



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

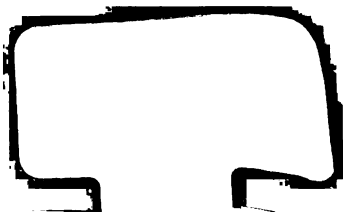
About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

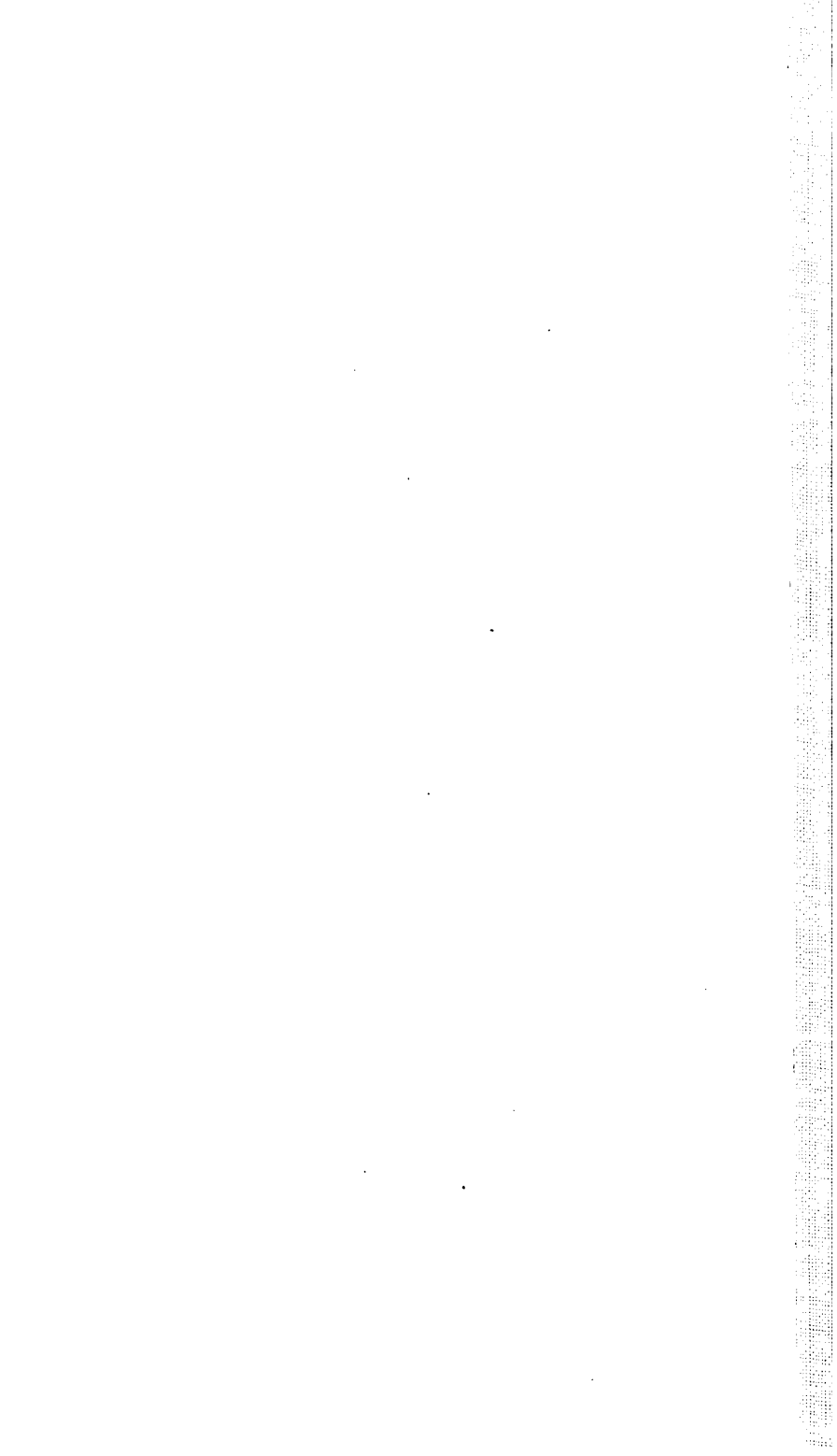
NYPL RESEARCH LIBRARIES

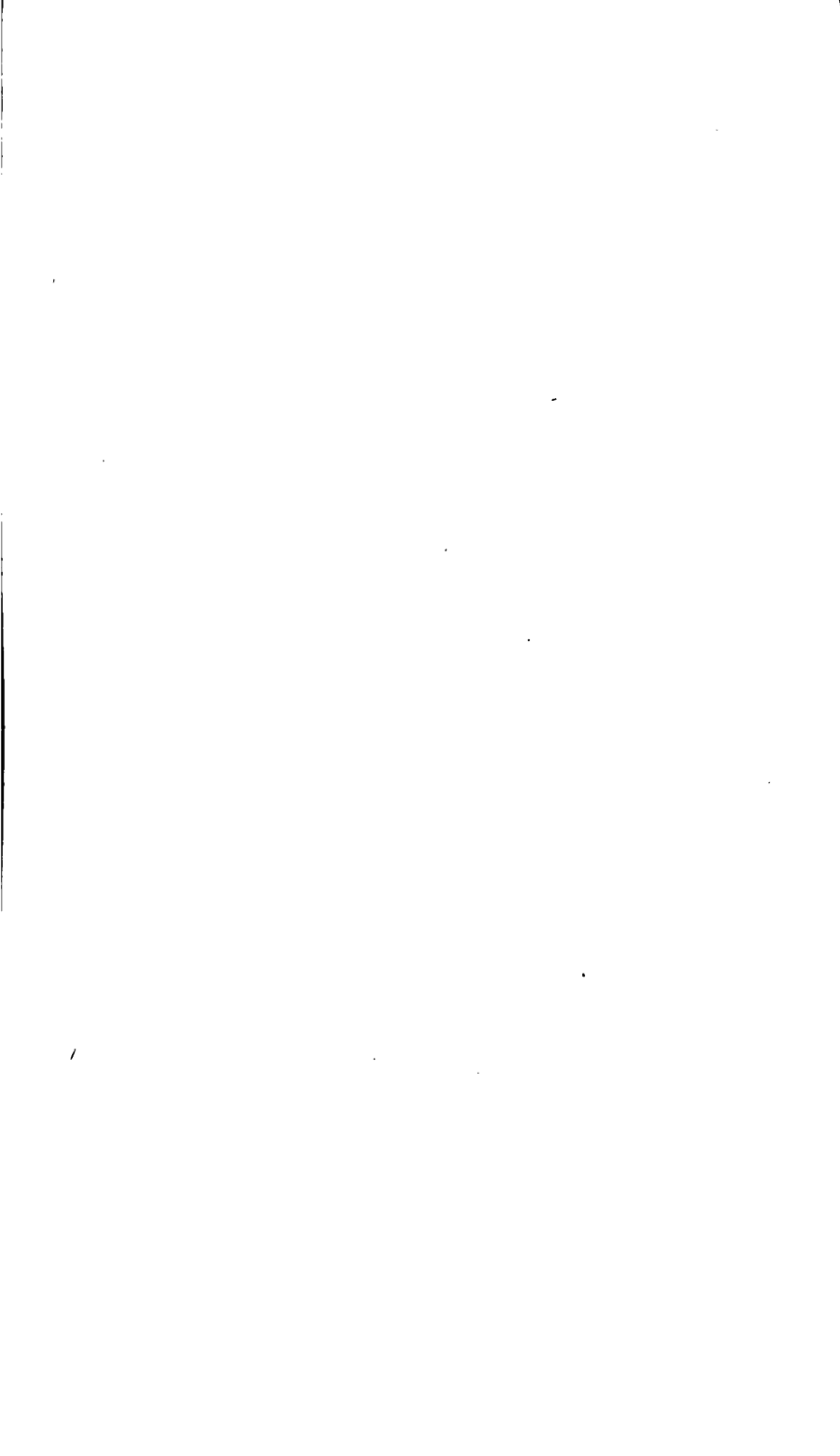


3 3433 07589778 9



20
(Leominster)
Price





A N
HISTORICAL & TOPOGRAPHICAL
A C C O U N T
O F
LEOMINSTER,
AND IT'S VICINITY;
WITH
AN APPENDIX.

By JOHN PRICE.

Il paese è fertilissimo, e pien di frutti, di modo che oltre alla salubrità dello aere, si trova abundantissima d'ogni cosa, che fa mestieri per lo vivere umano. IL CORTEGIANO.

L U D L O W :

PRINTED AND SOLD BY H. PROCTER;
SOLD ALSO BY J. BARROW, LEOMINSTER; D. WALKER,
& J. ALLEN, HEREFORD; HOLL & CO. WORCESTER;
AND BY T. LONGMAN PATER-NOSTER-ROW, LONDON.

M,DCC,XCV.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
462232
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
H 50 L

NOV 23 1954
NEW YORK

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE
LORD VISCOUNT BATEMAN,
HIGH STEWARD
OF THE
BOROUGH OF LEOMINSTER:

THIS
PUBLICATION,
WITH GREAT DEFERENCE
IS HUMBL Y INSCRIBED,
BY HIS LORDSHIPS MOST DEVOTED
AND RESPECTFUL SERVANT
JOHN PRICE.



P R E F A C E.

IN Topographical Publications some novelty of information is generally expected; and as the chief merit of a work of this sort consists in the veracity of the compilation, the Reader has a kind of presumptive right to be informed of the authorities quoted during the course of the work. This part of his duty the Editor undertakes with great pleasure, as he flatters himself with being able to give on that head an account in some degree satisfactory.

In the first place, his principal collections have been made from the *Folio MS. of the famous Blount*, concerning whom it may not be improper to give the following short account: Tho. Blount Esq. Barrister at Law, was educated at the Inner Temple; his Religion having disabled him to appear at the Bar, he applied himself more closely to the study of our English Laws, and the Antiquities of his Country, concerning both which he has obliged the world with his excellent performances. He had likewise made a considerable progress in the Antiquities of Herefordshire, for which purpose

P R E F A C E.

he had collected some volumes in the Heraldical line. *vid. Wood's Athen. Oxon.* But what principally belongs to the present subject, he had composed two large *Folio MS.* concerning the History of the County of Hereford, describing the various Townships in alphabetical order. In this arduous undertaking, he was assisted by *Sir William Dugdale, Mr. R. Dobyns. Humph. Cornwall &c.* as may be seen by their numerous letters to him, which the Editor has had in his possession. The latter of these volumes, commencing with the letter L, which Blount began, as he mentions in the beginning of the book, Aug. A. D. 1675. he has had recourse to, during the whole of the present publication. Where the first volume is he has never been able to learn.

In the Ecclesiastical History of the Church, Priory &c his principal information has been drawn, from the large and valuable Records of the Manor and Priory of Leominster, in Hampton Court Library, belonging to the Rt. Hon. Lord Viscount Malden. Concerning these MS. Stukely in his Itinerary, has the following paragraph "His Lordship (Lord Coningsby) shewed us in his study four or five vast volumes in MS. being transcripts out of the
Record

P R E F A C E.

“ Record Offices, relating to his Manors, Royalties, Estates and Muniments, which cost 500 pounds in writing and fees”.

He has also selected various matter from the *folio MS. of Dr. Coningsby, Heraldic Visitation MS. and sundry Corporation Records*. From such indubitable authorities he has gathered much.

During the last four or five years, the Editor has devoted his attention to collecting matter towards the History of the county of Hereford; to that study he had dedicated the hours he could spare from his avocations in rather a difficult employment in life; tho' his collection was not proper to make a publication of itself, it had however been selected with much pains and trouble, and might possibly have been useful to a Compiler of a General History of the County. He wished it to have been appropriated to that purpose; but failing in his design, he at length formed the idea of publishing detached pieces, and communicated his intention to a few friends; thro' their intercession he has been favored in a very liberal manner by several of the Nobility and Gentry with MS. &c. tending to elucidate the subject.

Supplied with such materials, he thought he might venture to appear before the Public; and

P R E F A C E.

tho' possessed of better information concerning other parts of the county, yet having a partiality for his native place,

————— *Tactusque soli na'alis amore,*

He wished first of all to give some account of Leominster. In the commencement he found his undertaking a task of no small difficulty, as few places are less taken notice of in the page of History. What *Camden, Leland, Stukeley* and other printed accounts mention concerning this Town, amount only to a few lines; and it will be seen on inspection, that almost the whole of the present work has been selected from original, and, according to the Editor's opinion, very authentic documents: that it has been attended with much trouble, would not be mentioning any novelty; writers of topographical accounts who have every thing to search for, in that respect, generally meet with a tolerable share of drudgery.

The voluminous M.S. which he has been permitted to read, contained oftentimes little to the purpose, and large volumes were frequently searched to obtain trifling information.

Whatever Records, Charters &c. were either in *Latin* or *Old French*, he has translated according to the best of his judgment; many old tales, and traditionary stories, he has purposely omitted

P R E F A C E.

omitted, as superfluous, improper and uninteresting, according to the advice of Boileau,

*Aimez donc la raison. Que toujours vos écrits
Empruntent d'elle seule, et leur lustre et leur prix.*

He has given an account of the *Halimots*, formerly appertaining to the Priory, also of the Out Parish: that account comprehends the whole vicinity of Leominster, excepting Kingfishland, which altho but at a small distance from the town, has been considered, as totally separate from it, during time immemorial: whilst engaged on that subject, he has endeavoured to mention as much as he could with propriety, in a short and comprehensive manner, without running on that extensive scale, which several celebrated places, particularly such as *Hampton Court &c.* seem justly to require. In his state of Navigation, he has attempted to trace the different attempts to promote inland conveyance by water, which seems to be so much wanting in the County of Hereford. His dissertation on the general produce of the country, has been rather diffuse in the article of *Hops*; all he means to convey by it, is, that some profit is to be obtained from the cultivation of that useful plant; in which, with deference to superior knowledge, he differs much in opinion from others who have hitherto treated the subject.

The

P R E F A C E.

Tho' the Compiler does not at present find himself conscious of any essential mistake, yet he will not assume to himself so much vanity as to say, that no inaccuracies may be found. As some extenuation, he can say in his behalf, that it is the first production, which, to his knowledge, has been published concerning any particular part of the county of Hereford. But as no apology can protect a production unworthy of notice, so he will not seem to impose on the Reader's understanding, by saying much in his own favour; to be brief, he has taken what pains he could with the present work, and such as it is, he submits it with some *small* degree of confidence to the superior Judgment of a generous and enlightened Public.

Before he closes the present Preface, he cannot help returning his sincere thanks to a Gentleman of Leominster (whose name he is not authorized to mention) to him he is indebted not only for a variety of *very useful information*, but likewise for the better arrangement of the greatest part of the present work.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Etymology of its Name	2
Sketches towards the History of the Town and its Vicinity	5
The Town	45
The Manor, Grants, Charters &c.	51
The Town Hall	71
The School House	73
The Priory	76
The Church	91
Monuments	102
Benefactions	123
The Baptist Meeting House	128
The Presbyterian Meeting House	134
The Chapel of the <i>Unitas Fratrum</i> or Moravians	136
The Meeting House of the people called Quakers	138
The Alms House	139
Members of Parliament	141
The Vicinity of Leominster	150
State of Navigation	185
Dissertation on the general productions of the Country	196
APPENDIX,	
Suit and Rent paid to Leominster	210
Reference	211
The Abbot's Commission for Constituting his Officers	ibid
A Corody for an under Goaler for life	215
Queen Mary's Charter	219
Henry the 1st Grant to the Abbot of Reding	251
Letters and Confirmations of Pope Innocent III.	255
Carta Ricardi Episcopi Herefordiæ	260
Corody granted to Esquires of the Priory	262
Wages of the Family in the Priory	263

C O N T E N T S.

Corody to the Keeper of Afchewode Park	264
King Henry 8th appointment of Bailiffs &c.	165
Collection of grants made to the Monks at Leominster	268
An Estimate of the los by the Fire that destroyed the Church	279
Addenda	210

REFERENCE TO THE PLATES,

West View of the Church, to face the Title.	
Tokens, Town Seal &c.	62
North Elevation of the Town Hall	71
East ditto of ditto	72
North East view of the remains of the Priory	76
South West View of ditto	90
West Saxon Entrance into the Church.	92



A N

Historical. & Topographical

ACCOUNT OF

LEOMINSTER.

CHAP. I.

Etymology of it's Name.

IT may afford pleasure to some, especially to those who have a partiality for their native place, to be able to ascertain the true Etymology of it's Name. Various conjectures are generally in such cases made, concerning the derivation; but few Towns are more singular in their Orthography than the present; as it has been explained differently by almost every person of note who has written concerning it,

According to Camden, it is derived from the British Llan-llieni, *ecclesia vel villa monialium*, the church or town of Nuns. According to other writers, from King Merwald's Vision of a Lion, whence it was called *Leonis Monasterium*; and

A

Giraldus

Giraldus Cambrensis says, "*transivimus per Leonis monasterium usque Hereford.*" According to Hill, this place takes its name from the two Rivers, upon the conflux of which it is seated, Lug and Oney, (now called Pinsley*) and so called Lugoneyminster, by corruption Leonminster, Leonminster and Lemster.—Leland who lived in the reign of Henry VIII. says, "*Leonminster alluitur tribus fluviiis, Lugia, Pinsolo et Kenbrook; Lug in parte oppidi inferioris utrumque in se recipit.*" Leonminster (for so he writes it,) is watered by three rivers, Lug, Pinsley and Kenbrook; Lug in part of the lower town receives the two others: there are some who derive it from *Linum* Flax, the best kind of which grows near this town.

But since we are upon the derivation of the town's name, says Blount, I am willing to cast in my poor opinion. Domesday is the most ancient and most authentic record we have, and without doubt the survey therein contained, was made by persons of great knowledge and industry. There we find this town written *Leofminstre*, the Minster or church of Leof, the usual contraction of Leofric, who was Earl of Mercia, of which this country was part, and under his dominion: He was both valiant and pious; King Canutus made him † Captain General of his forces, he founded

* This stream was anciently called Oney, as may be seen in the Maps of the old Editions of Camden's Britannia.

† Rog: Hoveden.

founded the great Monastery of Coventry, and in all probability either built, or was a Benefactor to this Church.*

Leland insinuates it to have been a little before the Conquest, so that whatever name the town went by before, it is probable, that in deference to him, it was thenceforth called Leofminstre.— Besides, † we find this Leofric was in the beginning of King Edward the Confessor's reign, stiled *Comes Herefordiensium*, Earl of the Herefordshire men, and died in the thirteenth year of that King: Afterwards, as was usual in such names, the f was left out, to render it more easy in pronunciation, so it became Leominstre, now Leominster, vulgarly Lemster; and we see by the Charter of Confirmation, made by Richard, Bishop of Hereford, to Hugh, the first Abbot of Reading, in the year 1123, that it was then written Leominstre.

* MS. Blount.

† Will: Malmesbury.

Sketches towards the History of the Town,
and it's Vicinity.

THAT this Town is of great antiquity, is beyond all doubt, tho' I have met with few authentic particulars concerning it, any very considerable period of time before the conquest.

* Merwald king of Mercia in the year 658, built here a monastery for Religious Virgins, and endowed it with all the lands about this town, except Kingland. This Merwald was Son of Penda King of Mercia, and Brother of Peada, and

* The common fame of the people about Leominster is, that King Merwald and some of his successors, had a castle or palace, on the side of a hill, half-a-mile by east from the Town; where, as Leland says, some tokens of ditches, and buildings, were in his time visible. The town's people, says he, and others thereabout, come once a year to sport and play. But the tradition concerning this castle is almost worn out, and the yearly solemnity of sports much discontinued.

The place pointed at, must in all likelihood be that mount which overlooks the Hay-lane; and indeed that great ridge of hills which appertained to Wallop Brabazon, buried in Leominster church, and which now continue in the same family, Brabazon, Earl of Meath, an Irish Peer, were anciently called the Castle of Comfort's Hill, and were heretofore granted, for maintenance of a chauntry Priest in Ludlow Church, and as such, were granted by King Edward VI. to John Cupper, and Richard Trevor Gent: in the seventh of the same King.---The site of the house and lands on the same part of Eaton hill, now the property of Mrs. Toldervy, by a deed of feoffment, 18. Charles, 2. is expressed by the name of the old Hills, alias, Comfort-Castle-Hill.

and of his Successor Wolpher King of Mercia, who all lived between the sixth and seventh Century. * Some accounts mention this Nunnery to have been destroyed in the Danish wars, and that a College of Prebendaries sat there: "the certainty is known, that the Abbey of Shaftsbury had rule at Leofminstre, and held large possessions there."

This Country, like other parts of the Marches, has often suffered much, from the wars and depredations of the Welsh. The ancient Britons valiant and restless, could not brook, being driven and confined to the most mountainous and barren part of the island, whilst the English, whom they looked upon as Intruders, enjoyed all the best parts of their ancient possessions; this caused them to be turbulent Neighbours, for in the year 777, they made incursions, and committed great ravages in the Kingdom of Mercia, and it is said, that during these troubles, great part of the Town, with the Nunnery which had been founded at Leofminstre, was destroyed, and the Nuns put to the sword; they were however soon after obliged to give up all their territories, not only in this part of the Country, but even all the lands they had, between Severn and the Dyke, which † Offa had made to settle a certain boundary, that might be known

* MS. Blount. Bishop Tanner.

