests in the last will of king Edward III.

That king, by his letters patent in his 22d year, had endowed and completed the chapel which had been

begun by his predecessor king Stephen, in his palace at Westminster,^{/z} and made it a collegiate chapel, to consist of a dean and twelve secular canons, and other ministers, to pray for his soul and those of his ancestors and successors; and he granted, that they should receive at his treasury as much as would supply them with food, and support the burthens incumbent on them, until he could give them as much in lands and rents as amounted to five hundred pounds yearly income, to the performance of which he bound himself and his heirs, kings of this realm, and by his will enjoined the duke of Lancaster, and others his feoffees. They, in compliance with the king's will, purchased the manors of Bredhurst and Mere, among other premises in this county and elsewhere, in the beginning of king Richard II.'s reign, and then, in the 5th year of it, demised them to the dean and canons before-mentioned, for forty years, to the intent that the king might grant them in mortmain for ever. After which, by means of some false representations made by Sir Simon de Burley, the king granted these manors to him, but he having forfeited them, with his life, for high treason, in the 10th year of that reign, that prince, by his letters patent, in his 12th year, at the petition of the dean and canons, granted to them the rents and profits of these manors, among others, to hold to them

^{/z} See Strype's Stow's Surveys, book vi. p. 54. Newc. Rep. vol i. p. 747.

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as a sufficient endowment until he should otherwise alter it, or provide for them. And then, by his letters patent, in his 21st year, granted these premises to them for ever, for the performance of those services before-mentioned, and in part of the exoneration of the sum of five hundred pounds to be taken at his treasury as aforesaid.^{/a}

In which situation these manors continued in the 1st year of king Edward VI. when an act of parliament having passed, as well anno 37 Henry VIII. as that year, for the surrendry of all free chapels, chantries, &c. this, among others, was soon afterwards dissolved, and the lands and possessions of it were surrendered up into the king's hands, who afterwards, by his letters patent, in the 3d year of his reign, granted, among other premises, these manors of Bradhurst and Merecourt, with their appurtenances, late in the tenure of Sir Christopher Hales, to Sir Thomas Cheney, treasurer of his houshold, &c. He died in the 1st year of queen Elizabeth, and was succeeded in them by his son Henry Cheney, esq. of Todington, in Bedfordshire, who, together with Jane his wife, in the 12th year of that reign, alienated this estate, then held in capite, by the description of the manors of Merecourt, alias Merescourt, Merethorne, and Bradhurst, with their appurtenances, to Richard Thornhill, grocer, and Wolstan Dyke Skinner, citizens of London, which by fines afterwards levied, were declared to be to the use of the said Richard Thornehill, and his heirs for ever.

After which, Sir Henry Cheney, then lord Cheney, of Todington, granted and made over to him all and

singular liberties, franchises, royalties, assize of bread, wine, and ale, green-wax, and all other privileges whatsoever, within the above manors, which he had ever possessed, or had in any shape a right to, which liberties

/a Dugd. Mon. vol. iii. p. 61 to 67.

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were claimed by Richard Thornhill, esq. and judgment was given in his favor by the barons of the exchequer, on a trial had in Michaelmas term in the 17th year of that reign, from him they descended to his son and heir Samuel Thornhill, esq. who gave them by his will to his second son Sir John Thornhill, of Bromley, and his son and heir Charles Thornhill, esq. in the reign of king Charles II. alienated these manors of Breadhurst and Merecourt to Sir John Banks, bart. on whose death in 1699, without male issue, Elizabeth his daughter and coheir, then married to the Hon. Heneage Finch, second son of Heneage, earl of Nottingham, entitled her husband to them. He was afterwards created baron of Guernsey, and earl of Aylesford, and died possessed of these manors in 1719, and his descendant, the right hon. Heneage, earl of Aylesford, is the present proprietor of them./b

There are no parochial charities. The poor relieved constantly are about eight, casually seven.

BREDHURST is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton. It is exempt from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter, is a small mean building, consisting of one isle and one chancel, having a low pointed steeple at the west end of it, in which hang two bells; adjoining to it on the south side there is a small chapel, now shut out from the church, on the pavement of which are two grave-stones, which have been long since robbed of their brasses, and are said to have been placed in memory of the Kemsleys, of Kemsley-street before mentioned, the whole of it is now in a ruinous state, without door or windows, and the pavement of it, which is much sunk,

/b See an account of the Finch's, earls of Aylesford, vol. iv. of this history, p. 429.

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is falling into the vault underneath, and covered with filth and nastiness.

This church of Bredhurst was antiently esteemed as a chapel annexed to the church of Hollingborne, the rector of which is patron of it. It is of the clear yearly certified value of 37l. 17s. 6d. and is a discharged living in the king's books.

In 1640 it was valued at fifty pounds. Communicants seventy.

This church is frequently mentioned as a perpetual curacy, but it is called a vicarage in the several sequestrations of it, as well as in the books of presentation and induction in the prerogative-office in Canterbury, and in the several wills of the incumbents of it, registered there, they constantly stile themselves vicars of Bredhurst.

CHURCH OF BREDHURST.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Rectors of Hollingborne. William Lorkyng, obt. 1551.

Richard Tray, A. M. obt. June
19, 1657./c

William Elwick.

John Vigars.

Robert Ingram, A. M.

Frederick Dodsworth, 1763, re=
signed 1784./d

John Tattersall, A. M. 1784,
the present vicar.

/c Sometime rector of Murston, and
afterwards of St. Maries, Hoo.

/d Now D. D. and a canon of
Windsor.

END OF THE FIFTH VOLUME.