

William Lambard
A perambulation of Kent (reprinted)
Chatham
1826

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A
PERAMBULATION
OF
KENT:

CONTEINING THE
DESCRIPTION, HYSTORIE, AND CUSTOMES
OF
That Shire.

WRITTEN IN THE YEERE 1570,
By William Lambarde, of Lincolnes Inne, Gent:
First published in the Year 1576,
And now increased and altered from the Author's owne last Copie.

Chatham:

PRINTED BY W. BURRILL, HIGH-STREET;
PUBLISHED BY BALDWIN, CRADOCK, AND JOY, PATERNOSTER-ROW,
LONDON;
And may be had of all other Booksellers.

1826.

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PREFACE.

IN offering the present edition of 'LAMBARD'S PERAMBULATION OF KENT' to the public, we have been influenced equally by the intrinsic excellence of the matter it contains, and the scarcity of the genuine editions of the work: and to render it deserving of attention, every former edition that could be procured has been consulted, and after having been carefully examined and compared, such matter only has been reprinted as appeared to be perfectly genuine, and to be warranted by the editions published during the life time of the Author.

Some difficulty presented itself respecting the Diction and Orthography of the original text, which, in many parts, appeared quaint and uncouth, as compared with the smooth polish of our modern language; but, upon due consideration, we determined to confine ourselves with scrupulous fidelity to a literal reprint of the Work, as the best means of illustrating, not

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only the Author's peculiarity of style, but also the state of the English language at the time in which he lived and wrote.

A brief biographical sketch of the Author has been added to this edition, from the belief that any particulars of the life of a man, who was as eminent for his piety and loyalty as for his learning and industry, would not only gratify a laudable curiosity, but would be an useful example for the present and future gene=

rations.

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BRIEF SKETCH
OF THE
LIFE OF LAMBARDE.

WILLIAM LAMBARDE, an eminent lawyer and anti=quary, the eldest son of John Lambarde, Alderman of London, by Juliana his wife, daughter of William Home or Herne, of London, was born Oct. 18, 1536. Nothing is recorded concerning the early part of his education, until he entered upon the study of the law, and was admitted into the society of Lincoln's-inn, Aug. 15, 1556. Here he studied under Laurence Nowell (brother to the celebrated dean of St. Paul's), a man famous for his knowledge of antiquities and of the Saxon tongue. Lambarde profited much by his instructions, considering an acquaintance with the customs and jurispru= dence of the Saxon times as very useful in his profession. The first fruits of his studies appeared in a collection and translation of the Saxon Laws, under the title of '<Archaionomia>, sive de priscis Anglorum legibus, libri,' 1568, 4to, repub=

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lished afterwards, with Bede's 'Ecclesiastical History,' in 1644, by Abraham Wheelock, who commends highly the elegance of Lambarde's interpretation.

In 1570 he appears to have resided at Westcombe, near Greenwich, of the manor of which he was possessed, and devoted a great share of his labours to the service of the county of Kent, but without giving up his profession of the law, or his connection with Lincoln's-inn, of which society he was admitted a bencher in 1578. He had finished his 'Peram= bulation of Kent' in 1570, which after being inspected by archbishop Parker, and the lord treasurer Burleigh, was published in 1576. From a letter of his to his friend Thomas Wotton, esq. it appears that his design and researches extended much farther, and that he had already collected materials for a general account of Great Britain, of which this was but the specimen, and that he was prevented from proceeding in his plan by discovering that Camden was engaged in one similar. His materials, however, were pub= lished from the original MS. in 1730, 4to, under the title of 'Dictionarium Angliæ Topographicum et Historicum:' to which was prefixed a very fine likeness of him, engraved by Vertue, from which the portrait is copied which is attached to this edition of the Perambulation. Camden, in praising his 'Perambulation,' and acknowledging his obligations to it, calls the author 'eminent for learning and piety;' by the latter quality alluding probably to his founding an hospital for the poor at East-Greenwich, in Kent, said to have been the first founded by a protestant. The queen (Elizabeth) granted her letters patent for the foundation of this hospital in 1574;

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and it was finished, and the poor admitted into it in October, 1576. It was to be called 'The college of the poor of Queen Elizabeth.' An account of its endowment and present state may be seen in Lysson's 'Environs.'

In 1579 Lambarde was appointed a justice of peace for the county of Kent, an office which he not only performed with great diligence and integrity, but endeavoured to explain and illustrate for the benefit of other magistrates, in his

'Eirenarcha, or the Office of the Justices of Peace, in four books,' 1581, reprinted eleven times, the last in 1619. Sir William Blackstone, in his Commentaries, recommends this work to the perusal of students. He published also, 'The Duties of Constables,' &c. 1582, 8vo, and reprinted six times. His character and writings had now recommended him to the notice of some of the greatest and most powerful people of the realm. In 1589 he had a deputation from the lord treasurer for the composition for alienations for fines, an office erected in the 18th year of queen Elizabeth. In 1592 he was appointed a master in chancery by sir John Puckering, lord keeper; and in 1597 was appointed keeper of the rolls and house of the rolls, in Chancery-lane, by sir Thomas Egerton, lord keeper. At length, in 1600, he was personally noticed by the queen, who received him very graciously, and appointed him keeper of the records in the Tower. In consequence of this appointment, he had another interview with her majesty, Aug. 4, 1601, and presented her with an account of those records, which he called his 'Pandecta Rotulorum.' In the mean time he had written, though not published,

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another work, entitled 'Archeion, or a Discourse upon the high courts of justice in England.' It was not published until 1635, some years after his death, by his grandson, Thomas Lambarde. Of this work there are two editions of the same date, but Mr. Bridgman gives the preference to that with a preface signed T. L. which he thinks the most correct. Mr. Lambarde died Aug. 19, 1601, at his house of Westcombe, and was buried in the parish church of Greenwich. A monument was placed over him, which, upon the rebuilding of that church, was removed to the parish church of Sevenoak, in Kent, where is now the seat and burying-place of the family. He was thrice married, but left issue only by his second wife. He left many MSS. of which Mr. Nichols has given an account; and appears to have been an accurate antiquary, and in all respects a man of learning and distinction.*

* Life by Mr. Nichols, Bibl. Topog. Britan. No. XLII. – Bridgman's Legal Bibliography.

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Printed by Townson and Burrill, Chatham.

<This is a reprint of the second edition, augmented with the list of the nobility and gentry of Kent retrieved from the first edition. The complete text is available online, at the address given below; there also exists a facsimile reprint (Bath, 1970), with a short introduction by Richard Church (which says nothing of any interest). – C.F. October 2010.>

<http://www.archive.org/stream/perambulationofk00lambuoft#page/n6/mode/1up>