† Offa the most renowned King of the Mercians, had a Palace and Court on a mount, now called Sutton-Walls, about 10 miles from this town, towards Hereford.

known by both parties, and to pass which would be death, This celebrated Dyke or ditch, may be seen not many miles from the Town, on Brachy Hill, and near Lentwardine in this county, and so continues northwards from Knighton; but the remains of it, in any other part of the County of Hereford, seem to be quite obliterated.

Some years after, I find in Roger de Hoveden that Swane eldest Son of Edwin Earl of Kent, was Earl of Hereford, Oxford, Gloucester &c. about the beginning of King Edward the Confessor's reign, and that he inveigled Edgiva, * the Abbess of Leofminstre from the Nunnery, for which act he was banished England, and went into Denmark. He joined afterwards with his father in his insurrection against Edward, and had the guard of the Town of † Leofminstre, which had been fortified by his Father, but fled with him into Flanders, and died in his return from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. He is described by William of Malmesbury, to have been a man of a perverse disposition, unfaithful to the King, and blemishing the glory of his Ancestors by maritime robberies.

In the year 1055, a war was carried on against the Welsh, the event of which proves this place to have been at that period, of considerable importance. † Alfgar Earl of Mercia, Brother in Law to Earl Harold, was banished from Court. This Lord being of a restless disposition, was suspected

* Jorval's collect. † Simon Dunclose. ‡ Rapin.

suspected of keeping up a private correspondence with Griffin Prince of Wales ; Edward being informed of this caused him to be accused of treason, and condemned to banishment ; soon after his departure, he joined with Griffin, and having made themselves masters of the castles on the frontiers, they invaded this Country, seized upon Leofminstre, and finding the situation of that place convenient for their designs, strongly fortified it, the remains of which fortifications are to be traced to this day.

In order to oppose their plundering designs, Ralph Earl of Hereford, who had married Goda, Sister to King Edward, raised what force he could from the adjacent parts, and marched towards Leofminstre, resolved to attack them, before their numbers were increased : but being ignorant of the additional works, which had been raised round the Town, he commanded his men to fight on horseback, contrary to the usual custom.

* The onset is said to have begun, at a small bridge towards the southern part of the town, called from that time † *Battle Bridge*, when some Norman and French troops, which had been sent by the King, to the Earl's assistance, not doing their duty, the battle was totally lost ; and their retreat being cut off by a large party, which

* Vet. Manuscrip. Lat.

† Battle Bridge, is in the South Street.

which had been previously sent thro' the woods to the plains of *Wellington*, a great slaughter ensued. The consequence of this action was, that the whole country was exposed to the depredations of Prince Griffin, and his Partizans ; and the Rebels finding it to be very plentiful, greatly increased the works of the town, and made it their chief place of strength.

Flushed with a continued series of success, they began to make further advances ; took and sacked Hereford, burning the church and Monastery, with the remains of King Ethelbert, which had been kept there in great splendour ; * slew Leofgar the Bishop, who had lately attained that dignity, with seven of his Canons, who denied them entrance into the church, spoiled the Cathedral of all the relicks and ornaments, and then set fire both to the Church and the City.

But they were at length stopped in their career, by Earl Harold, (afterwards King Harold) the hero of those days, Son to Earl Godwyn, who having levied a large and well disciplined army in his own government, and being joined by the forces in the Mercian territories, marched to give them battle.

Harold superior in skill and conduct, soon gave a visible proof of the difference between his forces, and those of Radulf or Ralph Earl of Hereford ; for having privately sent a numerous body of men to join the inhabitants of Leofminstre,
 ----- who

* Godwin de Præful.

who had been faithful to the Royal cause, but were overawed by the superiority of the enemy, he attacked the Rebels both in front and rear, about three miles to the north of Hereford, put them entirely to the rout, and compelled them to retire into Wales, from whence they never made any attempt to return. He then put a garrison in Leofminstre, which was deemed a place of great importance, both on account of the strength of it's works, and its vicinity to the Welsh Frontiers.

During the Conqueror's reign, this part of the Kingdom enjoyed uninterrupted peace : for that Monarch by his negotiations with the Welsh, and by giving all the strong frontier places to some of his bravest Officers, had put a temporary stop to their plundering depredations into these parts ; yet still turbulent and restless at being confined to the narrow limits of their mountainous Country, they recommenced hostilities after his death, and retiring after their incursions into their woods and caves, set at defiance the arts and efforts of the bravest and most experienced generals, tho' the Mortimers, the Lacies, the Cliffords, and other great men commanding in the *Marches*, often acted with great vigour against them.

William Rufus frequently sent large armies to defend the inhabitants of this country from their invasions, which entering their forests, pursued and killed vast numbers of them. At length he

came into this neighbourhood himself, and is said to have resided for some time in the strong and beautiful Castle of Wigmore, the seat of the Mortimers ; but seeing that nothing could be effected against such an enemy by force alone, he caused a number of castles to be built or repaired on the frontiers, in order to check their incursions, and provide a security for the Inhabitants.

From this period, and the reign of Henry the first, we may date the building of the greatest part of the Castles on the confines of the Welsh territories, as * Leonhalls, † Lingain, ‡ Erdesley, ¶ Weobley, and many others not far from this town ; and the augmenting and strengthening of others, such as || Wigmore, Richard's Castle,

* or

* Leonhalls : this castle stood contiguous to the Church. It seems to have been a noble structure, but now little remains of it.

† Lingain : near to the Church is to be seen a mount, where Lingain Castle stood, which, doubtless, was the seat of the ancient and noble family of the Lingains.

‡ Erdesley : a Castle of the Baskervilles, who were related to the Conqueror.

¶ Weobley Castle : Leland says, "here was a goodly Castle, but somewhat in decay, and is the chief Lordship of the Devereux's;" the site of the castle is yet visible, towards the south side of the Town. It was the residence of the Lacies, or as sometimes written in those days Lasci, who were Owners of Ludlow Castle, Ewyas, Weobly &c.

|| Wigmore : Ralph de Mortimer, who accompanied Duke William, was sent into the Marches of Wales against Edric Sylvaticus Earl of Shrewsbury and Lord of Wigmore, who refused to submit to the Norman yoke, whom after a long siege in Wigmore, he subdued, and delivered captive to William, who therefore gave to this Ralph de Mortimer all Edric's lands.

* or *Castel Richard*, † Stapleton's Castle, called in Domesday *Stepedune*, and about this time great additions were made to the works at ‡ Leominster, in order to render that place more secure from the plundering designs of those bold Invaders.

Altho' these precautions might protect the country from any sudden incursion of the Welsh, there were still on the confines of the English territories many Lords of great power and riches, who, tho' often guilty of various crimes in their plundering expeditions, were yet beyond the reach of Justice : among these may be reckoned William de Braos or Braoufe Lord of Brecknock and Abergavenny, a man of a violent disposition, and who during the reign of Henry II. was said to have been concerned in many murders, particularly in that of Cadwallan, who was uncle to David ap Owen, who had a Lordship or Principality at no great distance from Leominster

B 3

This

* Richard's Castle, in that great distribution of lands made by the Conqueror, was given with diverse lands of great extent to Richard a noble Norman, who increased and beautified what buildings his Father had erected there. The adjoining town was anciently called Boiton or Boitanc, till the lustre of the castle darkened that name, whereby the town was at last called by the Castle's name.

† Stapleton's Castle made part of those lands, which the Conqueror gave to Ralph de Mortimer; it came afterwards to the Mortimers of Richard's Castle, and then by marriage to the Cornwalls.

‡ Vid. M. S. Blount.

This William de *Braos gave to the King eighty marks, three great horses, five courfers, twenty four hounds, and ten greyhounds, to have feizin of his lands and Castles &c. in Monmouthshire : yet he was also possessed of † Huntingdon Castle, Kington, Ereslone, (Aresland or Eardisland) Kingslone or Kingsland, and other lands in this County.

” There must I presume, says Lord Lyttleton, “ have been some extraordinary cause not mentioned by Writers, which could prevail upon “ Henry, to overlook or forgive such deeds as “ were committed by William de Braos.” In all probability, it must be owing to his great opulence and popularity that he was not punished ; and indeed the sequel of events seems to corroborate the supposition ; for during the reign of King John, when that Monarch had exhausted his revenues in the † wars he carried on against France, on his return to England he demanded the thirteenth part of all rents and moveables. This was violently opposed by the Clergy, and John fearing an interdiction and the revolt of his subjects, sent troops to the various parts of his dominions, to demand the children or nearest relations

* Several of this family were High Sheriffs in the time of Henry II. and Richard I. they bore for their arms, Argent a lion rampant gules, crowned or, armed azure, charged with cross crosslets of the second.

† Rot. Pipæ eisdem annis.

‡ Mortimer's History of England.

relations of all persons of consequence, as a security for the performance of their promises; this was acceded to by the greatest part, but when John's Emissaries came with the same demand to William de Braouse, his Lady of the house of St: Valery, incautiously said, "that she never would trust her Sons in the power of a man, who had so inhumanly * murdered his own Nephew;" her Husband returned a more respectful answer, but could not be persuaded to coincide with the terms demanded by the Messengers.

King John was so provoked at the reproach of the Lady, that he sent a body of troops to subdue de Braouse: but the latter having timely intelligence of his proceedings, was prepared for defence, and making incursions into Herefordshire, took possession of Weobley Castle, and being assisted both with men and money by † Matthew de Gamage, Lord of Dilen or Dilwyn, which lies contiguous to the former place, he from thence marched with his army towards Leominster.

The Inhabitants knowing his cruel disposition, fled with all their effects into that part of the town which was fortified, and which included the Priory, Church, and the Eastern part of the Borough. On his arrival he set fire to whatever lay

* His Nephew Artus was supposed to have been murdered by John in the castle of Falaise in Normandy.

† His manor of Dilwyn was afterwards granted by King John to Will. Fitzwarren; vid. clauf. 6. John.

lay defenceless, and having after a few weeks, rendered himself master of the Priory, and it's appurtenances, * he plundered and burnt it, together with the greatest part of its beautiful gothic church, and used the Inhabitants with great cruelty.

The town was at that time, anno 1207, seated more on the western banks, which lead towards Pynnefurdling lane, but after that general conflagration, the Inhabitants began to build and fashion the town as it now is. †

De Braos being at length vanquished by King John, took refuge in Ireland: he was pursued thither by the King, but had the good fortune to escape into France disguised as a Beggar, his Wife and eldest Son fell into John's power, by whose orders they were barbarously starved to death in Windsor Castle, A. D. 1211. ‡

I find little remarkable concerning Leominster, except it's being in some degree engaged in the wars during the reign of Henry III. until the beginning of the fourteenth Century, when Owen Glendour invaded this country.

Owen

* Vid. Camden's Britannia. † M. S. Blount.

‡ The other Son Giles de Braoufe, was Bishop of Hereford, and lies interred on the North side of the Presbytery, the effigies on his tomb bears the likeness of a Steeple, which gives cause to believe, that he built one of the towers or steeples of the Cathedral; and it is said, that he erected the beautiful west entrance which some years ago fell down. It is also recorded that this family in King Henry the third's time, made the Castle of Kingslone, now written Kingsland, their chief place of residence, from whom it came to the Mortimers.

Owen Glendour, or as it is written Owen Glyndwrwy, was born, some Welsh writers say, anno 1354, others anno 1349, (vid. Pennant) he was bred in England at the Inns of Court, and afterwards made one of the body Guards to Richard II. to whom he remained attached till that unfortunate and misguided King was dethroned. He was himself of noble extraction by his mother, Elena of royal blood, and from whom he afterwards claimed a right to the Principality of Wales. After Richard's fall, he retired to his house in Merionethshire, of which there are still some traces remaining, meditating schemes of opposition and revenge against the Usurper Henry. The British Bards, whom he collected about him; well knowing their influence over the minds of his Countrymen, impatient of the English yoke, give a minute account (vid. Pennant) of the splendor and hospitality of his manner of living during his retirement.

Glendour must have been at that time about 52 years of age, and tho' an Inhabitant of North Wales, he seems to have had great influence in the county of Hereford, and particularly near the town of Leominster; for he had married his second Daughter to Sir John Scudamore of Ewyas, his third to Sir John Croft of Croft Castle, and his youngest to Roger Monnington of Monnington.

Owen applied to Parliament concerning some common land, in dispute between him and
Reginald

Reginald de Grey Lord of Ruthin, but his petition was not attended to ; some of the Lords even replied, "that they did not fear those rascally barefooted fellows." This, and other causes of complaint detailed by Historians, gave great offence to Glendour and his Countrymen, who Anno 1401 only about two years after Henry's accession to the Throne, flew to arms ; and Anno 1402, Glendour advanced with his army into the British territories, plundered and burnt the Abbey of Cwm in Radnorshire, slew the Monks, because they had sent intelligence of his designs to the English in this Country, took the castle of Radnor, and caused the whole garrison to the number of Sixty to be beheaded on the brink of the Castle yard, and during this expedition committed great devastations in that part of the country.

At length Edmond Lord Mortimer, uncle to the young Earl of March, who with his Brother was kept in custody by the jealous Henry, being then in the strong castle of Wigmore, and receiving information of Glendour's proceedings, sent his orders to the Inhabitants of Leominster, Weobley, and the adjacent parts of the country, summoning the attendance of all able men, furnished with arms and provisions, according to an ancient statute, enacted during the time of Edward the Confessor, by which each Inhabitant was obliged under a fine, to attend the chief Magistrate of the County, whenever it should be invaded

invaded by the Welsh. “*Si Vicecomes iret ad bellum, meliores ex incolis vadunt cum eo, qui vocatus non vadit, dat undecim Sol. aut unum bovem Regi.*” If the Vicecomes (or Governor of the Shire) should go to war, the chosen men go with him, whoever being called upon, refuses to go, gives to the King eleven shillings, or an Ox.” They accordingly assembled near Pembridge, intending to act on the defensive, until they might be assisted with a sufficient supply, to enable them to resist the enemy in open field.

Glendour was supported in this expedition, not only by the interest of his Sons in Law, and the many friends he had already made in the county of Hereford, but also by many * Ecclesiastics of great power and property; among the latter, by John Trevor Bishop of St. Asaph, who had been formerly sent into Spain by the King, upon matters of importance, and whose ecclesiastical dignity gave, in those days, great authority to the party he embraced.

Owen accordingly advancing with his army, endeavoured to † ford the River Arrow, (tho’ other writers call it the Severn) between Pembridge and Areland or Eardisland, both of which are situated on the banks of that stream, which near the latter, is distributed into so many branches that the Inhabitants cannot pass from house

C

to

* M. S. Visitation. † Vet. M. S. Lat.

to house, without the assistance of a bridge of two. This attempt at any other time would have been deemed easy, but was at that time hazardous, on account of the great floods, which inundated the country, and the water as is usual in that part running very wildly.

Mortimer at the head of the Herefordshire forces, and many also of the Welsh, vassals to his House, seeing the probable advantage of a sudden onset, while the enemy was fatigued, and encumbered with baggage, unfortunately deviated from his original plan, and attacked them. The Welsh soon shewed the difference between raw recruits, and men who had been regularly trained to arms, naturally hardy by living in woods and caves, and led on by the hopes of booty. After a long and desperate engagement, in which they were obliged to fight up to their middles in water, they gained, not only a decisive victory, but it is said (M. S. Blount) that in this action, Glendour himself after a long personal combat, disarmed Mortimer, and took him prisoner. Shakespear makes Hotspur speak thus,

“ When on the rapid * Arrow’s sedy bank

“ He did confound the best part of an hour,

“ In changing hardiment with great Glendour.

“ Three times they breathed, and three times did they drink,

“ Upon

* In the Edition Severn.

“ Upon agreement of sweet Arrow’s flood
 “ Who then affrighted with their deadly looks,
 “ Ran fearfully among the trembling reeds,
 “ Blood stained with these valiant combatants.

And having soon after made himself master of
 Leominster, he confined * Mortimer in a com-
 mon dungeon in that town. Shakespear flings
 a fine horror over this dreadful tale in relating,

————— When all athwart there came,
 “ A post from Wales, loaden with heavy news,
 “ Whose worst was, that the noble Mortimer,
 “ Leading the men of Herefordshire to fight,
 “ Against the irregular and wild Glendour
 “ Was by the rude hands of that Welshman taken

But Glendour did not so well know how to
 use a victory, as to get it; for after having ob-
 tained so decisive an advantage, in which nearly
 two thousand Englishmen lost their lives, he con-
 tented himself with living in this luxurious Coun-
 try, and in seizing upon whatever he deemed
 worthy of his notice, or that of his followers.

He then wreaked his revenge on the Ecclesi-
 astics, who had favoured the cause of the English;
 his conduct in this instance, (says his great advo-
 cate Pennant,) seems indefensible, for he paid
 no regard to the most sacred Edifices; he plun-
 dered

C3

* Part of the Dungeon in which he was confined, is now
 converted into a stable lying at the top of the Church street
 opposite to the School House; over it was formerly the Ca-
 mera or Frere Chamber.

dered and stripped the church of * Leominster of the greatest part of its richest ornaments, and laid the large Priory, which was then possessed of great revenues, under very heavy contributions. He caused the church of Pembridge to be destroyed, two windows with curiously painted glass escaped his fury, which were adorned with a variety of Inscriptions, in old Saxon characters. But the beautiful cross on the Church Porch was not so fortunate, it being pulled down by a Soldier.

Mortimer, tho' closely confined in prison, was allowed every indulgence, his unfortunate situation could admit of. The Earl of Northumberland and others who were related to him, requested King Henry to endeavour to redeem their Kinsman from imprisonment, but ineffectually, Henry's jealousy extended to the whole House of that Prince.

Harding has the following lines concerning the imprisonment which Mortimer suffered afterwards.

“ Syr Edmond then Mortimer warred fore”

“ Upon Owen, and did hym mekyll tene,”

“ But at laste, Owen laye hym before,”

“ Where in battell they fought as well as was
fene,”

“ Where Owen toke hym prisoner, and then full
kene,”

“ With

- “ With mekell folke on eyther fyde flayne,”
 “ And fet Edmonde in prifone and great payne.”
 “ He wrote unto the kyng for great focoure,”
 “ For he had made with Owen his fynaunce,”
 “ To whom the kyng wold grant then favoure,”
 “ Ne nought he wold then make him cheuef-
 aunce,”
 “ For to comfort his foes difobeyfaunce.”
 “ Wherefore he laye in fetters & fore prifone,”
 “ For his none payment of his great raunfome.”

See Weever's Monuments.

Irritated at this the Earl of Northumberland and others entered into a treaty with Glendour, by which they procured Mortimers delivery, who returned to the Castle of Wigmore, and this produced the famous league betwixt Glendour, the Percys and Mortimers. The war that ensued belongs to the general Historian, the battle near Shrewsbury was decisive in Henry's favour, and in the year 1405 the King sent his victorious army into Herefordshire, where Glendour and the Mortimers, joined by * ten thousand French troops under the command of Jean de Rieux Lord of Rieux and Rochfort Marshal of France, which Admiral de Trie Lord of L'Enfontaine had landed in Wales, formed a second army, almost as formidable as the first; and what rendered the assistance of the French, at this particular time,

the

* Histoire et regne de Charles 6.

the more dangerous was their *Canones*, guns, which had been invented in France about twenty six years before; the use of which in this country was then hardly known.

Prince Henry advanced against them, but was on the point of being cut off, occasioned by the great floods which happened at that time in this country; for Glendour was looked upon by the common people as a Conjuror, who had a command over the waters &c. and by the mouth of Shakespear, he speaks of his intercourse with the tribe of spirits, and his skill in the mystic arts of divination,

“ Where is he living, clipt in with the sea

“ That chides the banks of England, Wales or
Scotland,

“ Who calls me pupil, or has read to me?

“ And bring him out, that is but Woman’s Son

“ Can trace me in the tedious ways of art,

“ Or hold me pace in deep experiments,

“ I can call spirits from the vasty deep!

The Poet on this occasion plays finely with the warmth of Glendour, and he afterwards makes King Henry say of him

————— The Magician d — — d Glendour.

This popular opinion, he with great skill turned to his advantage, and at the beginning obtained some trifling success over the Royal Party. He however soon after retreated from Leominster, which was instantly occupied by Richard
de

de Lingain, who commanded the country forces in the Royal Interest ; He seems to have been a person of great power and trust at that period, but what his office was, I cannot guess (says Blount) not having seen his * commission, only this his warrant of a very unusual nature granted to Janin de Brompton, dated Leominstre 4. Henry 4.

† “ Richard de Lingain empowré di suth
 “ comission nostre tre dont le Seigneur le Prince
 “ deins le comte de Hereford et le Marches ad-
 “ joinant a toutz y ceux qui cestes lettres verront
 “ ou orront salut—Sachez Moi aver granté a un
 “ Janin de Brompton loyal et liege home nostre
 “ Seigneur le Roy et a ses servants de vendre et
 “ acheter bestes et berbez deins le countè de
 “ Heref. et le Marche adjoinant fans empech-
 “ ment ou arreste de nulluy come loyal et liege
 “ hommes a son propre usé et encreasé sans re-
 “ freshment des Rebelles de Gales et cèst ma let-
 “ tre ferra son garrant.

En tesmoygnance de quele chose a y ceste
 Jày mis mon seale Don-a Lemestre le XI.
 jour de Julet le III. ann de regne le Roi
 Henry le quarte.

(Translation)

* Ex ipso Autographo inter M. S. Blount.

† Lingain ; Vid. Lord Coningsby's case in Hampton Court Library, where there is an account of the Lingains and of the vast estates they possessed, when an inquisition was taken 2. Reg. Mariæ.

(Translation) *Richard de Lingain empowered by this commission of our worthy Lord the Prince, in the county of Hereford, and the MARCHES adjoining, to all those, who these letters shall see or have, Greeting. Know that I have granted to one Janin de Brompton loyal and liege man of our Lord the King, and to his Servants, to buy and sell cattle and sheep, in the county of Hereford, and the Marches adjoining without molestation or hindrance from any one, as loyal and liege Men to his own use and increase, without refreshment to the Rebels of Wales; and this my letter shall be his guarantee. In testimony of which to the above, I have put my seal.*

Given at Lemestre the XI. day of July in the third year of the reign of Henry the fourth.

This Richard de Lingain joined his troops to those of Prince Henry, and advanced against the common Enemy. It is imagined, that from the account of Glendour's having stationed his army in a strong camp; on a hill two miles to the south of Leominster, that the place of his station, must in all probability have been, on a part of Brierleys Hill, called to this day *Iwinton's Camp*.

* This camp is undoubtedly Roman, as may be known by the site, for the † works and ditches,
Which

* Vid. Grose's Camden.

† It is divided into two parts, by a work more modern than the rest. The first seems to have been for Glendour and his forces, and the other for the French Auxiliaries. Many coins of 1340, 1390 have within these late years been found there, by persons who ploughed the interior part.

which still remain visible, plainly demonstrate, that it was a place of great strength, and as such might very possibly have been occupied by Glendour, as a rendezvous for his army during the hurry of a retreat.

* Henry seemed willing to attack him in that strong situation, but finding his works almost inaccessible, he pitched his tents over against him, and each waited in their posts, the motions of the opposite army, their chief object being to deprive each other of provisions. In this they reciprocally succeeded so well, that both armies became destitute of necessaries, so that recourse was had to stratagem, but in what manner is unknown.

Owen Glendour was too skillful, not to know that he had already, by his cruelty and extortions, made every Inhabitant in the country his enemy, and that his army, accustomed only to plunder, would never stand the regular attacks of the Royal forces. He tried his men by some skirmishes, in which he discovered, that he was too inferior to his Antagonist, to risk an engagement; he accordingly gave orders for a general retreat, but scarcely had the men left their strong intrenchments, than they were occupied by Prince Henry, who immediately began a pursuit. Glendours army perceiving the Royal Troops at their heels, could no longer be controlled;

D

a Panic

* Henry at that time had great possessions in this part of the country, particularly Hampton Court &c.

a Panic seized them, so that, forsaking their leader, * they all took to flight.

Here terminates the history of Glendour, as far as regards Herefordshire, it is certain, that at some period of his life, he became a fugitive, and presents us with a remarkable instance of the instability of human affairs, for lurking from place to place thro' the woods, (as some accounts mention) habited as a Shepherd, in a low and forlorn condition, and even forced to take shelter in caves and desert places from the fury of his enemies, without a single friend to partake of his misery : it is related by many † Writers, that he was found at length in ‡ Haywood Forest, starved to death. A death, which as the || Records of that time say, divine Providence inflicted upon him, as a punishment for his sacrilegious plundering the Churches, Convents &c. But other accounts say, that he died Anno 1415, at the house of one of his Daughters, and Penant in his Tour, seems to think this the most probable, but whether at that of his Daughter Scudamore or Monnington, is uncertain ; according to the tradition of the county of Hereford,
at

* This retreat of Glendours proved fatal, some time after, to some of his adherents ; for I find, that in the year 1409 Philip Scudamore one of his first Officers, in Herefordshire, was made prisoner sent to London, and executed.

† Pere d'Orleans, ‡ Haywood Forest was near Hereford.

|| Vet. M. S.

at the House of his Daughter * Monnington ; and it is said, that he was buried in the church-yard of Monnington, but there is no monument or memorial of him to be found there,

In Rymers Fœdera, there is an order from King Henry the fifth to Gilbert Talbot to offer terms to Owen Glendour dated 1415, which shews, that he was then a person of consequence, and the ensuing year the same order is repeated to the same Gilbert, to treat with Meredith Ap Owen his Son, which seems to prove, that Owen died in that Interval, and that he left issue behind him,

The Parliament was so exasperated at the conduct of the Welsh under Glendour, that it was † moved, that no Welshman should be in any office under Government ; which the King was too just to accede to : for no man can choose the place of his Nativity, tho' he may bemoan and hate the bad practices of his own nation,

In the reign of Henry the VI. soon after the battle of Wakefield, in which Richard Duke of York was slain, his Son Edward, (afterwards

D3

King

* At this period the Monningtons of Monnington having joined, or at least been of some assistance to the Invaders, were attainted, insomuch that they never made use of their usual coat of arms, until a long time after, when it chanced one of the said Monningtons, to marry one of the Daughters of Laken in the same shire, and the Heir of them married the heir of Sarnesfield whereupon they bore the present arms. M. S. Visitation...

† Vid. Fullers Church History.

King Edward IV.) who at that time resided in the strong and beautiful castle of Wigmore, had raised a large force in the *Marches* of Herefordshire; and having joined those troops to the Salopians and the garrisons of Shrewsbury and Ludlow, he took the field at the head of more than twenty thousand experienced Bowmen.

Queen Margaret hearing that the Earl of March was in great force in Herefordshire, was anxious to quell his increasing power, as soon as possible; and therefore, without waiting to take her whole army to London, she detached the best part, under the command of Jasper Earl of Pembroke, the Earl of Ormond and Wiltshire, and Owen Tudor, to assist the Welsh troops in the neighbourhood of Leominster, who still remained faithful to her cause.

The Earl of March, who at first purposed following the Queen, altered his course, and discovering that the main army, reinforced by the Welsh troops stationed at *Leominster*, was marching from that town towards the Castle of Wigmore, hastened to protect it from the dangers of a siege; and the Queen's army continuing to advance towards * Kingsland, he deemed it prudent to risk the event of a battle, conscious, that

* **KINGSLAND**, This manor anciently belonged to the Crown, afterwards to the Mortimers. Leland says, that when Merwald King of Mercia, founded the famous monastery

that in case of an unfortunate event, he could easily make a retreat to Wigmore. being possessed of the defiles and narrow passes thro' the woods.

The

nastery of Nuns at Leofminstre, which foundation was long before the Conquest, he endowed it with all the lands thereabouts, except Kingsland; and when Henry I. founded the Priory of Leominster, this Manor was no part of his donation, but still reserved to the Crown, afterwards it came to the Mortimers, and in 34th Edward I. Margaret the Widow of Lord Mortimer, obtained a Charter for a weekly Market on Saturday and a fair, upon Michaelmas day; whereof the Market is lost, but the Fair continues great, and is kept always in the same open field towards the south end of the Church. Afterwards upon the death of Edmond Mortimer the last Earl of March, the manor came to the Crown again, and was part of Queen Catharines Jointure, Dowager to Charles II. some say, there was a Castle at Kingsland, near the Parsonage House, and that King Merwald was buried there. The Church is dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel, and the Sunday after that day something like a feast is kept. The Rector of the Church has a right to all tythes, for when it was in the possession of the Mortimers, Edward Lord Mortimer, being patron, made his younger Son Walter, Rector of the Church in the Reign of Edward I. On the left side of the chancel is a vestry, and over that an old Room, probably for confession. On the left hand of the north door into the Church is a little apartment, vulgarly said to be built by one Vaulker, who built the Church, as a tomb for himself, and so goes by that name; but more probably, was designed as a place for Penitents, where they might look into the church, and hear prayers, but were not to be admitted into Communion, till after they had shewn signs and proofs of their amendment and repentance. The advowson was alienated from the Crown by Queen Elizabeth, and now belongs to the Rev. William Evans. The Manor &c. is the property of the Right Honorable Lord Viscount Bateman whose elegant and hospitable Mansion House of Shobdon Court is only a few miles distant.

The distance from Wigmore to the plains of Kingland, is not much above three miles, thro' the pleasant village of *Aymestrey*, supposed to be the most picturesque part of the county of Hereford, being diversified with hills, whose summits are covered with thick woods, hanging rocks to be seen here and there thro' the trees, verdant valleys, thro' which the River Lug meanders with a clear and rapid stream, and the general view of the country is reckoned a lively representation of some pleasant parts of Switzerland. He therefore proceeded with his troops from his castle, and met the enemy in the *great West field* near Mortimers Cross in the Parish of Kingland, a few miles to the North West of Leominster.

In these plains a famous battle was fought upon Candlemas day anno 1640² between the Earl of March and Queen Margaret's forces, the engagement continued with unabated vigour from nine o'Clock in the morning, till sunset, as both parties were conscious, that the event of this battle, would tend to decide their future fortune, and their claims to the crown of England. At length with the slaughter of three thousand eight hundred men, * the Earl of
 March

* The Histories of that period all concur in mentioning, that before the battle of Mortimers Cross, the Sun appeared to the armies like three Suns, and soon after joined in one: whence Edward bore the Sun triple, in full brightness, as a recognizance.

March put the Queen's forces to flight, and took a great number of prisoners, among whom were Owen Tudor, the most noble Gentleman of the Welsh nation, descended from the great Cadwallader, who had married Queen Catharine, Mother to King Henry VI. David Floyde Esq. Morgan ap Reuther, and divers other Welshmen of Note; all of whom he confined at Leominster in the common dungeon, (the same in which Edmond Lord Mortimer one of his ancestors had been imprisoned by Glendour) and afterwards without any trial, caused to be beheaded at a place in that town called the * *Five Crosses*, (now called the Iron Cross.) Some accounts mention Owen Tudor to have suffered at Hereford; it is however certain, that the other prisoners were executed in this town.

Drayton in his "*Miseries of Queen Margarine*," gives the following description of the battle of at Mortimer's crosses.

" Edward of March, the Duke his father slaine,
Succeeding him whilst things thus badly sort,
Gathering an army, but yet all in vaine,
To ayde his father, for he came too short,
Hearing that Pembroke with a warlike trayne
Was coming towards him, touch'd with the
report,

His

* M. S. Blount, also the Priory Records *pene* the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Malden.

His valiant Marchers for the field prepares,
To meet the Earle, if to approach he dares.

Jasper, by birth half brother to the king,
On bright Queene Katherine got by Owen
Tether,

Whom Henry's love did to this Earldome bring ;
And as from Wales descended sent him thither,
And of South-Wales gave him the governing,
Where in short time he got an host together,
Cleaving to Henry who did him preferre,
As an Aye to the house of Lancafter.

Upon their march when as they lastly met,
Neere to the Crofs that MORTIMER is nam'd,
Where they in order their battalions set,
The Duke and Earl with equal rage inflam'd,
With angry eyes they one the other threat,
Their deadly arrows at each other aym'd :

And there a fierce and deadly fight begin,
A bloodier bateell yet there had not bin.

The Earl of Ormond an affociate then,
With this young Tudor, for the king that stood,
Came in the Vanguard with his Irish men
With darts and skaines ; those of the british
blood

With shaftes and greaves them seconding againe,
And as they fall still make their places good,
That it amaz'd the Marchers to behold,
Men so ill arm'd upon their Bowes so bold.

Now the Welsh and Irish so their weapons
weel'd,
As tho' themselves they conquerors meant to cal,
Then are the Marchers masters of the field,
With their brown bills the Welshmen so they
mall.

Now th' one now th' other likely were to yeeld,
These like to fly, then those were like to fall,
Until at length (as fortune pleas'd to guide)
The conquest turn'd upon the Yorkists' side.

* Three suns were seen that instant to appeare,
Which soone againe shut up themselves in one,
Ready to buckle as the armies were,
Which this brave Duke took to himself alone,
His drooping hopes which somewhat seem'd to
cheere,

By his mishaps, neere lately overthrowne.
So that thereby encouraging his men,
Once more he sets the white rose up agen.

Pembroke and Ormond save themselves by
flight,

Four thousand souldiers of both armies dead,
But the great losse on the Lancastrians light,

E

So

* This, tho' an unusual phenomenon in this country, is by no means strange or singular in some parts of the world, those who have visited the Alps, the Andes, or the coasts of Greenland, inform us (vid. Goldsmith's Animated Nature) that mock suns are there often reflected upon an opposite cloud, and the ignorant spectator fancies, that there are three or four suns in the firmament at the same time.

So ill the friends of poore King Henry sped ;
 Where Owen Tudor taken in the flight,
 This young Earl's father by Queen Katherine's
 bed,
 At Hereford not farrè away from thence,
 Where others with him dyde for their offence."

When Henry Earl of Richmond (afterwards Henry VII.) passed thro' this town, he was received in a friendly manner, and plentifully supplied with men and money by the Inhabitants. Many old Prophecies recited by the Welsh Bards, were said to be fulfilled in him, which howsoever trifling, tended in no small degree to increase his interest, and excite a confidence in his cause.

* It was foretold, that in the first battle, whoever happened to shoot the Arrow first, should have the victory ; this, most People understood in the following sense, "that the archer in the fight, who should shoot the first Arrow, should gain the day to his side." The Earl of Richmond bending his march forward from the city of Hereford, first passed *Arrow*, a small stream, which takes its' name from the rapidity of its' current, about the distance of half a mile from the town of Leominster ; and was said accordingly, to have fulfilled the Prophecy.

William Baskerville of the House of Eardisley, who followed him from Leominster, behaved himself

* Vid. Fuller's Church History.

himself so valiantly at the famous battle of Bosworth field, that the King gave him the Manor of * Nethwood, where there was a noble House, and a park which comprehended near a thousand acres of land.

From this period, the general History of the Town and Neighbourhood is not very interesting, until the beginning of the reign of Queen Mary, during those disputes about the succession to the throne of England. †Pawlett Marquis of Winchester, having found, that from the probability of the event of affairs, the Princess Mary would attain the summit of her wishes, espoused her party, and being a person of great abilities, gave no small influence to the cause of that Princess; he was accordingly made Minister, and intrusted with the direction of affairs at this critical period.

The Duke of Northumberland chief of Lady Jane Grey's party, had sent Emiffaries into Herefordshire, in order to gain friends, who might create a diversion in favour of Lady Jane. In this he succeeded, for all those who were of the Reformed Church of England, instantly coincided with the measures of a person, whose

E 2

chief

* This Manor now belongs to Jon. Pitts Esq. of Kyre House. In the mansion House was born the famous Earl of Essex.

† This Pawlett was afterwards questioned, how he could possibly coincide with the various measures of so many different Sovereigns, he replied, "by being a willow and not an oak."

chief aim was to keep the crown in the Protestant succession : another more interested motive, tended greatly to assist his schemes in this, as well as in other Counties ; sundry persons in this neighbourhood, who were some of the richest men in the country, and who had purchased lands lately appertaining to the religious establishments, which had been sold at the General Dissolution, *temp. Hen. VIII.* feared, if Queen Mary who was a zealous Roman Catholic, should attain the Crown ; that the old Religion would, in all probability be restored, and that they should be obliged to part with their rich possessions.

Among these, I find the names of *Hackluyt*, of Eaton, *Warnicomb*, of Ivinton, who had purchased all the Trinity lands in that neighbourhood (so called, because they were to support a small chapel dedicated to The Holy Trinity at Leominster) *Streete*, of Street Court, who was afterwards first Bailiff of the Borough of Leominster, * *J. Harley* Bishop of Hereford, and many others, all men of great rank and property.

In this dispute about the succession, Religion had undoubtedly great influence, the Roman Catholics were big with expectation of great advantages from the Princess Mary's accession to the

* J. Harley sometime Fellow and Master of Magdalen College, Oxford, was displaced by Queen Mary, because he was married, and died soon after, He was of the present noble House of Oxford.

the Crown, and those who wished to support the religion of their fore-fathers, eagerly joined in her cause. On the other side, the Duke of Northumberland, who had taken, and would most probably, continue to take the lead, if the Lady Jane preserved the ascendancy, tho' a man of no principle, was to appearance a zealous advocate for the Reformation, and was assisted by those Protestants, who were concerned both by religion and interest to maintain the late King's arrangement, in order to secure themselves, and anticipate the designs of the opposite party.

The forces near Leominster, in the service of the Duke for Lady Jane, amounted to near thirteen thousand men, tho' when informed of the success of the Princess Mary, their numbers began to diminish, and *desertion* soon thinned their ranks. The force however was deemed so formidable, that the Earl of Northampton, a man of great credit and influence, and attached to the royal Interest, was sent into Herefordshire to raise troops, to support Queen Mary's pretensions. The Earl found no great obstacle in collecting together a sufficient number of men, as various families in the county, and many who resided in and near Leominster, were strongly attached to the interest of the Princess Mary. Among these, were *Sir James Croft* of Croft Castle, who was Constable of the Tower of London, and a man of great popularity: *Robert de Purfew* alias *de Warton* an Ecclesiastic of great

great power and abilities ; * *Richard Wallwayn*, of the ancient family of the Wallwayns in this county, who took a very active part in the proceedings of this period ; † *Francis Throckmorton*, Son of Sir John Throckmorton, Chief Justice of Chester, who was deeply interested in Mary's cause, from his hatred to the Reformation ; he had some time before bought the honor of Marden of the Duke of Northumberland, and in Marden the Catholic Interest still strongly prevailed ; *Streete* of *Streete Court*, either convinced of his error in espousing the wrong party, or embracing the strongest side, received pardon from Mary, thro' the intercession of the Earl of Arundel, who was then at Hereford, and afterwards became one of her most zealous adherents.

‡ The forces in the interest of the Duke of Northumberland, continuing to decrease, and afraid of being surprized, had taken their station on a little hill, called *Curnah* or *Coursenah Hill*, which

* These Wallwayns are of ancient descent from Gwalain or Wallwain Castle in Pembrokehire, of which family was Sir Philip Wallwayn, who being engaged in King William Rufus's time, under Bernard de Newmark the Norman, in the conquest of Brecknockshire, had certain lands assigned him at the *Hay* in that County, which are to this day called *Wallwayn's Rents*. Thus Lediard, "one shewed me in the towne of the *Hay*, the ruynes of a Gentleman's place, called *Wallwayn*, by whose means Prince Llewellyn was suddenly taken at Builth Castle, there beheaded, and his head sent to the King."

† Vid. Lord Conningby's long Case in Hampton-Court Library.

‡ Vet. Manuscript,

which has a gradual ascent from the banks of the Pinfley, at about a mile to the west of Leominster. Here they had thrown up very strong works, a rampart and double Fossè (part of which may be now easily traced) with a design when reinforced, of making an attack upon the town.

But the Inhabitants having received fresh reinforcements from the army at Hereford, which was then under the command of the Earl of Arundel, were resolved to obstruct their designs, and to dislodge from their vicinity an enemy, that was keeping them in continual alarms.

They accordingly advanced under the command of Philip Hobby, an Inhabitant of Leominster, who led the main body, Richard Wallwayn, who headed the troops from Hereford, and Francis Throckmorton, who conducted the chosen men of Marden. As the attack was made upon the Enemy, whilst secured by their intrenchments, the battle was very bloody, (as the account mentions, but no detail of particulars is given, nor the precise day of the battle.)

Success attended Mary's friends, and the defeat of the enemy was so complete, that in a few weeks the whole country was entirely free from their incursions.

This blow was fatal to Lady Jane, in this part of the Kingdom, as from that time her party was entirely destroyed; and Queen Mary thought it an action of importance, if we may judge by the particular care she took to make an acknowledgement.

ledgement to the chief Persons, who had been instrumental in this Victory.

She soon after advanced *Robert de Purfew* alias *Warton* to the Bishoprick of Hereford; and I have seen a command under the great seal, dated 25 Novembr. 1 Reg. Mariæ. whereby she authorized Henry Earl of Arundel to confer the honour of Knighthood upon *Richard Wallwayn*, which was accordingly performed on the 29th of the same month; he having been made an Esquire of the body to the same Queen the day before. *Philip Hobby* of Leominster received equal honours at the same time, and attended with the same ceremonies, when performed by the same person at Leominster. And the Queen was so satisfied with the gallant behaviour of the Inhabitants, that she ordered the privileges and franchises, which were going to be given to them by Edward VI. to be revised and considerably augmented, and accordingly soon after incorporated the Borough, and granted them a very extensive Charter.

Since that time there is not any thing very interesting to relate of the general history of this Borough, even in the troublesome times of Charles I. except that a party of Oliver Cromwell's forces erected a battery of cannon at the end of the church, and destroyed the old covered way, leading from the Priory to the Church: this battery was to keep the town in awe, it having been always remarkable for supporting government

them. Among the slain, were three Brothers of the family of the * *Lockards*, whose ancient seat was at the Bilets near Pembridge. Of this family there were ten Brothers, all of whom were actually engaged at one and the same time in the unhappy quarrel of King Charles the I. Sir William Croft previous to the engagement, riding privately by night thro' the woods from his castle of Croft with a few attendants, was unfortunately surpris'd, and barbarously murdered.

This defeat may be ascribed both to the superior skill and conduct of † Colonel John Birch, who at that time was representative in
Parliament

* Lockards, their ancient seat was at the Bilets. Thomas Lockard of this period married Alice, the Daughter of Sir Roger Bodenham, which Alice was the widow of Bradford of Leominster.

† This Colonel John Birch had a genteel habitation in the Parish of Weobly, which he purchased of Sir Thomas Tompkins Kt. upon his monument in the chancel of the church of Weobly, is the following Epitaph.

In hopes of Resurrection to eternal life here is deposited

The body of COLONEL JOHN BIRCH
Descended of a worthy family in Lancashire.

As the dignities he arrived at in the field,
And the esteem universally yielded him,
In the senate House,

Exceeded the attainment of most,

So they were but the moderate and just rewards
Of his courage, conduct, wisdom and fidelity,

None who knew him,
Denied him the character,

Of asserting and vindicating the laws and Liberties,
Of his country in war,

And of promoting its welfare and prosperity
In peace.

Parliament for the Borough of Leominster, and commanded in this expedition, as also to the bad conduct and jealousy of the chiefs of the royal forces about superiority and command, and altho' the bad effects of this unfortunate event, were not perceived at first, yet after the battle of Naseby, when many fled into these parts for security, they were but too soon felt.

* * *

The TOWN.

Before we proceed on the present state of the Town, let us hear what Leland says concerning it.

“ *THE towne of Leonminster alias Lemster, standeth somewhat lowe, and all the ground very neere about it farre lower.*”

“ *In the west end of the town there be three stone bridges. The first over Pensilly, a streame that runneth a 5 miles of out of a more by west south west, and runneth a 3 miles taketh with him a little Broeket that riseth not much above the Church of Kingsland, and thence runneth under the aforesayd Bridge in Leonminster, and so goeth through the very house of the Priory, and thence not farre of into * Lugge by the right ripe.*”

“ *The second over Kene water, that after a small course beneath the bridge goeth into Lug. This Ken is an arme of Lug, and breaketh out of it at a Were a quarter of a mile above Lugge Bridge in Leonminster, from the greatest part of*
“ *Lug*

* Lugge anciently called in the British language *Llug-ty*, derives its Etymology, as Camden says, from the clearness of its stream; *Llug* which signifies light or brightness, and *Guy* or *Wy*, which seems anciently to have been an appellative either for river or water.

“Lug, is driven by a Damme or Were to serve
“the King’s Milles a little lower than the Dammes.”

“The third is called Lug bridge, and, as I
“remember, it is the greatest of the three, and
“hath most arches.”

“The towne of Leonminster is meetly large, and
“hath good buildinges of Tymbre. The towne by
“reason of their principall wool, use great draping
“of Cloth, and thereby it flourished. Since of lat-
“ter dayes it chanced that the Cittyes of Hereford
“and Worcester complained of the frequency of
“People that came to Lemster, in prejudice of both
“their Marketts in the Shyre Townes, and also
“in hindringe their drapinge. Whereupon the Sat-
“turday Markett was removed from Lemster,
“and a markt on Friday was newly assigned
“unto it. Since that tyme the towne of Lemster
“hath decayed.”

Stukeley in his *Itinerary* writes concerning
this town, as follows.

“Leominster is a town of brisk trade in manu-
“factures of their admirable wool, in hat-making,
“leather and many other. It lies in a valley lux-
“uriant above measure. Three Rivers of very
“swift current run thro’ the town, besides others very
“near, nor will the Industrious Inhabitants suffer
“the Water Nymphs that preside over the streams,
“to be idle; for with mills and machinery of va-
“rious contrivance, they make them subservient to
“many uses in the way of their trades. In this
town

"town the soil is luxuriant beyond measure, trees
 "of all sorts flourish prodigiously, we were surprized
 "at the extravagant bulk of plants, leaves of dock
 "as big as an ordinary Tea table, Comfry leaves
 "as long as my arm, &c."

This town is situated in a very rich and fertile plain, encompassed with hop-yards, orchards, fine meadows, &c. * Three rivers pass thro' it, also a Canal to the Coalworks, intended to be extended to the River Severn, Latitude, $52^{\circ} 18''$ Longitude, $2^{\circ} 54''$ distant from London 136 miles, from Worcester 26, and Hereford 13. It contains upwards of 400 houses, and between 3 and 4000 Inhabitants. The extent of it in length from north to south is about one mile, and half a mile in breadth from east to west. The Parish is divided into two, the Borough and the Out-Parish; which last contains four Townships, 1 *Eaton, Henor, and Stretford.* 2 *Wharton, Broadward, and Brierley,* 3 *Ivinton, Hyde, Ash, and Wintercott.* 4 *Stagbatch and Cholfrey.*

It is a precinct of itself, distinct from the County, having a Goal and a Bridewell, holding Quarter Sessions and a weekly Court of Record, the weekly market is on Friday, and there are six fairs in the year held by very old Grants. viz. Feb. 13th, Tuesday after midlent
 Sunday

* And three other strong streams within half a mile of it.

Sunday, May 2nd, July 10th, or the wool fair, September 4th, November 8th.

The Borough is very ancient both by prescription and Charter, and sent Members to Parliament as early as the XXIII of King Edward I. Besides the Church, there are four other places of divine worship, for the Baptists, the Dissenters, the Quakers and the Moravians or *Unitas Fratrum*.

A part of the Town consists of old Timber and plaister buildings, but most of the modern houses are of Brick.

Tho' the cheapness of provisions and peculiar advantages from Hops and Cider have always kept this town full of Inhabitants; yet the customary low rents and high price of coals, added so much to the price of Brick and Lime, that building could not be made to answer.

Of late, houses have been much wanted; the rents have advanced, and new buildings are increasing, as fast as bricks can be made.

This town was particularly noted some time back for the badness of its' walks, &c. within the boundaries of the Borough, tho' the soil be remarkably dry and healthy. No part, except the inclosure in the Church-yard, could be possibly deemed a moderate *promenade*, and even the Inhabitants in the Etnam street, were obliged to go by a long circuit thro' the town, to attend divine service. At length in the year 1792 the liberality of his Grace the Duke of Norfolk remedied

died these inconveniences : a meadow adjoining to the Church-yard called the *Grange*, was the property of his Grace, by whose orders at a very considerable expence, sundry Gravel *walks were made for the convenience of the Inhabitants, and by taking down part of the Church-yard wall, and the removal of one side of a house in the Etnam street a pleasant communication was opened from that street to the church. Thus what before, was attended with many disagreeable circumstances, is now quite the reverse, and the improvement rendered the most pleasant and agreeable part of the Borough.

For the names of the Streets, see *Appendix No. 15.*

This town gives the † title of Baron to the Earl

* These walks are still called the Duke's walks.

† In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, I find a person of the Title of *Marquiss of Lemster* of whom we read the following account in an old Manuscript. Thomas Stuckley born in the county of Devonshire, was a man of person and parts, but an extravagant in his expences. His first project was to people Florida; he told Queen Elizabeth that he would rather be Sovereign of a mole hill, than Subject to the greatest prince in Christendom. The Queen desired him to write to her, when he was in his principality; so I will, says Stuckley: In what style? says the Queen; In the style as Princes use, says he. "To our Dear Sister." He went for Rome, was created (or created himself) Baron of Rois, Viscount Murrrough, Earl of Wexford, and *Marquiss of Lemster*. He set out with 800 Soldiers under the pay of the King of Spain to reduce Ireland, and beat out the English, he waved that, and went with Sebastian King of Portugal, and two Moorish Kings into Africa, where they were all killed in the first battle.

Earl of Pomfret, by the name of *Baron Lemſter*.

This Borough is in the hundred of Wolphy; but according to Records ſoon after Doomsday, was in the hundred of Begeleit, now extinct.

William de Lemſter born at Leominſter, was a Franciſcan Doctor of Oxford, excellently learned in Philoſophy and Divinity, in both which Sciences, he is ſaid to have written accurately many things which heretofore were greatly admired, and much in uſe both at Oxford and London. Among many other works, he wrote collections upon the Sentences, four books; Questions of Divinity, one book, and other ſuch works. See *Dr. Pitts' in Appendice*. The time when the Doctor flouriſhed is not certainly known, but by his writings he ſeems to have been a Profeſſor of Divinity. From the beſt information I can obtain, he died about the year, 1364.

Vid. Hiſt. Franciſcan.

John of Leominſter, alias *Joannes Bromiardus*, a monk of the order of the Preachers, was a celebrated Theologiſt and Jurifconſult, Doctor at Oxford, and at length Profeſſor of Theology at Cambridge; he violently oppoſed Wiclif in the London Synod, in 1382. He ſhone about the year 1390, and is ſaid to have died 1419. There remain of him *Summa Prædicatorum*, in two parts, published at Venice 1586. MS. Speeches in the Library at Cambridge, &c.

Vid. Hiſtoria literaria a Cave.

The Manor, Grants, Charters, &c.

THIS Manor, Borough, &c. were ancient Demefne land of the Crown, and as fuch were allotted by King Edward the Confeflor, to Editha his Queen, who is mentioned to have held this Manor, with the fixteen members appertaining to it, in the Conqueror's general Survey, which runs thus.

“ The King holds Leofminftre, Queen Edrid
 “ formerly held it, with its' fixteen members,
 “ Lufton, Larpol, Elmondeftren, Brumefelde,
 “ Eftune, Stoctune, Stoke, Merfetone, Uptone,
 “ Hope, Bretleg, Ivintune, Cerleftren, Lente-
 “ hale, Gedeven, and Ffernelaw.”

“ In this Manor with its' appurtenances were
 “ fourfcore *Hides, and in demefne thirty †Ca-
 “ rucates or Ploughlands; there were eight †Præ-
 “ pofiti or Bailiffs, eight || Bedelli, and eight
 Radcheniftri

* A Hide of land is not of any certain extent, but as much as a plough could by courfe of husbandry plough in a year; it confifts of a hundred and ninety two acres or near, according to the learned Selden.

† Carucate of land is like the hide, but uncertain, every Carucate was formerly of the annual value of one pound, thirteen fhillings and four-pence; and this was the living of a Yeoman or Farmer.

‡ Præpofitus, Reve or Greve, *Germanicè*, Grave, *Sax* Geref, the Bailiff of a Franchife or Manor.

|| Bedellus: a Crier or Meflenger of a court, an under Bailiff of a Manor.

* * *Radchenistri*, two hundred and thirty eight
 “ † Villains, seventy five ‡ Borderers, and eighty
 “ two Men and Women Servants.”

“ All these had at the same time, two hundred
 “ and thirty Carucates, the Villains ploughed
 “ one hundred and forty acres of the Lords land
 “ and sowed them with their own corn, and
 “ gave as customary eleven || lib. four (a) sol.
 “ two (b) den. the *Radchenistri* gave fourteen
 “ sol. four den, and three (c) sextarias of honey,
 “ The eight Millers were at seventy three sol. and
 “ thirty sticks of Eels, (thirty on each stick) the
 “ wood rendered twenty four sol. and two sol. for
 “ (d) Pannage.

G2

Only.

* *Radchenistri*, understood in Domesday, to be Free-
 men; but some more so than others.

† The Villains were of two sorts, those who held by
 villanage pure, and villanage by tenure; the first, direct
 servitude; the second, by which the tenant was bound to
 perform certain services to his Lord; such as ploughing
 his ground, reaping his wheat &c. the latter is Domesday.

‡ The Borderers were such as held lands of the Lord of
 the Manor upon condition of looking after his horses, mak-
 ing his hay, and supplying sundry articles for his board and
 entertainment; such estates were usually called *Bord-lands*,
 and there are lands in the Manor of Kingstland near Leomin-
 ster, which still retain that name.

|| The Libra or pound, as mentioned in Domesday for
 reserved rent, was a pound weight of silver of twelve ounces,
 equal to about three pounds two Shillings sterling.

(a) The Solidus consisted of twelve pence, equal to three
 shillings.

(b) The Denarius equal to three pence.

(c) A Sextary contained about a pint and a half.

(d) Pannage was pay for the Swine feeding on acorns
 in the woods.

“ Only the King has in this Manor in his own
 “ demefne, fixty hides, twenty nine carucates,
 “ fix * Presbyteri, fix † Radmen, feven Præpo-
 “ fiti, feven Bedelli, two hundred and twenty
 “ four Villains, eighty one Borderers, twenty
 “ five fervants Men and Maids, and eight Mil-
 “ lers; among all were two hundred and one
 “ Carucates.

“ They plough and fow of their corn twenty
 “ five acres; they give as customary feven lib.
 “ fourteen fol. eight den. three ob.; feventeen fol.
 “ for fifh, eight fol. for falt, and fixty five fol. for
 “ honey. There were eight Millers of a hundred
 “ and eight fol. and a hundred fticks of Eels,
 “ left ten.

“ The wood, fix leagues in length, and three
 “ in breadth, returned twenty two fol. out of
 “ them, were given five fol. to buy wood in
 “ Wiche, and thirty ‡ mittas of falt were to be
 “ had out of them. Each villain having ten
 “ hogs gave one for pannage.

“ From the ¶ affarts of the woods, came
 feventeen

* Presbyteri a temporal office, they being Comptrollers of the Kings Taxes.

† Radmen, Rod-Knights alias Red Knights, were certain fervitors who held their land by ferving their Lord on horfeback.

‡ A Mitta was an ancient Saxon meafure, in ufe before the Conqueft; its quantity is not certainly known.

¶ Affart rents were rents paid to the Crown for forefts cleared.

“seventeen fol. four den. ; here is an || Aerie
“of Hawks,”

“The whole rent of the manor besides eels,
“is twenty two lib. two fol. This manor, besides
“what is allowed for the livelihood of Nuns, is
“set per annum for sixty lib. and the county
“Court saith it is worth one hundred and twen-
“ty lib. per annum.

“The manors of Stanford and Merkley did
“also belong to Leofminstre, but they have been
“since separated. Wigmore Castle and some
“lands in Brimfield owed suit and service, and
“paid rent in Edward the Confessor’s time”
but were separated before the Conquest. The
suit and rent paid to Leominster, *see Appendix*
No. 1.

By all which it appears, that this was a very
considerable town in William the Conqueror’s
time, and as it belonged to the Crown when
Doomsday was composed, becomes what is called
Ancient Demejne, and as such was entitled to
several franchises and privileges, and how unal-
terably these franchises and privileges were es-
tablished to those lands by this venerable Record,
the following account from Dugdale’s *Origines*
Judiciales fully evinceth ;

“Moreover

|| Aerie or Airy is the proper word in hawks, for what
we call a nest in other birds ; as the French word *Aire* pro-
perly signifies the nest of a bird of Prey.

“ Moreover he caused the whole kingdom to be surveyed, to the end he might know how much land each of his Barons did possess ; as also the number of Knights fees and plough lands that it contained, likewise what Bondmen and what Cattle any one had from the greatest to the least ; all which he appointed to be recorded in his Exchequer at Westminster, in that book called *Doomsday Book*.”

This place was then governed by eight Præpositi or chief officers of the King ; the eight Bedelli, who were in the nature of Under Bailiffs to the chief Officers, and the eight Radchenistri. Three were *liberi tenentes*, whom we now call Freeholders, of which sort, there were not many in those days. And it may be observed, what a great quantity of wood was there then, to what there is now, eighteen miles in length, and nine in breadth. (if by *leuva* be understood a league) But it appears likewise, that they began then to assart or clear their woods, and reduce their lands to tillage,

Henry I. when he endowed his Abbey of Reading, gave very rich possessions to it, and among them, this great Manor of Leominster, with its appurtenances, Churches, tythes &c. valued then at six hundred and sixty six pounds nineteen shillings and eight pence ; he also gave to the Abbey all immunity and liberty, which the Royal power could confer on any Abbey. The Monastery here was made a Cell or Priory

of Monks to the Abbey of Reading. *Vid. Appendix No 2.*

From this time the Government of the Town was held under the Abbot of Reading's Charter, and the Officers were chosen or approved by the Abbot of Reading or Prior of Leominster. Four officers were in the Abbots appointment to act jointly as Stewards, Bailiffs, and Attornies to hold courts &c. *See Appendix No. 3.*

Two were chosen out of the Friars, and two were Laymen, a Bailiff of the Town, and a Bailiff of the Foreign. The Bailiff of the town, it is probable, was chosen out of the ancient body Corporate of XXIV. Burgeffes or Common Council ; there was also an under Bailiff to execute fummons, attachments, distreffes and executions. *See his appointment Appendix No. 4.*

Anno 1170 Henry II. granted the first fair to this town

Anno 1282 Edward I. confirmed the Charter, and granted a fair for 6 days on the Eve and day of St. Michael, and the four following days.

Another fair 13 Edward I. for 6 days on the Eve and feast of St. Edrid the Confessor and the four following days.

In Edward the thirds reign, many Persons of estate had large possessions in this manor ; the principal names were Sturmy, Mappinore, Lorymer and Romain ; the two first names remain in certain closes and a lane. The Bradfords had
also

Also a * mansion house at the south end of the Town

About this period (anno 1327) the Priory was in great splendour, the entrance from the Cross towards it was thro' an arched Gateway, at the top of the Church street, which had a room over it belonging to the Priory, called the Frere Chamber, *quædam camera quæ vocatur le Frere Chamber*; here the Abbots Courts were held; and causes tried by the Bailiffs and Stewards of the Borough. On the north side adjoining the gateway was the Town goal, in which was a Dungeon: on the other side was the Chapel of *Le Forbury*, *quædam capella eadem camere adjuncta*.

Anno 1335 the Keepers of Leominster granted freedoms to various persons on their paying premiums of 6s. 8d. 10s. &c. and about this time many applied for their freedoms, on account of their marrying the Daughters of Freemen; all which applications were rejected.

According to the Priory Records, the Abbot of Reading claimed to have in this manor and the foreign hundred, and the inward, return of estate of writs, and liberty of holding pleas of Naam (*vetito Namio*) the assize of bread and ale, view of frank pledge, a gallows, pillory, tumbrel, americiaments of his men, chattels of the condemned and fugitive of his tenants &c.

* This House as the Records say, continued in great splendour till the middle of the 15th Century.

Anno 1394. The Abbot and Convent gave to John Luntly, the custody of the Inner Gate of the Marior of Leominster for 99 years, to be Deputy at the Goal. *See Corrody in the Appendix No. 5.*

Anno 1394 Surnames were taken from trades, as well as from the place of residence, the origin of Hugh Smythe of Wynnesley, is recorded in the Priory Records, 17 Rich. II. 1394, Osbert de Hope had a Son Hugh, whose Grandson was by trade a *Smythe*, he omitted the name of Osbert, and was called Hugh *Smythe*.

The Magistrates of the Town were very tenacious of their rights, they admitted John de Eye the King's Coroner 1408, temp. Hen. 4. to inquire after the death of William Atte Reth, of Cherlesten, on condition he should proclaim this his licence.

By many contests Anno 1413, with the Abbot of Reading, it seems that the Bailiffs and Commonality (or Corporation) were not so dependant on the Abbot and Priory, as it appears from the appointment, by their claiming of the Abbot, twenty-four acres of land in Portman's More, in the Parishes of Leominster and Eye. It was determined at the Assizes at Hereford, to belong to the Abbot and Monks.

1414, Henry V. confirmed the Charter to the Town and Priory.

1440, Henry VI. confirmed the Charter, and had it ratified by Parliament.

1539, After the Dissolution of the Abbey of Reading, and Priory of Leominster, 31 Hen. VIII. the Crown took possession of the great Manor of Leominster, with the Churches, Franchises, and Privileges, as enjoyed by the Abbot and Prior; the great power of the Courts and Sessions was now gone; for, except in trifling matters, this Borough was hereafter subject to the Jurisdiction of the Lords of the Marches, who held their Courts at Ludlow Castle. These courts were first held in the reign of Henry VIII. who granted very extensive power for that purpose. Their Jurisdiction extended over all the land, between the Severn and Offa's † Dyke, from Bristol to Chester. The Lords of the Marches had power of life and death in their respective courts, and in every frontier town, a gallows was erected, and * if any Welshmen came over the boundary on this side, they were to be taken up and hanged, every town within the Marches being furnished with a horseman, armed with sword and spear, and maintained on purpose to be always ready to take them up; likewise, if any Englishman was taken on the Welsh side, he suffered the same fate: such was their antipathy to each other. The Welsh deemed all cattle, &c. † lawful prizes, taken,

† Knighton in British *Trefeclodd* or *Tref ar y Clawdd*, signifies the town in the ditch.

* See Phillips's History of Shrewsbury.

† If a Welshman could get a stolen horse or cow over the bar, he cried out, "my own," and further the horseman dared not follow.

and brought over the Dyke to their side, for which reason, most houses were moated round, and pallisadoed, to drive their cattle in every night, in order to prevent their being stolen and taken away.

Anno 1552 the Inhabitants petitioned King Edward VI. to renew or grant them a Charter, setting forth; that there were 2000 *huffeling men*, i. e. Communicants, that there were three Chauntries, St. Mary's, Trinity Service, and the Service of our Lady of Pity, otherwise called the Chantry of Philip ap Morgan's lands, that the three priests serving the said Chauntries served the Grammar, Writing, and A. B. C. Schools, that the King had within the Borough of Burgage rents, Cottage and Kenel rents, to the amount of 53 Pounds, 11 Shillings, that they had ten stone bridges to maintain; They therefore prayed the King to give them those Chantry and Cottage rents, and renew their Charter: the King's death happening soon after, prevented any further proceeding.

Anno 1554 The Inhabitants of this Borough having distinguished themselves in the cause of the Princess Mary against Lady Jane Grey, Queen Mary on her accession to the throne, readily complied with the request of the Town in granting them their first Charter, power of holding Session's Courts, with various other privileges, as under the Abbot of Reading, a High Steward, a Coroner, two Serjeants at

Mace, Goaler and other Officers, established the School, the Court of Record every other Monday for sums not exceeding five pounds, granted lands, tenements, rents, &c. See *Charter in Appendix No. 6.*

Queen Elizabeth's Charter, A. D. 1561, is a recital of the above.

King James recites the same, and adds, that the Steward and the preceding Bailiff, are Justices with the Bailiff for the time being, to preserve proper weights and measures, &c. also, that the Court of Record held every fortnight, be in future held on every Monday, and granted the wool fair, &c.

In the 3rd year of his reign, he granted this great manor, with it's Royalties, Churches and appurtenances to the Duke of Buckingham.

In 1610 the Pestilence being at Hereford, the Summer Assize was held at Leominster; one trial shews the cruelty of the laws in religious matters at that period. * Roger Cadwallader born at Stretton Sugwas, a secular

* Roger Cadwallader attended a school at home, till he was fit to go to College, he went to France, entered himself a Student at the English College at Rheims, and was made Deacon in 1592: that year he travelled into Spain to the English College at Valladolid in order to finish his studies, was made a Priest and returned home. He was soon apprehended on Easter-Day, 1610, at the house of Mrs. Winifred Scroop, within 8 miles of Hereford, by Ja. Pritchard the Under Sheriff, he was first brought to the High Sheriff, then to Bennet, Bishop of the Diocese, and underwent a long examination.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

11
297



To Thomas

Coleman Esq.

This plate is respect

fully Inscribed.



Published by J-Price.

lar Priest, was condemned, for taking orders beyond sea, to be hanged; drawn and quartered, his head to be set up at the * Market place, and his quarters hung up at the † four ends of the town; which sentence was put in execution on the 27th of August 1610.

A. D. 1663, small copper coins not being coined during the Usurpation, in most of the principal towns, Tradesmen's tokens or farthings were circulated, allowed, and continued till about the year 1672, when farthings were coined at the Mint. Six different tokens were made in this town.

Jeromy Clarke in Leominster 1663. Mercer's arms.

Fran. Perse Lemster, 1666. for necessary change.

William Clent Bookfeller in Leominster 1666. W. E. C.

Thomas Hardwick Junior in Leominster his halfpenny. a Buck.

Nathaniel Smith of Leominster his halfpenny, 1667.

Elizabeth

examination; being proved a Catholic Priest, he was sent to Prison; it is said, that he was offered pardon, if he would take the oath of allegiance, which he refused, tho' he acknowledged his Majesty the true and lawful King of this realm.

* Alias Town Hall, or Butter-Cross.

† Lug Bridge to the North, South-Street to the South, Bargates to the West, and Etam Street to the East.

Elizabeth Bedford in Leominster her half-penny. 1667, a sugar loaf.

King Charles's Charter, 15th of his reign, is only a confirmation of the former.

There having been two Revolutions (if the term may be allowed) since the Charter had been renewed by King Charles the 1st; the Inhabitants began to be anxious to have their power and privileges renewed, after King Charles II. was established on the throne.

It appears, that Mr. J. Stead an Attorney, was industrious in getting the application made; his Majesty complied with the desire of the town, and in 1665 renewed their former Charters.

In addition to their other powers, he granted them a Recorder, and appointed Edward Freeman Esq. a Gentleman learned in the Law to that Honour; also a Town-Clerk, and nominated John Stead Gent. to that Office; also that the Recorder and two Capital Burgeses should be Justices of the Peace, in addition to those before appointed, and the Court of Record to extend to debts not exceeding one hundred pounds. Mr. Stead brought the Charter from London, to the great joy of the Corporation and Town in general. The Bailiff and Aldermen in their gowns, the Serjeants at Mace and the principal Inhabitants, met the new Town-Clerk at the bottom of the Etnam Street, and walked in procession

proceſſion before him; he riding on horſeback with the Charter open upon his breaſt.

The Charter of James II. Queen Anne, King William, and King George I. only renew the former grants.

The preſent Corporation

For the Government of the Town.

Chief Steward. The Right Hon. Lord
VISCOUNT BATEMAN.

Recorder. The Right Hon.
THOMAS HARLEY.

Capital Burgeſſes.

† † Edward Coleman.

† R. A. Dyer.

† † Benj. Fallowes.

† John Tudor.

• Rich. Smith, Clk.

† † Philip Davis.

† † Tho. Smith.

† Willm. Vale.

† Rich. Haylings.

† Tho. Toldervy

Tho. Coleman.

† Jno. Lodge, Clk.

† John Wall Clk.

† Edw. Bannifter.

† Geo. Evans Clk.

Tobias Davies.

John

† How often Balliffs.

‡ John Pitts.	Tho. Procter.
‡ Jon. Meredith.	Tho. Simpson.
‡ J. B. Toldervy.	Ed. Woodhouse.
‡ F. Edwards.	Jos. Haylings.

The Magistrates for the Borough are the Bailiff and his Predecessor of the former year, the Chief Steward, Recorder, and two of the Capital Burgeses chosen annually.

The Bailiff is also Coroner, and Clerk of the Market.

The Chamberlain is chosen annually out of the Capital Burgeses.

The Common Council of 24 Inferior Burgeses has never been elected.

The Quarter Sessions are always held the Saturday after Hereford Quarter Sessions.

The Court of Record is held every Monday, to recover debts not exceeding 100 Pounds, and to hear and determine causes. Any two of the Capital Burgeses may preside at the Court with or without the Bailiff.

There are two Serjeants at Mace, also a Goaler, who generally holds the Offices of Bellman and Beadle.

There are annually chosen twelve Constables, two to each ward.

The Borough being a precinct within itself, no County Magistrate can issue a warrant therein. No County rates are paid, and the Inhabitants are not liable to serve on Juries for the County a Sessions or Assizes.

HIGH STEWARDS.

1554. Sir Philip Hobby, Kt.
 Duke of Chandos.
 Sir C. Hambury Williams
 Lord Viscount Bateman.

RECORDERS.

1665. Edward Freeman Esq.
 Auditor Harley. Tho. Johnes Croft Esq.
 Right Hon. Thomas Harley.

TOWN-CLERKS.

1665. John Stead Gent.
 Tho. Price Gent.
 Tho. Price Gent.
 — Brewster Gent.
 1727 Sam. Knill.
 Tho. Coleman Esq.

BAILIFFS.

1554	Hum. Streete	1583	Philip Morris
55	Sir Philip Hobby Knt.	84	Jo. Powle
56	Nicholas Bailey	85	Rich. Birch
57	Hum. Streete, 2	86	John Perks
58	Henry Gilley	87	Hugh Adams
59	Alban Bach	88	Rowland Read
60	Rich. Pervin	89	Rob. Morris
61	Rob. Patis	90	Tho. Keene
62	Jof. Powel, <i>Sen.</i>	91	Wm. Birch
63	Rob. Phillips	92	Jof. Browne
64	Rich. Meyrick	93	Fran. Infall
65	Will. Streete	94	Phil. Thomas
66	Tho. Baker	95	John Robins
67	John Houghton	96	John Perrin
68	Jof. Powel. <i>Jun.</i>	97	John Hayns
69	Hen. Seward <i>Jun.</i>	98	Rich. Bradford
70	John Jay	99	Iohn Williams
71	George Munnox	1600	Iohn Stead
72	Jo. Shoter	1	Will. Bedford
73	Jo. Ken	2	Tho. Jay
74	Edw. Colbatch	3	Rich. Bonkey
75	Jof. Powle Baker	4	James Hill
76	Albon Birch	5	Iohn Street
77	Jof. Howels	6	Hen. Birch
78	Rich. Stead	7	Rich. Powle
79	Rich. Munnox	8	Iohn Patis
80	Jof. Meyrick	9	Thomas Baycey
81	Hum. Moone	10	Tho. Stephens
82	Dan Lokyer	11	Tho. Vale
		12	Will. Woodhouse

- | | | | |
|------|------------------------------|------|------------------|
| 1613 | John Powel | 1645 | John Stephens |
| 14 | Rich. Parry | 46 | Tho. Ford |
| 15 | Tho. Smith | 47 | Fran. Nash |
| 19 | John Hill | 48 | Alexander Nelmes |
| 20 | John Bowkey | 49 | Oliver Toldervy |
| 21 | Leonard Ensale | 50 | John Pateshall |
| 22 | James Hill | 51 | Hen Powle |
| 23 | John Toldervy | 52 | Edw. Hay |
| 24 | John Powle | 53 | Rich. Bach |
| 25 | George Bradford | 54 | Rich. Blashfield |
| 26 | Humphrey Rea | 55 | Walter Powle |
| 27 | Francis Shoter | 56 | Tho. Smith |
| 28 | Edmond Stephens | 57 | Edw. Stephens |
| 29 | Rich. Blashfield | 58 | Hen. Caswell |
| 30 | Rowland Stead | 59 | Fran. Adams |
| 31 | John Stephens | 60 | John Tompkins |
| 32 | Isaac Seward | 61 | Tho. Hardwick |
| 33 | John Pateshall | 62 | Wm. Bailey |
| 34 | John Powle | 63 | John Stead |
| 35 | Richard Scarlet | 64 | Rich. Nash |
| 36 | Wm. Taylor and
Hugh Perks | 65 | Wm. Vafston |
| 37 | Miles Hill. | 66 | Tho. Smith |
| 38 | Tho. Pritchard | 67 | George Karver |
| 39 | Edw. Stead | 68 | John Tompkins |
| 40 | Henry Powle | 69 | Franc. Pearce |
| 41 | Henry Seward | 70 | John Tompkins 2 |
| 42 | Jos. Parry | 71 | Edw. Hay |
| 43 | Rd. Kinnerfley &
Rd. Bach | 72 | Edw. Bangham |
| 44 | Edw. Stephens | 73 | John Williams |
| | | 74 | John Jay |
| | | 75 | Jerem. Clarke |

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1676 Th. Nash | 1704 Edw. Williams |
| 77 John Withington | 5 Caleb Powell 2 |
| 78 Vincent Edwards | 6 John Winton |
| 79 Samp. Edwards | 7 Tho. Chelmish |
| 80 John Dutton Colt | 8 James Caswall 2 |
| 81 Hum. Laurence | 9 James Caswall 3 |
| 82 John Williams | 10 James Caswall 4 |
| 83 John Caswall | 11 Ben. Smallfoot |
| 84 John Tompkins | 12 Jas. Ponnell |
| 85 Tho. Harris | 13 Edw. Bangham 3 |
| 86 Rich. Hodges | 14 Cal. Powell 3 |
| 87 Sam. Seward | 15 Isaac Tompkins 2 |
| 88 John Walton | 16 Fran. Nash |
| 89 Edw. Bangham | 17 Tho Price 2 |
| 90 William Bach | 18 Mich. Stephens |
| 91 John Bangham | 19 Rich. Stephens |
| 92 Henry Brown | 20 Will. Spencer |
| 93 James Winton | 21 Tho. Nelmes |
| 94 Caleb Powell | 22 James Nash |
| 95 Edw. Bangham | 23 Edw. Bangham |
| 96 James Powle | 24 Wm. Vaston |
| 97 Jonath. Davis | 25 Capt. John Caswall |
| 98 James Caswall | 26 Tho. Exton |
| 99 Tho. Price | 27 Rich. Baker |
| 1700 James Caswall | 28 Wm. Phillips |
| Esq. <i>From this</i> | 29 Benj. Thomas |
| <i>time they were</i> | 30 Tho. Sheriff |
| <i>called Esquires.</i> | 31 Tho. Higgins |
| 1 John Caswall | 32 John Granger |
| 2 Isaac Tompkins | 33 John Bach |
| 3 Ri. Nicholson | 34 Abr. Seward |

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1735 Fran. Kinnerley | 1765 Som. Watts. |
| 36 Tho. Tompkins | 66 Fran. Browne |
| 37 Isaac Seward | 67 Edward Granger |
| 38 Philip Hoper | 68 Som. Knill |
| 39 Wm. Vaston <i>Jun.</i> | 69 Sam. Eaton |
| 40 John Coates | 70 Tho. Smith |
| 41 Rich. Stephens | 71 James Toldervy |
| 42 Philip Hoper | 72 Sam. Profler 2 |
| 2nd. | 73 Edw. Coleman 2 |
| 43 Wm. Phillips | 74 Rob. Ar. Dyer |
| 44 Wm. Toldervy | 75 John Jennings |
| 45 Edward Williams | 76 Benj. Fallowes 2 |
| 46 Mich. Stephens 2 | 77 John Tudor |
| 47 Green Biggs | 78 Philip Davis |
| 48 Ben. Thomas 2 | 79 Weaver Bennet |
| 49 John Bach 2 | 80 Wm. Vale |
| 50 Fran. Kinnerley 2 | 81 John Hooper |
| 51 John Granger 2 | 82 Rich. Haylings |
| 52 Sam. Profler | 83 Sam. Eaton 2 |
| 53 And. Waring | 84 Thom. Smith 2 |
| 54 John Wall | 85 John Pytts |
| 55 Wm. Toldervy | 86 Jon. Meredith |
| <i>Jun.</i> | 87 John Wall Clk. |
| 56 Jos. Pember | 88 James Bailey Tol- |
| 57 Giles Whitehall | dervy |
| 58 Rob. Thomas | 89 George Evans Clk. |
| 59 Rich. Rogers | 90 Philip Davis 2 |
| 60 Edward Coleman | 91 Francis Edwards |
| 61 John Granger | 92 Tho. Toldervy |
| 62 Ben. Fallowes | <i>Jun.</i> |
| 63 Tho. Bayley | 93 John Lodge Clk. |
| 64 Edward Bach | 94 Edw. Bannister. |

The TOWN-HALL.

THIS is commonly called the Bütter-Cross, it was newly built in the year 1633; and was a light elegant building in those days. It stands upon 12 oak Pillars of the old Ionic order, over which is the room for holding Quarter Sessions, and a commodious Chamber for the Corporation Meetings. Many shields are round the building, on which were the arms of several Gentlemen, who were benefactors or contributors towards the expence; much carving has been on it. At the bottom of the building over the Pillars is inscribed (south side) *Vive Deo gratus, toti mundo tumultus, crimine mundatus, semper transire paratus* (east side) where Justice reigns, their virtue flows, *sat cito sat si bene, vive ut post vivas*. As Columns do support the fabric of a building, so noble Gentry do support the honor of a state (north side) *in memoria aeterna erit justus, 1633.*

This building was erected by John Abel, the most noted Architect in this Country of his time; he built the Market-Houses of Hereford,



To Tho. Berington Esq. of Winsley
This plate is respectfully Inscribed.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.



reford, Brecknock, and * Kington, and did the timber work of the new Church at Abbey Dore. The said John Abel being in Hereford City, at the time the Scots besieged it, in the year 1645, made a fort of Mills to grind Corn, which were of great use to the besieged; for which contrivance and service, King Charles the 1st did afterwards honor him with the title of one of his Majesty's Carpenters.

This Architect, after he was 90 years of age, made his own monument, which is in Sarnesfield Church-yard, and engraved his own effigy kneeling, with his two wives, and the emblems of his occupation, the rule, compass and square, and he made the following Epitaph. He died in 1674, aged 97.

This craggy stone a covering is for an Architector's bed,

That lofty buildings raised high; yet now lyes down his head :

His line and rule, so death concludes, are locked up in store,

Build they who list, or they who wist, for he can build no more.

His house of clay could hold no longer,

May heavens, frame him a stronger.

JOHN ABEL.

Vive ut vivas in vitam eternam.

* The inscriptions round the Cross at Kington, were such as the following.

For sellers and buyers this house we prepare,

Pray I swear not nor lye not in trading your ware, &c.

About the year 1750, the arched Gateway over which the Frere Chamber was built, (then the Town Hall) gave way, and all the building fell down, with great part of the Goal; the remainder was taken down, and a new Goal built in the New-street. The Market-House at the Butter-Crofs was repaired, and the room over it fitted up for the Council Chamber, and Town-Hall for Sessions, &c.

This building has lately been repaired at nearly five hundred pounds expence; the exterior of the Pedestals of the Pillars being decayed, stone Pedestals were substituted in their places; a new railing was put of cast iron, the floor newly paved, and the heavy roof very much diminished of it's weight, and covered with thin slate.

The SCHOOL HOUSE.

THIS building was erected for a Chapel, and called The *Chapelle in le Forbury*; it was built by John Peckham, Friar Minor and Archbishop of Canterbury, in honor of St. Thomas the Martyr; but Death, it is said, prevented the Founder from endowing it with lands. He died A. D. 1292.

This

This was the Chapel, described as adjoining to the Frere Chamber, *quadam capella eadem camere adjuncta*. How long this building was made use of for divine worship, is not now known; but it seems to have been disused for that purpose, long before the Dissolution. It is but a reasonable conjecture to suppose it to have been the School formerly used by the three Chantry Priests, and may have occasioned the application for an endowed School with their Charter. Queen Mary readily complied with the request, for she granted this building, and 20 pounds per annum to be paid by the Corporation to two Masters, out of the lands &c. she had previously granted to them, belonging to the Chuntries &c. This Salary is still continued.

Since the Frere Chamber fell down, the Corporation holds the weekly Court of Record in this Hall, Members of Parliament are also elected here, and the Bailiff and Justices sworn into their Offices. It is likewise used to hold the High Stewards Law or Court Days, and the Court Leets for the Great Manor to Lord Malden.

Adjoining to this Chapel of *le Forbury*, the Corporation erected another School House over the Engine House, for instructing and employing a certain number of boys and girls, begun in the year which flourished for several years, supported by a voluntary subscription, but is now discontinued. This room is now

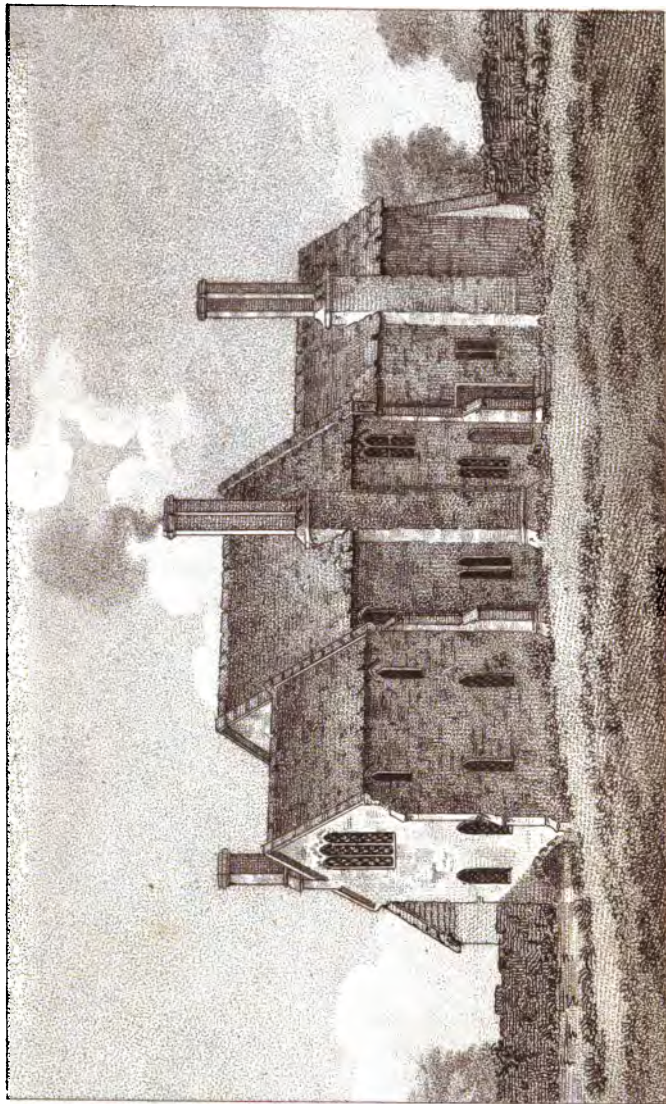
made use of for the Grammar School, being the most comfortable.

Since that time the old School House, which was erected for the worship of God, and within this century made use of for the Parish Church, during the time the Church was rebuilding; this once sacred old Edifice has been appropriated to very different uses; that of a Play-House, or for exhibiting any other kind of Shows; also as a place of conviviality for an Electioneering Party, where the greatest profusion of provisions were wasted, and scenes of rioting and drunkenness almost daily exhibited for a considerable period of time. *O tempora, O mores.!*

The

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.



Engr. by L. P. W.

To the Rev. R. C. Evans,

This plate is respectfully Inscribed

The P R I O R Y.

THE first religious House, we have an account of in this town, was the Monastery said to be built by Merwald, for Religious Virgins, Anno Dni 658.

The endowments were afterwards possessed by the Crown, till Henry I. built his Monastery for Benedictine Monks at Reading, and endowed it with Reading itself, Chelsea and *Leominster*, with all the appendages of woods, lands, mills, fisheries, and with all the Churches, tythes, offerings &c. See *King Henry's Charter, Appendix No. 7.*

The Monastery and lands appertaining to the great Manor, were then valued at 660l. 16s. 8d. Soon after the Abbot was in possession, he made the Monastery of Leominster a Priory or Cell of Monks, subject to the Abbot of Reading, with the power to appoint and exchange the Monks at Leominster at pleasure.

Anno 1207. The Power of the Abbey was confirmed by Pope Innocent the third. See *Appendix No. 8.* And in the same year Hugh Bishop of Hereford, by his Charter, granted the privilege to the Monastery of Reading, of ap-

pointing Monks Deans at the Priory of Leominster.

Anno 1223. The Charter of confirmation made by * Richard Bishop of Hereford, to Hugh the first Abbot, describes the extent of this Lordship and Parishes appertaining. *See Appendix No. 9.*

Anno 1282. The Abbot of Reading having appointed a Friar of his house, † Prior of Leominster, the Bishop of Hereford's Official opposed such appointment, even to excommunication, pretending that the appointment of a Prior appertained to the Diocesan. The King interposed, and wrote to Bishop Cantilupe, then beyond Sea, to stop proceedings till his return; which was accordingly done.

This Cell was the greatest of the kind in England, having larger Revenues than some Abbies, as may be seen in the following extract.

TEMPORALITIES

Belonging to the Priory of Leominster.

Temp. Edward I.

	£.	s.	d.
The Manor of Leominster, with the Borough.	211	15	0
Revenue of the Assize, grants, perquisites & tolls	16	0	0

* This Bishop was Keeper of the Great Seal under the Chancellor of England. He died at his Palace at Ledbury 1127, and was buried at Hereford.

† The Prior of Leominster wrote himself *Custos Prioratus seu Prior de Leominstre ac Subdecanus ejusdem.*

	£	s.	d.
Service of Villains	20	0	0
From mills within and without the town	28	19	8
From Sale of wood	0	10	0
From Pannage	0	10	0
	<hr/>		
	277	14	8
Out of which the Abbot received	240	0	0

He has also at Leominster 6 * Carucates of land

	each	20s
at Ivinton	3 ditto	ditto 20s
at Lufton	3 ditto	ditto 20s
at Stockton	4 ditto	ditto 1 Mark
at Stoke	3 ditto	ditto 1 Mark
at Hope	3 ditto	ditto 20s
at Buckland and Fencott	3 ditto	ditto hf. a Mark
at the Moore	2 ditto	ditto 5s.
at Westwode from revenue of Assize		20s
of Hay	100 loads	each 15d
		<hr/>
		303 9 0
Of which the Abbot of Reading		240 0 0
		<hr/>
The Priory's share		63 9 0
		Moveables.

* Carucate, like a hide, is uncertain. The value formerly of a Carucate was 1l. 13s. 4d. and this was the living of a Yeoman or Farmer. The whole of the arable acres belonging to the Priory were 3500. Vid. Priory Records.

Moveables.

The Prior had 46 Cows	70s.	8d.
280 Sheep	116s.	8d.

There were four Halimots belonging to this great Manor of Leominster, still continued, at *Stockton* held under a tree, called Halimot Tree, in the Poplar's Green, at *Ivinton*, *Stoke*, and *Luslon*.

The Priory is commodiously situate to the North-east of the Minster or Church; Leland says, "The Church of the Priory was hard joyned to the Parish Church, and was but a small thinge. Some saye, that the Monks of the Priory sayd, that they had the sculls of the heads of *Merewald* and *Ethelmund* Kinges of the *Merche*. Mr. Hackluyt told me, that the body of King *Merewald* was found in a wall of the old Church at *Wenlock*."

* It is built over the small river *Pinsley*, which is remarkable for being more pure and soft, than the other Rivers. This rivulet rises in *Shobdon* Marsh, runs to the *Wegnals*, and seems to have been brought from thence, for the use of this house. The chapel belonging to the Priory was small, many noble monuments were erected in it; which is the probable

* There were three fish ponds, called the *Park-ponds*, in front of the house, near *Kenwater* river; and the meadows adjoining are now called the *Park meadows*.

able reason, so few were to be found in the church in Blount's time.

From the Town to the Church and Priory, there was a covered way, which was taken down in Oliver Cromwell's time. At the entrance of the Priory Green was an arched gateway, having the Church-yard on the one side, and on the other a building, where now the Tythe Barn stands, called the *Almsbury*, or * *Almery*, "in which, as Stukeley says, they gave their scraps away to the poor people at the gate, as I have observed at several other religious houses; this is reckoned a great mark of their charity, whilst idle folks lose their time in waiting for it." The oil mill in the Priory green, was the Corn mill for the Priory. There was a row of Alms-Houses on the right hand of the road from the Cross to the Church, with various buildings and offices, to the Inner Gateway, Goal, Guild-hall &c.

Anno 1350. By the Ledger Book of the Priory, a list of taxation was taken (temp. Edward III) of the Churches and Chapels of the Manor of Leominster, which were nine in number: also an account of the Pensions paid, or reserved to the Prior of Leominster, out of the said Churches, with the Chapels of Stoke and Docklow from the Vicar. The Vicar receiving

* A meadow adjoining is called the Almery or Almery Close.

ceiving only 9 pounds per annum for serving the cure.

Anno 1382. John Croft was excommunicated at Hereford, Leominster and elsewhere, for unjustly detaining the tythes of Newton, belonging to the Church or Priory of Leominster.

In the year 1402, Owen Glendour took possession of the town, and laid the Priory under very heavy contributions, it being then in it's most flourishing state; many persons giving up their possessions for a life support in the house. See *Appendix No. 10*, where there is a copy of a grant to an Esquire of the House.

The number of Servants they kept shows with what splendour they lived. 31 Servants received wages at Christmas and Easter. See *Appendix No. 11*.

A Corrody for supporting the Keeper of the Park of Afchewode for life. *Appendix No. 12*.

Anno 1539. The Abbey of Reading and *Priory of Leominster continued in splendour, till the general Dissolution, 31 Hen. VIII; and if we can credit it, Bishop Burnet, the Visitor at the former, represented the Monks there, as living in luxury and licentiousness; but this censure of the Bishop's is strongly animadverted

* The Office where rents, fines, &c. were paid, they called the Exchequer, and was so expressed in all their leases and grants.

himadverted upon by Brown Willis. The Abbot refusing to deliver an account to the Visitors of the Revenues and Treasures, he and two of the Monks were attainted of High Treason, found guilty, and sentenced to be hanged and quartered, which was executed within sight of the Monastery. Such was the unfortunate end of Hugh Farringdon, alias Cook, the last Abbot of Reading, and 31st from the first Institution, Nov. 14th 1539. The Crown taking immediate possession of the Abbey, great quantity of Jewels and other things of value were found, besides the rents of the house, which amounted to 193l. 14s. 3d. In this sum it is probable the Abbots receipt from the Manor and Priory of Leominster was included.

1539. John Glover was the last Prior of Leominster.

King Henry appointed Simon Hyett and Geo. Hawe Gent. jointly and separately to the Office of Bailiffs for this great Lordship, &c. to act by themselves or Deputies, for their lives or the longest liver of them: they were each of them allowed the Salary of 17l. 6s. 8d. per annum for exercising the said Office. See *Appendix No. 13.*

In the Minister's Accounts (31 Henry VIII.) of the possessions of the late attainted Priory of Leominster in the County of Hereford, remaining in the Office of the late

L

Court

Court of Augmentations of the revenue of the Crown at Westminster ; Is contained as followeth.

The Manor or late Priory of Leominster in the County of Hereford dissolved by attainder.

The Accompts of all and singular the Bailiffs, Stewards, Collectors, Pindars, Farmers and other Officers of all and singular the Lordships, Manors, Lands, Tenements, Rectories, Portions, Pensions, and Tythes, or other possessions, as well spiritual as temporal belonging or appertaining to the late Priory or Cell there, lately dissolved and suppressed, which Priory and Cell with all it's members and appertences, as above, came to the hands of our now Lord Henry VIII. by the Grace of God, of England and France King, Defender of the faith, Lord of Ireland, and on earth supreme head of the Church of England (by reason of the attainder of Hugh Cook, at the time of the Dissolution, and long before Abbot of the late Monastery of Reading in the County of Berks being dissolved by the late attainder) and being in his hands, and annexed to the Crown of his most serene Majesty.

The accompt of Symon Hyett & George Hawe;

The King's Bailiffs.

In

	£.	s.	d.
In <i>Westharnes</i> from rents, farms with tythes, *arrears &c.	74	11	6

Wages to the Bailiff per annum 40s.

In <i>Ivyngton</i> and <i>Hoop</i> from rents &c.	117	13	3
---	-----	----	---

Wages to the Bailiff per annum 33s. 4d.

In <i>Stoketon</i> from Rents &c.	110	17	10
-----------------------------------	-----	----	----

Wages to the Bailiff, and to this Accomptant's expences coming to Reding to pass his accmpts before the King's Auditor 10 shillings.

In <i>Stoke</i>	56	2	5
-----------------	----	---	---

Wages to the Bailiff 26s. 8d.

In <i>Luston</i>	102	10	3
------------------	-----	----	---

Wages to the Bailiff 40s. his expences coming to Reding to pass his accmpt 10 shillings.

In <i>Leominster Borough</i>	22	10	0
------------------------------	----	----	---

To the Bailiff 40s.

<i>Leominster Cottage Rents</i>	25	11	9
---------------------------------	----	----	---

To the Bailiff 20s.

<i>Leominster Liberty</i> , profits of the fair &c.	9	9	2
--	---	---	---

To the Bailiff 26s. 8d.

Portion of the Priory of Leominster.

L 2

From

* These Arrears were but trifling, seldom exceeding a few shillings.

From the scite of the late Priory with the Demefne lands called Somergells &c.	7	3	4
From Rents, Farms with tythes &c.	285	11	4

Stipends.

To a Chaplain celebrating divine Service in the Church of Middleton per annum	3	13	4
In Hope	3	13	4
In Brymfield	2	0	0
In Kyinbalton	3	13	4
In Lufton and Eyton	4	0	0
In Yarpoll	3	6	8

King Edward VI. granted some of the endowments of the Trinity Chantry, to Sir Edward Purient and his Heirs.

1554 Queen Mary granted the remaining part of the Chantry endowments (Trinity and St. Mary, or Philip ap Morgan's lands) with the cottage rents to the Corporation of Leominster.

1574. Queen Elizabeth granted two acres of Land, called the Church-yard, with a tene-ment and Garden in the Burgefs street, late belonging to the Priory, to John Herbert and his Heirs. In exchange of lands between the Queen and the Bifhop of Hereford, the tenths of the villages of Weftharnes and le Grange, with a portion of the tenths of Kinnerfley and Humber, belonging to the Priory, were granted to the Bifhop.

King

King James in the 3rd year of his reign, granted to the Marquis of Buckingham, this great Manor with all it's rights, royalties, and appertences, including the Manor of Westharnes, Stockton, Stoke, Ivinton, and Hope, with the Patronage and Advowson's of all the Churches &c. in as full and ample a manner, as heretofore enjoyed by the Abbot of Reading, on payment into the Exchequer of the yearly rent of 305l. 11s. 5d. which was then supposed to be nearly the neat amount, of what the Crown received from the said Manor, after all deductions were made. When the Marquis had been eight years in possession of these Manors, he was murdered by Felton.

Anno 1628 he left his Son a minor; and thirteen years afterwards, the Duke being still a Minor, the Kingdom fell into confusion by the civil wars, and soon after the Usurpation followed.

Anno 1562. By particulars taken from the Augmentation office, it appears, that the rent of 305l. 11s. 4d. was directed to be sold according to an ordinance of Parliament, by their usurped Power.

By Court Rolls and other papers from the year 1649 to the Restoration of King Charles II. 1660. The Manors of Westharnes, Ivinton, Leominster, Stoke, Stockton, and Hope (the part which had been granted to Queen Anne the wife of King James, as part of her

Jointure

Jointure) were in the possession of Henry Martin Esq. one of the King's Judges. The Manors and Liberties of the foreign Court and Borough, with the franchises, temporal and spiritual remaining in the hands of the Usurpers, ungranted.

At the Restoration 1690, it appears, this Manor was restored to the Duke of Buckingham.

About 1662 the Duke of Buckingham sold very nearly all the Manors of the Copyhold Estates, which were of great value, to the Tenants who held them, or to other Purchasers, if the latter were not able.

After this Manor had been thus mangled, it remained seven years in the Duke's hands, unregarded by him or his agents, when Major Wildman for an old debt, the Duke owed him of 1400 pounds, in 1675 took to the said Manor, Borough and Foreign, Halimots, Royalties &c. with the few remaining Copyhold Estates, still liable to the rent of 30s. 11s. 4d. and the Premises were conveyed to him in Jan. 1675.

After the dissolution of the Oxford Parliament 1680, of which the * Major was a Member

* This Major Wildman seems to have been an active person during the troublesome time of King Charles the 1st. was bold and hypocritical, famous for preaching and fighting, and factious, if we can credit the following Anecdote. The Major in company with Cromwell and others, contrary to their usual custom, partaking too freely of the bottle, and dropping.

ber, he fled from his Country, and did not return, till he came with the Prince of Orange at the Revolution in 1688. At that time, John Dutton Colt Esq. was his chief Steward: The Major came to his Manor at Leominster, and sold some of the few remaining Copyholds, and leased others for 21 years; having reduced the profitable part of the Manors to so small a rent, that it did not exceed 30 Pounds per annum, more than the fee farm rent of 305l. 11s. 4d. to the Crown; the konorary parts of this great Lordship being rather a burthen to him, he resolved to dispose of it to Lord Coningsby, then Lord Justice of Ireland, for 3060 Pounds, which was then thought to be a great price for it, which sum was paid 1692.

The last Lord Coningsby left two Daughters by his second Lady—first, Lady Margaret afterwards Countess of Coningsby, and who was possessed of this Manor with his Lordship's other

dropping the Corkscrew, they were busy under the table, endeavouring to find it. Unluckily at that time three Puritans waited on the Protector on a spiritual Mission. The Gentleman Usher having opened the door to introduce them, the wind blew out the Candles, and left them in darkness: extremely astonished at this, Wildman addressed them from under the table in a cant tone of voice. "Depart good Christians, we are at present in quiet and darkness seeking the Lord." They accordingly retired, seemingly much satisfied. When Wildman rose up, lighted the Candles, and laughing said, "those fellows piously believe we were seeking the Lord; and by Jingo, we are all nearly drunk seeking the Corkscrew. *Ex vet. MS. see an account of him in Clarendon's Memoirs.*

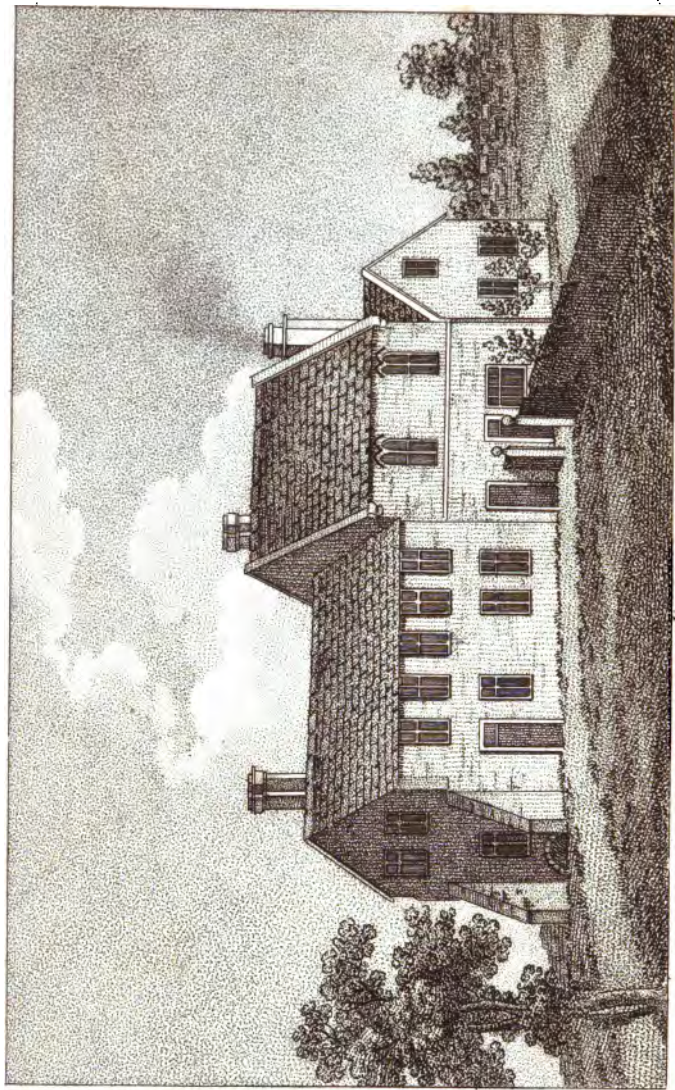
other landed property. She was married to Sir Michael Newton and died without any surviving issue, the second Daughter Lady Frances, was married to Sir Charles H. Williams, Member of Parliament and High Steward for this Borough, who had two Daughters, Frances married to the Earl of Effex, whose eldest Son the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Malden, now enjoys the large possessions of the late Earl Coningsby. The second was married to the Hon. Boyle Walsingham, Brother to the Earl of Shannon, whose Daughter and Heir is married to Lord H. Fitzgerald, Brother to the Duke of Leinster.

The * Priory House has gone thro' several changes since the Dissolution. Lord Coningsby had it fitted up for a County Goal, thinking he had interest sufficient to remove the Assizes from Hereford to Leominster. It was afterwards rented by the Corporation, and in the

* Near the Priory not many years since, an attempt was made by sundry Inhabitants of the Borough, to discover a subterraneous passage, which according to the Credulous accounts of some people, went under ground to IVINTON CAMP, about three miles distant. In their research they found a well vaulted Cellar, a skeleton of very extraordinary dimensions, pigs of lead &c. A litigation ensued between the Countess of Coningsby, and the Corporation of Leominster as to the property thereof, her Ladyship's plea being, that Lord Coningsby was Lord Paramount; the case was referred to the Recorder, The Hon. Robert Harley, and others, and was decided in favour of the former.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.



cut by L. Brown

To the Right Hon. the Lord Provost & Magdalen,
This plate is respectfully Inscribed.

year 1717 or 18, it was made a Mansion-House for the Bailiff, and fitted up for the feasts and balls, having fish-ponds in the front of the House near the river. Since then it has been converted into a House of Industry for the Town, which has lately been much improved in the regulations and managements, as well as in cleanliness, by the assiduity and perseverance of Mr. Joseph Pember, when he was Overseer of the Poor.

M**The**

THE CHURCH.

THIS is a Vicarage dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, prox: Archidiac. 7s. 8d. Abb: Radinge 6s. 8d; Feod. Apparit. 1s. cum gardin: herbag: cœmiter: pens: frum: apud Stoke et Docklow. Stipend: Rect: Abb: de Radinge 1l. 10s. 8d fæn: et foc: decim: prædial: pis: et pand: infra Burg: over: fruct: &c. — The King Patron. Prior of Leominster propr: clear yearly value 40l 12s 9d. 120l. . K. B. 10l. 3s. 6d.

Lib: Regis.

This Church is a rural Deanery. For the better understanding what these rural Deaneries are; Know, that each diocese has in it, one or more Archdeaconries, and every Archdeaconry is subdivided into rural Deaneries, fewer or more, according to the extent or bigness of it. The rural Deans are certain Persons that have Jurisdiction Ecclesiastical over such other Ministers and Parishes near adjoining, as the Bishop and Archdeacon shall assign, *ad aliquod ministerium sub Episcopo exercendum constituti*, being placed and displaced by the Bishop and Archdeacon. They were
 anciently



Pub^d by I. Price.

To Theophilus Richard Salwey, Esq.^r
This Plate is respectfully Inscribed.

**THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.**

anciently called *Archipresbyteri*, *Decani Christianitatis*, and in the law of King Edward the Confessor, *Decani Episcoporum*, but have no canonical Institution.

The time when this ancient church was first built is not known. Leland says, "There is but one Paroch church in Leonminster; but it is large, somewhat darke, and of ancient buildinge: infomuch that it is a grete lykelyhood, that it is the church that was somewhat afore the Conquest. The Church of the Priory was hard joynd to the east end of the Paroch Church, and was but a small thinge."

The north Aisle, with it's low massy Pillars, the beautiful circular door at the west-end, and the window over it are sufficient proofs of it's great antiquity, and must have been standing long before the Conquest. From this very old part still remaining, we may venture a conjecture concerning the original form of this ancient fabrick. The back Aisle, which consists of the middle space or Aisle, we may suppose to have been the principal part of the Church: the north Aisle still remains supported by a row of massy Pillars, and a like row on the corresponding side, leaves not a doubt of a similar Aisle having been there also. A low Tower was on the West-end, and a short spire.

. A few Centuries after when Churches were

built in the old Gothic Style, the south side was greatly enlarged. The great West window with it's old Buttress, and a fine row of Gothic Pillars were then erected, the roof made double. The lower or inside part of timber, neatly carved or wrought, the upper of timber, covered with lead. The windows were of painted glass, some brilliant remains of which are to be seen at this time about the Town, which may have given the church the gloomy appearance Leland describes. The inside was fitted up as a Collegiate Church with stalls; but the back Aisle, as it is now called, was the ancient main part of the Church. In the eastern part the high Altar was situated, with a door towards the north, leading to the Sacristy, and the Aisles on each side between the massy pillars, were filled with Altars dedicated to particular Saints, as is customary in Roman Catholic Churches.

There were three Chantries in this Church, the Chantry of St. Mary, the Chantry of the Trinity service, and the Chantry of the Service of Our Lady of Pity, otherwise called the Chantry of Philip ap Morgan's lands, and to each was a Priest. Towards the south side of the Chancel was Our Lady's Chapel, to which in old times many small donations were made. The particulars may be seen in the translation from the Records of the Priory, also described in an old MS. (*olim penes J. Stead Gen.*) wherein are recited near a hundred legacies and gifts.

gifts, some before, and some in the time of Edward III. many of them without date, most of them given *ad sustentationem luminaris et lampadum coram altari B: Mariæ in conventuali ecclesiâ Leominstræ.*

See Appendix No. 15.

Many Altars dedicated to particular Saints are supposed to have been in this Church, but the following only, are recorded in the Priory and Church Records. The Altar of St. Peter, of St. Mary Magdalene, and St. Katherine, the Altar of St. Mary in the Church of the Monks and the Chapel of St. Anne.

In the year 1346 Bishop Trilleck wrote to Friar John, Prior of Leominster, that he had in person visited the Parish Church of Leominster, had observed great irregularities, and that he had ordered the perpetual Vicar of the Church of Leominster, to pronounce excommunication against thieves who robbed the treasury of the Priory.

In the year 1348 he excommunicated some for coming armed into the church, and forcing away from the Sanctuary some who had taken refuge there, having polluted the church of Chirbury by slaughter.

In 1389 a new roof was made to the chan-
cel of the Holy Cross in the Parish Church of Leominster, Reginald Pole being then Vicar.

In 1408 Richard Wynesley the Son of Hugh de Wynesley, came and obtained a licence
of

of the * *Custodes* or Keepers of the Manor of Leominster, that his Father might be buried in this Parish Church, it was granted to him Gratis, on account of the many favors, the manor had received from his Father.

Anno 1428. By leave of Tho. Esle, D. B. Lord Abbot of the Monastery of Reading, in the time of Thomas Stanton, Dean of Leominster, and John the Subdean thereof, † the Vestuary of the Church of Leominster, by the assent of the said Deans, was removed from the Altar of St. Magdalene and St. Katherine, where the said vestuary then was, and was afterwards fixed near the Choir of the said Church, by Will. Raags and Roger Wagle, Church-Wardens, who new built the roof and windows of the said Vestuary and Chancel, and covered the same with lead; they undertook it of themselves, and repaired the whole Aisle with the Chapel of St. Michael the Archangel.

‡ Pensions paid at this time at Leominster Church, Anno 1553.

To Robert Werall Incumbent of St. Mary's Chantry,	6l. 0 0
---	---------

To Phil. Nicholas, Incumbent of Our Lady of Pity's Chapel	1l. 9s 10d.
---	-------------

To

* These Custodes were two of the Friars of the Priory, see Ledger Book of Leominster.

† Vestuary a wardrobe or dressing place for the Priests,

‡ Willis's Mitred Abbeyes.

To Tho. Seabright, Incumbent of Trinity
Chantry, 5l. 0 0

Anno 1558 Philip Bradford bequeathed, that he might be buried in the Chapel of St. Anne, below the Church of Leominster, he left 2s. to the Altar of St. Peter, in the church of the Monks, and 15d. to the Holy Trinity, to John Verre Vicar 6s. 8d. to pray for him &c.

In the year 1699 or 1700 this fine old Fabric took fire, occasioned by Workmen employed to folder the lead on the roof, the fire got in between the outer and inner roofs, and raged so violently, that from 9 or 10 o'Clock in the morning, till 3 in the afternoon, it was burnt down, with the middle rows of Pillars, the fine wrought roofs, the chantries, chapels, altars &c. The belfry took fire, the flames entered the loft, where the clock and chimes were, and were with great difficulty extinguished, by which means the bells were saved. It was with great hazard and risk that the cups, flaggons, pulpit cloth, and cushion, with the Register Books could be saved, all things else, were in general burnt and destroyed, and the violence of the fire cracked and swelled the south end of the Steeple. On the morrow after the fire, the east end of the middle Chancel and south Chancel, fell down; the computation of the loss and damage was 14541 Pounds 18s. 1d. *See the affidavit of the Masons, Joiners, &c. in the Appendix No. 16.*

In

In the spring 1703, the church was begun, to be rebuilt, and it was finished in 1705. The first Sermon preached in it was on Whitfunday the 26th of May, on the funeral of Tho. Gittoes, the extra expence of rebuilding it, was more than 2000 pounds.

During the time the church was rebuilding, Divine service was performed in the School House, formerly the chapel of *le Forbury*.

The only remains of this ancient fabrick are the north side, and pillars in the Back Aisle, the west end, and tower; also the south end, with the beautiful light Gothic windows; the whole of the east end was newly built.

The church was rebuilt in a neat plain style, supported by four very large handsome Tuscan pillars. The length of the whole building is 125 Feet, the north or back Aisle the same length; and the breadth of the southern and northern parts are each 62 Feet, making together 124 Feet; the heighth 52 Feet. To the north-west is a noble and lofty Tower. The south side, which is separated from the back Aisle, and appropriated for divine service, is regularly pewed with oak, having two Aisles north and south. There is no Chancel; the communion table in the east end, is divided from the body of the Church by railing and the rising of two steps. Over it is a finely painted Altar-Piece, the design from Rubens.— The subject is the Lord's supper; it is done with

with great judgment and skill, on each side of which are tables with the Ten Commandments in gilt letters, then Moses and Aaron, and lastly the Lord's prayer and belief gilt, with a glory above the Lord's supper ; the whole filling up that side, which, with the Vestry is the breadth of the present church on the East side.

On the west end is the Font, over which is a neat Gallery, supported by elegant Corinthian Pillars. The Organ is erected on this Gallery, all of oak, the front pipes gilt, the whole regular and uniform, and had a pleasing appearance, till the oil cloth (which was to prevent the light of the great West Window) was taken away ; it has not now the fine effect it had before : and the thin Curtain and Partition will not prevent this noble Instrument from being injured by the Sun. The Organ was erected 1737, and opened the following year.

There is a handsome Chandelier hanging from the ceiling, by a neatly wrought Iron Chain.

The Bells were recast from 6 to 8 in 1755.

The Inscriptions round them are,

The first. John Grubb, Clerk and Sexton, 1755.

The second. Prosperity to this Town and Parish.

The third. Mr. Rob. Pennie, William Evans cast us all.

The fourth. Mr. H. Vaughan Jun. Mr. T. Coates, Curate.

The fifth. John Granger, Mr. B. Thomas, Mr. And. Waring.

The sixth. Phil. Hoper, John Wall, Giles Whittal Esq.

The seventh. Mr. Som. Watts, Mr. Tho. Ellis, Churchwardens.

The eighth. Mr. Henr. Vaughan, Wm. Toldersy Jun. Bailiffs.

The Benefice of this Church and large Parish is but small, the great tithes are the property of the Duke of Norfolk, in right of his Dutcheſs, Heireſs of the Scudamore Family of the Hom near Hereford. A large Portion of the Parish tithes are let by the Biſhop, which pays a certain Modus. The Vicar had but a ſmall income, which was enlarged about the year,—— by Queen Anne's Bounty, and a voluntary Subscription of the Inhabitants amounting to 400 pounds; which now at the preſent advance of land, amounts in all to little more than 100 pounds per annum.

A very imperfect Liſt of the Vicars of this Church is to be obtained: from the ſmall allowance granted by the Priory, it may have remained many years without any regular preſented Miniſter, and the duty performed by the Monks of the Houſe.

1385. William Saluſbury.

1389.

1389. Reginald Poole, otherwife Pole.
 1422. John Virr, admitted to the Vicarage
 of Mr. R. Pole.
 1466. John Scott succeeded Mr. J. Virr.
 Richard Hall.
 1533. Henry ——— succeeded Mr. R. Hall.
 1546. Miles Jeffries Vicar, Aug. 3.
 1551. Rich. Poll, A. M. on the presentati-
 on of Queen Mary and Philip.
 1566. Thomas Evans ditto of Queen Eli-
 zabeth Dec. 1.
 1568. J. Hodges instituted 15 Sept.
 1631. * John Tombes B. D. Magd. Hall,
 Oxford.

N 2

1662

* Mr. John Tombes an Eminent Preacher and noted Dissenter, was born at Bewdley 1603, he was chosen catechetical Lecturer at Magdalen Hall Oxford, at the age of 21. He was Minister of the Church of Leominster many years. The income being small for this large Parish, Lord Scudamore from the great respect he had for him, made an addition to it, which Mr. Tombes thankfully acknowledged in the first Book he published. He was among the first that endeavoured a Reformation in the Church, by purging it, as he termed it; a Sermon he preached on that Subject was so much noticed, that it was printed by order of the House of Commons, which exposed him afterwards to the rage of the Church Party. When the King's forces came into this Country in 1641, he was plundered and driven from his habitation, he fled to Bristol, and had the living of All Saints given him; two Sermons he there preached, were printed by order of Parliament. He was soon driven from thence by the Church Party. He escaped to London 1643; was Minister of Fenchurch, and afterwards chosen Minister of the Temple Church, but was dismissed for his apology on Infant Baptism. After this

1662. † Wm. Whittle admitted by Dr. Croft Bishop of Hereford, on the presentation of Charles II.

1663. Tho. Wooten presented by King Charles Aug. 29.

1679. Mich. Stephens, A. M. Aug. 16. by King Charles.

1714. Lancelot Stephens, Aug. 1.

17— . Henry Vaughan.

1762. Richard Vaughan.

The ancient Monuments in this Church were all destroyed at the time the Church was burnt down; it is supposed, that many of the most ancient and curious, were in the Priory Church adjoining, long since decayed, and destroyed: which may be the reason, so few are recorded by Blount and other Antiquarians.

Monuments.

this, Dewdley chose him for their Minister, he had the Parsonage of Rots added to his other living, which he resigned on being appointed to the Masterhip of the Hospital at Ledbury. ----- The affections of his people being alienated from him, on account of his opinion concerning Baptism, he returned to Leominster, and was again appointed Minister of this Church. Upon the Restoration, he readily fell in with the Monarchical Government, but finding the spirit of Persecution revived, and having married a rich Widow, he quitted his place, laid down his Ministry, and removed to Salisbury, where he died May 25th, 1676, Aged 73.

See Nonconformist's Memorial.

† He had 19 Children by one Wife.

MONUMENTS.

THE following is the most ancient and remarkable.

“COPPIE of the inscripſione found by
“me John Hackluyte of Eaton in Hereford-
“ſhire upon a braſſen plate on the wall of
“the fourth ſide of the Chirche of Leomin-
“ſter in the ſaid countie of Hereford, 1592.
“All the letters were cut ouſte in braiſion plate,
“and faeſtened upon a timbre lette into the
“wall, and have been waſhed over with white,
“at ſuch time the ſaid Chirche had been
“cleaned.”

* My foremoſt fathers did build upon this
ſay town, and at Kenelmsford, and Meadwell-
hamſtede, and Lincoln, and Leiceſter, and
Kenelmworth, and Clint, and Kenelmſtone,
and

* An explanation at large of this Monument is in
the Addenda to Weaver's Funeral Monuments, by which
it appears that the perſon to whom this Inſcription
did belong, was deſcended from the ancient Saxon Kings
and died about the year 1060. His anceſtors had
a Caſtle in the neighbourhood of Leominſter, the ſite
of which may be traced, it was called Kenelmbaldſton,
by abbreviation Kimboldton; the way to it from Leo-
minſter is well known by the name of the Comiſh way.

and Winchcomb, and Hereford, and Sutton, and Kenchester, and Westminster, and Verulum, and Nottingham, and Warwick, and Gloucester, and Stanford, and Berkeley, and Tewkesbury, and Runcon, and Tamworth, and Edeisbury, and Sempringham, and Lincoln, and Cwichelme his Ley, and Off: Church. Christ loved me, and was my most righteous defence always. I have loved Christ, and for his love my lands I forsook (i. e. gave) but my Kingsland and also my Kenelmworth, I do not forgive (i. e. give) I am Christ's Kenelme, and Kenelmbald is my Kinsman at Clinton. (All in Saxon Characters)

In Blount's time in the back Aisle, was an Alabaster figure of a Lady, without inscription or arms, said to be a Benefactress to the Church, by building the great West Window, and to the Town by the gift of some of their commons. It is probable the deceased was Matilda Mowbray, of whom is extant this Charter.

“ Ego Matilda Mowbray purâ virginitate
 “ mea cum consensu Avunculi mei Walteri
 “ Clifford do et mando liberis hominibus villa
 “ de Leominster, totas illas quinque pasturas
 “ jacentes et existentes inter Lugfoorde et
 “ Hurfwall wood.”

Near

Near to the middle of the church upon a brass
Lamina, in the midst of a flat monumental stone
is inscribed.

Hic jacet Alicia Rading quondam uxor Philippi
Rading Quæ obiit X. die mensis Augusti Anno
Dni MCCCCLXXIII.

Cujus animæ propitiætur Deus.
Amen.

On the north side next the Priory is an old
raised Monument, with a flat stone on the top
of it, whereupon there has been an elegant
Inscription, but only one word legible, *Deus*;
which certainly best merited preservation.

On a flat stone of Alabaſter is this Inſcription.
Hic jacent corpora Radulphi Hackluyt et Elizabethæ
Uxoris ſuæ, qui obierunt primo die Menſis
Maii. Anno Domini MDXXVI.

And on the ſame ſtone is engraven by a later hand
Hic jacet corpus Milonis Hackluyt Gen.
Qui obiit 21 die Junii Anno Dni, 1621.

Upon another flat ſtone with a braſs Lamina
Here lieth the body of Catherine
The wife of John * Barneby Eſq..

* John de la Hay took of W. Barneby, Lord of Laſtre in
this

Daughter of Sir Tho. Caswall Kt.
 Who deceased the 20 of September
 Anno Dni 1633.

Upon a raised Monument in the south side of
 the Chancel, is a flat stone with this
 Inscription.

Here lyeth the body of Isaac †Seward Esq.
 Who departed this life the 29th day of April
 1652. Aged 68 years.

The Arms are engraven in brass, viz. gules, a
 fesse argent, with Ermines between
 three Scallop shells Or.

Within a pew belonging to Eton lies interred,
 Wallop Brabazon, second Son of the Earl of
 Meath, who died Anno——— but has no mo-
 nument, other than his arms hanging up, gules,
 three Martlets Sable, on a bend Or.

Upon

this County one parcel of demesne land, rendering therefore
 20d. a year, and one goose. fit for the Lord's dinner on the
 feast of St. Michael.

† This Seward had twenty Children by one wife and
 eight by another. (Ms. Blount)

Upon another flat stone with a brass fillet.

Here lies the Body
of

Eliz. the wife of Simon Seward Gent.
Eldest Daughter of Tho. Jay of Middleton Gent.
She deceased the first day of October 1658.

Upon a blue marble tablet fixed in the Chancel
wall, is this Inscription.

In memoriam

Elizabethæ uxor: opt: char: Henrici Studder
Rectoris Ecclesiæ de Collingburn ducis in agro
Sarum et Briga. ux: filia Georgii Hunt ejus-
dem ecclesiæ ad annos quinquaginta
Rectoris filii J. Hunt vive combusto
Cui pro fide evāgelicā Adjudicatus
Erat, morte Mariæ Reg: erepti.
Johannis Tombes Hujus
Ecclesiæ Vicar Mærens
Posuit.

Filia præconis verbi, præconis et uxor,

Præco avus et proavus, cui prope martyr erat:
Hæres ejusdem fidei et pietatis, Eliza

Hic posuit carnem, spiritus astra tenet.

Filia quæ primum dein conjux optima, summis
Jam fruitur Christi, conjuge, patre, Deo.

Obit.

Anno Dni 1633 Dec. 15.

Ætatis 20 Mens: 4.

O

In

In the Church.

Depositum mortale
Annæ uxoris Thomæ Harris*
Hujus Burgi Generosi
Obiit 18 die Aprilis
Anno Dni 1692
Ætatis suæ 33.

Here lyeth the body of
Mary
The Daughter of Francis Pember of Newport Esq
who departed this life
24 July 1670.

In the back Aisle on a neat Marble
Monument.

I N M E M O R Y

Of Thomas Price Esq.
One of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace
For this County,
Deputy Recorder and twice Bailiff,
And for several years Town-Clerk
Of the Borough.
He had by his first wife Susanna,
One of the Daughters

And

* It was this Gentleman who built the Inn, now called
the Unicorn Inn.

And Coheirs of Thomas Pateshall,
(Of Henor in this Parish Gent.)
One Son Thomas, who
Died without issue:
By his second wife Sufanna,
One of the Daughters of
John Whittington of this Borough Gent.
He had two Daughters,
Anne & Sufan,
Anne married Francis Woodhouse
Of Aramstone in this County Esq.
Sufan died without issue.
He died the 24 day of Sept. 1740
Aged 71.
Sufanna his last wife died
The 8th of September 1751
Aged 76

The following marble is on the left side the above.

In memory of
Thomas Price Gent.
Late Town Clerk of this Borough
Only Son of Thomas Price Esq.
By Sufanna his first wife,
One of the Daughters and Coheirs
Of Thomas Pateshall of Henor
In this Parish Gent.
He married Sarah the
Daughter of Robert Cutler

Of Street Esq.
And died without issue
May 31 1727,
Aged 32.

On a Marble Monument on the right side
of the above.

In memory
Of Anne the wife of Fran. Woodhouse
Of Aramstone Esq.
Who in testimony of her virtue
And in remembrance of their happy marriage
Hath settled
On the Poor of this Parish for ever
Five pounds, to be distributed yearly
On the 17th July, being the
Day of their Nuptials.
She died the 14 day of Nov. 1740
Without issue
Aged 40.

On a large painted board.

In memory
Of Jonathan Twitty Sen. Gent.
Who died Jan. 19 1741 aged 89 years.
And
Elizabeth Twitty Spinster, who
Died Aug. 19. 1743. Aged 39 years.
And

And

Catherine the wife of Jonathan
Twitty Jun, Gent. who
Died Oct. 11, 1745. Aged 43 Years.

Cut in an ancient form and painted.

M. S.

Annæ

Juxta humatæ

Filiæ Thomæ Powel

De Penecerig: in com Radnor

Gen: ex Maria fil: Hoeli

Gwyn de Glanbrane in agro

Maridùm Armig: ideoque præcipuis

De Cambria Silurum et in eo divetarum

Familiis cognatione conjunct :

Pridem Gualteri Williams Gen.

Dein Hugonis Morgan Gen.

Conjugis Amantiffimæ

Variolarum malefic : maletud: decessit

8vo die Octobris Anno

} Domini 1719

} Ætatis suæ 53

H. M. Maritus heu superstes

Uxori bene merenti

Mærens posuit:

On a plain marble Monument.

In memory of
Thomas Harris Gent.
He died the 4th day of June
1780
In the 64 year of his age.

A handsome Marble Monument.

Near to this place
Are interred the remains
Of William Bach Gent.
Who departed this life March 17th.
In the year of our Lord
1760
Aged 78.
And of Elizabeth his Wife
Who died June the 8th
In the year of our Lord 1718
Aged 20.

Under a neat marble Urn.

In memory
Of Hannah the wife
Of the Rev. Mr. Bach
Who died September 14th
1782. Aged 70

On

On a neat marble Monument.

Near this place are
 Deposited the remains
 Of William Bach Clerk.
 He died June 27. 1785. Aged 76.

On a pedestal under a neat black marble Urn

Juxta
 Depositæ sunt reliquiæ
 Henri Vaughan A. M.
 Hujus ecclesiæ Vicarii.
 Qui obiit 12 die Martii
 Domini MDCLXII.
 Anno } Ætatis LXXV

A small marble Monument.

In memory of
 The Rev. John Bourn A. M.
 Late of this town
 Who died 13. Sept. 1787
 Aged 72,
 And lies buried in this Church-yard.

A Marble Monument.

Patri optimo
 Henrico Vaughan

Viro

Viro probo et in re medica
Perito, fegaci.
Nato Julii 19 A. D. 1714.
Denato Junii 23 A. D. 1779.
Pius filius hoc marmor
Posuit.

Diræ fata aspera Mortis
Morborumque graves valuit mulcere dolores,
Luctantemque animam præsens leni arte morari.

A small marble table against a pillar.

Mrs. Prudence Vaughan
Who died 1773.
Enough that virtue filled the space between,
Proved by the ends of being to have been.

A marble Monument on the north wall.

Near this place
Are interred with his Ancestors
The remains of
William * Toldervy

Late

* By Will. Toldervy left 100 pounds to the Corporation of Leominster, to be lent out to young Tradesmen 25 pounds each, for three years without Interest. He likewise left 20 pounds to the Infirmary at Hereford.

Late of the Hill in this Parish Esq.
 Who on the 12 Day of November 1789.
 With extreme tho' not uninterrupted patience
 And fortitude resigned his soul
 Into the hands of his Creator
 Trusting alone in the all sufficient
 Ever prevailing merits
 Sufferings and intercession of Jesus Christ
 For eternal rest and happiness.

There is a vault in which is interred
 The body of Rich. Stephens Esq. of the Bromtrees.

On a plain Marble Monument.

In cæmeterio
 Sub australi hujus ædis parte
 Depositæ sunt reliquiæ
 Annæ Lodge.

Fil. T. D. Colt Baronetti et J. Lodge Cler.

“Uxoris lectissimæ, charissimæ, optimæ.

“ Si ætas si forma deslenda fit

“ Si corporis animique dotes,

“ Luctui nullus erit modus

Puerperio decessit 21 die Februarii 1785

“ Annum Ætatis agens 22dum

Relicto filiolo Johanne

“ Pueri tam jucundo tam venusto,

“ Tam felice indole prædito,

P

“ Ut

" Ut nihil supra
 " Sed heu! ereptus fuit tenera ætate
 " Nempe 22do die Martii 1789
 " Et eodem tumulo
 " Quo mater sua sepulta jacet:
 " Abi Lector et tecum reputa
 " Quam vanæ spes sint, quam fluxa
 " Hominum gaudia

Anna filia sola Johis Tomkins Gen.
 Defuncti—et uxor olim Johis Whittington Gen.
 Hic resurrectionem expectat
 Quam fide firma speravit,
 Tertio die Februarii
 Ætatis suæ quinquagesimo octavo
 Annoque Domini MDCCVI.
 Nobis certa fides æternæ in sæcula laudis
 Perpetui semper, mortalis, sis memor cævi.

ARMS. Argent, on the dexter side a chevron sable three mullets proper 2 and 1, on the sinister a fesse checquee

Ann the wife of Edw. Bangham Esq.
 Died 21 Sept. 1712. And Sarah his
 Daughter who died Aug. 18. 1714.
 And Jane his Daughter, who died
 25 Oct : 1704.

Depositum

Depositum mortale
 Vincentii Edwards
 Hujus Burgi Gen:
 Obiit 15 die Julii
 Anno Salutis, 1707.
 Ætatis suæ 64

Infra reconditæ sunt reliquiæ
 Elizabethæ uxoris Will. Bach
 Hujus Burgi Generosi
 Obiit 8 die Junii
 1718, Ætatis suæ 30
 Mœret conjux heu superstes,
 Sed sic voluit Deus.

Here lie the bodies of
 Thomas Vaughan 1725.
 Mary Vaughan 1740.

If faith unfeigned and virtuous deeds could save
 From death—they had escaped the grave.
 What earthly was to earth did here descend,
 Their souls were fitted for a nobler end :
 Patient the sufferings of this life they bore,
 In hopes of landing on another shore ,
 Where Death has no dominion—sorrows cease,
 Where gladness reigns and everlasting peace.

The remains of Thomas Beebee who died 1786
Aged 63

Tho: Allen M. D.	1712	53
Edward Bangham Esq. MP.	1712	53
Will. Bache	1713	72
John Wall	1726	65
Elizabeth his wife	1722	27
John Wall	1760	64
Abigail Nelme	1719	72
Isaac Seward Gent.	1718	62
Isaac Seward his Son	1771	84
Mary his wife	1789	94
Fran. Edw. Stead	1747	21
Ann Stead	1792	70
Daniel Stead	1771	49
Tho. Stead	1785	59
Mary his wife	1784	61
Tho. Jay	1725	67
Ann his wife	1730	81
Wm. Jay	1748	56
Mary his wife	1786	71
*Ann Jay their Daughter	1784	39
Tho. Toldervy	1718	56
Tho. Toldervy	1764	64
Will. Toldervy	1767	75
James Clarke Esq.	1749	55
Fran. his wife	1746	40
Ja. Bowman Clarke	1776	37
Benj. Thomas	1769	86
		Sarah

*. She left by will 100 pounds to the Infirmary at Hereford.

Sarah his wife	1760	94
Henry Fox Esq.	62	36
John Ford Gent.	70	87
Will. Gilley	68	50
Benj. Dyke	27	87
Eliz. his wife	29	88
Giles Wallwyn	35	63
Rich. Baker Surg.	49	73
Edw. Woodhouse	89	51
Watk. W. Davis	93	35
Mallet his wife	92	56
Tho Brayen	92	63
Eliz. wife of John Harris of the Townfend	27	91
Wm. Seward	74	78
Abr. Seward	68	79

Over the Church Porch.

M. S.

Thomæ Pateshal de Henor Gen.

Obiit ille 20 die Feb. 1705.

Et infra humatus.—Ætatis suæ 72.

CHURCH-YARD.

Here lyeth the body of

John Wallwin Gent.

Who

Who departed this life

April 3 1784 aged 66.

Also the body of Catherine

His wife, who departed this life

March 9, 1714. Aged 79.

Tho' death did separate them long, I hope in
Christ, They are in Heaven singing an Hallelujah
Song.

Here lieth the body of John Groubb

Who departed this life 30 Aug. 1667.

Aged 66.

Here lyeth the body of John Caswall

Who died Nov. 4. 1531. Aged 78.

Also of Ann his wife

Who died March 18. 1740. Aged 72 years.

In memory of John Stead

Who died 27 Feb. 1710. Aged 17 years.

The tomb of the Grand-father of the pre-
sent celebrated Mrs. Siddons and Mr. Kemble,
who was many years Manager of a Company of
Comedians.

Here waiting for our Saviour's great affize,

And

And hoping thro' his merits hence to rise
In glorious mode, in this dark closet lies

John Ward Gent.

Who died Oct. 30. 1773.

Aged 69.

Also, Sarah his wife, who died

Jan. 30. 1786. Aged 75 years.

A Stone tomb with the Arms,

A Lion rampant.

Here lieth the body of Mary

Relict of George Pulley Esq.

Barrister at Law, late of Pretton

In Shropshire, who departed this life

The 13th July, in the year 1759,

Aged 88 years.

And likewise Charles Pulley her Son,

Who departed this life 21 May, 1745.

In memory of Humphrey Ward

Who died 17 Sept. 1757. Aged 52.

Also John Green,

Who died Jan. 29. 1793. Aged 68.

—Stop traveller

I've past and repast seas and distant lands,

Can find no rest but in my Saviour's hands.

On a plain stone Tomb.

In memory of
 Thomas Ward,
 Who died May 24. 1784,
 In the 55 year of his age.

To nature he was indebted for talents,
 Rarely equalled,
 In his application to improve them,
 Greatly successful;
 Nor was he more distinguished for those qualities,
 That adorn,
 Than the virtue which elevates
 Human nature.
 He was a sincere Christian,
 A tender and affectionate Husband,
 Zealous and uniform in the service of
 His Friends;
 And anxiously solicitous for the
 General good.

John Dutton Colt Esq. died April 19 1722 aged 80			
Also Margaret his wife	Oct. 28	30	81
Sir John Dutton Colt Bar.	Feb. 2	30	56
Mrs Ann Colt Spinster	Nov. 23	35	
Mrs Mary Colt ditto	Sept. 8	41	

Johannis Symmons Gen.
 Qui artem scriptoriam et Arithmeticam
 Per

Per multos annos oppido Leominstræ
 Summa cum laude exercuit.
 Obiit 6 die Dec. A. D. 1745.

Mrs Joan Seward	died 1767	aged 103
Mrs Wheel	92	103
Will. Vafton Esq.	72	86
Tho. Vafton Esq.	77	55
Prudence his wife	68	29
John Cafwall	83	86
F. Cafwall	31	76
Ann Cafwall his wife	41	72
Mr. Sam. Small	61	86
Eliz. his wife	78	92
E. Hayes	92	80
Arabella Hoper	68	76
Jane Hoper	70	79
Edw. Pember	41	73
Tho. Pitts	81	46
Somerfet Knill	83	51
Wm Lawton	90	68
F Kinnerfley	63	74
Ja. Ravenhill	81	71
T. Watcham	16	40
Eliz. his wife	51	74
Tho. Watcham	79	64
Rich. Nicholdfon	25	68
Jof. Nicholdfon	64	63
J. Nicholdfon	80	82
Eliz. Nelme	88	62

Q

Gabriel

Gabriel Weaver	1791	70
Fran. Hull	90	81
John Coates Gent.	63	79
John Greenly	16	—

BENEFACTIONS.

1555. Sir Philip * Hobby gave the Free School, and 20 pounds per annum to maintain two Schoolmasters.

1565. The Right Rev. John Scory Bishop of Hereford, gave 200 pounds to the Bailiff and Capital Burgeffes, to lend as follows; one hundred pounds to two sufficient Clothiers 50 pounds each, for 7 years *gratis*, to set the poor to work: The other 100 pounds to 20 Artificers, as in his Will are named, 5 pounds to each for four years *gratis*.

1605. Edward Munnox Gent. built the Barley Market-House.

1618. Sir Thomas Coningesby Knt. gave a silver bowl to the Church, a new Mace, and the Chamberlain's Halbert.

1636.

* No lands or endowments are recorded for Sir Philip Hobby's donation of 20 pounds to the Masters. He could not give the School, as it belonged to the Crown; it is probable Sir Philip may have been the principal to obtain the Charter School and endowments, and the Town to express their gratitude might place the Charity to him.

1636. Richard Gwyllym Gent. gave to the Vicar 20s. for a sermōn on Lady-Day, and 20s to the Poor, payable by Geo. Giles out of the Tenements in the possession of Mr. Bubb, J. Adams, J: Bach, and Ann Williams.

1605. John Heynes Gent. gave 6s. 8d. for a Sermon yearly on St. John's day, and 10s. to the Poor on Good-Friday, payable out of the plock, called Heyne's Plock, near the Swetnells.

1636. Philip Powle Citizen and Merchant Taylor of London, gave 50 pounds, to be lent to 5 young Tradesmen, 10 pounds each for 3 years *gratis*. He also gave 8l 10s to be applied; 20s. to 20 poor aged people every Christmas day, New year's day, Easter day, Whitsunday, 5th of Nov. and 17th Nov. 6d. in bread, and 6d. in money, to the Vicar of the Parish 6s 8d. likewise to the Reader 2s. to the Clerk and Beadle 12d. each, payable by the Occupiers of Lady Meadow, to the Chamber and Overseers of the Poor, for ever.

1646. Fitz William Coningesby gave 18 pounds towards confirming the Charter, and a silver Mace.

Charles Turburville Gent. gave 20 pounds, the use thereof to be given to the Poor.

1639. Rowland Powle Gent. gave to the Poor 4l. 16s. on Christmas day, Easter day, Whitsunday, on each day 1l. 12s. payable by the Occupiers of the three Plocks to the

Chamberlain and Overseers of the Poor for ever.

1637. Melancton Slowman gave to the Vicar, for a Sermon, on the Sunday before St. Peter's day 10s. and 10s. to the Poor on the same day, payable for ever, out of the plöck called Slowman's Plöck.

1658. William Birch Gent. gave 10 pounds for ever for the use of the Poor, to be given by the Overseers, on the 30th Jan. and 29th May.

Mrs Jane Wellington gave 10 groats. 3s. 4d. to 10 Widows on Ascension-Day, payable from a tenement in the South-street.

Richard Merrick gave 10 pounds, the interest of it to be given to the Poor.

Wallop Brabazon Esq. gave 5l. the use to be given to the Poor.

1664. Rowland Stead, Citizen and Grocer in London, gave the four Communion flaggons.

1664. Mrs Eliz. Meyrick, Widow, gave 40s. a year, for ever to the Poor, payable by the Occupiers of Sheet's Meadows in the Marsh.

1692. Mr. Tho. Hardwick gave 20 shillings to the Poor for ever, paid at Candlemas, from Disley Plöck, near Cowry Meadow.

Mrs Jane Bangham Widow, gave 20s. to 10 poor Widows, 2s. each, on the Saturday before Midlent Sunday for ever, payable from a house at Kenwater Bridge, in possession of Eliz. Watcham.

The Right Hon. Lord Coningsby gave two
new

new silver Maces ; and also for several years past gave 10 pounds each year, to bind two Boys Apprentices. He also gave one large fire Engine, and 200 pounds towards rebuilding the Church.

Mr. Tho. Gittins gave to 20 poor widows on St. Thomas's Day, 12 pence each, payable out of a little meadow in the lower Marsh.

Sir George Caswall Kt. of London, gave a Fire Engine.

1717. Henry Browne gave 20 pounds to the Corporation, the Interest to be distributed yearly by the Chamberlain, to six of the poorest and oldest people in the Etnam-street, and lower Marsh wards, on the 20th of March.

1721. Mrs Anne Osborn widow, gave one silver flaggon.

1725. Francis Woodhouse Esq. gave and planted the Elm trees from the Vicarage to the Church.

1726. Sir George Caswall gave a large Bible for the Church.

1729. Sam. Tyler Gent. gave 3 pounds yearly to 30 poor people of the established Church on New-Year's Day, 12 pence each, and to 30 poor people of the Dissenting Meeting Houses on St. Andrews Day 12 pence each, payable to the Overseers from a piece of ground, called the Old Plock, since an Hop-yard.

1729. Thomas Price Gent, gave the Velvet Cushion, and Cloth to the Pulpit.

1753.

1733. Mrs Hester Clarke gave one silver Salver to the Altar.

1739. Giles Wallwyn Gent. gave to the Corporation 20 pounds, the use of it to be paid yearly by the Overseers to the Poor, in the Church by equal portions, on the 24th June, and 27th December, 10 Shillings. each Day.

1741 Mrs Sufanna Price Widow, gave to the Altar a silver Patine.

1740. Mrs Ann Woodhouse gave to the Poor yearly 5 pounds, by the Vicar and Overseers to be distributed on the 17th July, her marriage day, payable out of lands and tenements, called Little Frome in the Parish of Avenbury.

17— . The Right Hon. Lord Viscount Bateman gave the large fire Engine, made by Hadley, with the leather Buckets &c.

1789. William Toldervy Esq. gave to the Corporation 100 pounds, to be lent to 4 young Tradesmen, 25 pounds each for three years, without paying Interest.

The Right Hon. Tho. Harley, pays yearly to poor Widows, 5s each from Whitebread Plock.

The Baptist Meeting-House ;

Or, (as the Members distinguish themselves
by the name of)

The Congregation of Protestant Dissenters of particular Baptists.

IT does not appear, there were any professed separate Nonconformists in this Borough, before the Rev. John Tombes B. D. became Minister of the Parish Church of Leominster; he is described as a very learned Man, a very popular Preacher, and a noted Disputant; he was a great Advocate for adult Baptism, which opinion occasioned him much persecution and trouble, and obliged him to give up several Benefices he had at different times. *See the Account of his life in notes to the Ministers of Leominster Church.* When returned to Leominster, some years after he was driven away, and a second time became possessed of the living, he was a Nonconformist and profest Baptist; tho' he always continued a Member of the Church

Church of England. The large Congregation at the Church under his ministry, were of three sorts; probably the major part Conformists in heart; another part Baptist Nonconformists; and another of Pedo Baptist Nonconformists, or Presbyterians and Independants; when Mr. Tombes left this town to go to Salisbury on the Restoration 1660, he resigned the Ministry.

The Baptists then divided themselves from the Church and had three Ministers. Mr. * Will. Pardoe who resided in or near Tenbury, and had for his Assistant Mr. Rowland Stead, at whose house in the Marsh, their meetings were held; they were at different times each committed to Hereford Goal, for the Nonconformists of every description met with great difficulties and troubles till the Revolution in 1668, and till then the meetings were continued in private houses. The other Minister was Mr. Edward Price, who resided at Hereford, and preached sometimes there, and sometimes at Leominster. Mr. Pardoe died at Worcester 1692, Mr. Rowland Stead 1700, and Mr. W. Price 1702, and was buried at Leominster.

The Successor to these three Ministers, was Mr. Holder in the year 1702, who had been an assistant about 10 years, he died in

1729.

* Mr. Pardoe published in 1668; *Ancient Christianity revived, and other tracts.*

1729. He was succeeded by Mr. John Dulton, who removed to Liverpool in 1749. The next Minister was Mr. Rice Evans, who continued three years in a probationary way, and removed to Shrewsbury in 1753. He was succeeded by the present Minister, Mr. Joshua * Thomas.

In the year 1696, Mr. John Davis, a considerable Freeholder in Eardisland, gave the Congregation, a house back buildings, and garden in the Etnam street, it was fitted up for public worship, and the southern part of the garden allotted for a burial ground, and is so continued to this day. Many Persons of property belonged to this congregation at that time, viz. Mr. Kinnerley of the Linch, Mr. Davis of Wintercott, Mr. Isaac Marlow of Dilwyn, Mr. John Edwards of Newton. James Caswall Esq. who was Bailiff in the year 1698, 1708, 9 and 10. He attended both the Church and Meeting with the usual formalities; his Son, Sir George Caswall, was Lord Mayor of London.

Mrs Mary Marlow, who devoted a long life to Piety and acts of Charity, having purchased two small tenements and a garden adjoining, or next to the meeting on the west side, she at her own expence alone, undertook to build the present commodious and elegant

R

Meeting-House.

* Mr. Joshua Thomas, Author of various Works.

Meeting-House. It is neatly pewed, and has two Galleries, a Baptistry, and two Vestries. She also built a house for the Minister on the one side, and on the other, two small dwellings for poor widows, or other proper persons belonging to the Congregation. The burial ground, and all the Premises she enlarged, and enclosed by a strong wall and palisades. This great undertaking she had the satisfaction to see completed in the year 1771, and to perfect the Whole, she endowed it with her paternal estate.

The new meeting was opened by the Rev. Dr. Ash, of Evesham, Dr. Caleb Evans of Bristol, Mr. Francis and Mr. Turner.

The old Meeting-House is now converted into two Dwellings.

BENEFACTIONS.

Mrs Marlow by her Will, devised to instructing poor Children in this town and neighbourhood, 2l. 6s. 8d. annually, to be paid by the Minister and Deacons of the Baptists, as long as the said Congregation shall exist or continue, otherwise to the Vicar, Churchwardens, and Overseers, for the time being, of the Borough; Also, the sum of 13s. 10d. to the Poor of the Borough, to be distributed by the

the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Borough; 13s. 10d. to the Poor of the Out-Parish, by the Overseer, and 13s. 10d. to the Poor of the Baptist Congregation, to be distributed by the Minister and Deacon of the Meeting, with like donations to Dilwyn, Eardisland, and many other Parishes in England and Wales. The principal money is placed in the Reduced 3 per Cent Stock.

Tho' this Edifice be a sufficient Monument to the Founder, some further account of so good a woman, may be acceptable to many. Mrs Mary Marlow, the Daughter of Mr. Isaac Marlow, who had been a Jeweller in London, retired from business, and purchased a small estate at Solers Dilwyn, where he and his Family, a wife, two sons, and two daughters resided, but his daughter Mary was the last Survivor of the family, and continued to reside on the estate. In the early part of her life, she was distinguished for her charitable and religious disposition; she found her income too confined for her benevolent disposition: in various instances she has been found to abridge her own necessary expences, the better to enable her to relieve some object in distress. Need it be said, that such a character was highly esteemed and respected. ?

In the year 1765, her relation Jerem. Marlow Esq. who resided near London, shewed his great regard for her, by leaving her 25000

R 2

pounds

pounds in the Funds, with all his other valuables. She then came to Locominster, resided in the Townsend house, and lived there in the most hospitable manner, yet not suffering profusion or luxury at her table. Her house was always open to the Stranger and Religious; nor was she confined only to those of the religion she professed. The poor and distressed met with a kind reception, and never went empty away. If her unsuspecting mind was sometimes imposed upon by the Artful and Designing, blame her not, her generous heart always intended to do good. The friendly attention and regard she uniformly shewed to all ranks of people, sufficiently proclaimed her liberal turn of mind—to simple diet, and the pleasing reflection of a well spent life, may probably be attributed, the constant good health and cheerful disposition she enjoyed to her last minutes. She expired without pain or sickness, after expressing her gratitude for a good Night's rest, Dec. 9th 1778, in the year of her age. She was interred in the burial ground of the congregation.

Presbyterian

Presbyterian Meeting-House.

THE Presbyterian Dissenters first formed themselves into a Congregation, under Mr. Wm. * Woodward an ejected Minister, from Richard's Castle near Ludlow, much respected by Sir Edward Harley, and E. Lyttleton Esq. of the Moor, to whom he dedicated a sermon or two. He was a Tutor at Oxford, and educated Mr. Flavel at Dartmouth; after his ejection, he travelled to Turkey, visiting Aleppo and Smyrna. He at last settled at Leominster, where he was Pastor of a considerable Congregation.

During the troublesome times for Nonconformists, they met in private houses, till the act of Toleration came out, about the year 1687. Then Mr. Woodward and friends fitted up a place for that purpose in the Etnam street (where Mr. John Coleman now resides) and the Congregation continued to meet, till the Meeting-House in the Burgess street was completed in 1719. It was licenced by R. Stephens Esq. Tho. Price, Mich. Stephens, Caleb Powel and Isaac Tomkins, the Bailiff

* See Palmer's Nonconformist's Memorial---Woodward published several Sermons.

Bailiff and Justices for this Borough at the Quarter Sessions, held on Monday the 14th day of March 1719, at the instance and request of Benj. Smallford Gent.

Ministers of this Meeting.

Mr. William Woodward who died 1691.

Mr. Hayley who died 1720.

Mr. Benj. Lewis who died 1766.

Mr. William Maurice

Mr. Benj. Reece

Mr. Wm. Llewelin, † the present Minister.

Caleb Powel Esq. was a member of this Meeting, he, as well as Mr. Smallford, was Bailiff of this Borough. In the morning the Bailiff attended the Church, and in the afternoon went with the Maces and Attendants to the Meeting.

The

† Mr. W. Llewelin. Author of the Treatise on the Sabbath, on the Form of God, on Baptism, Version of the Psalms &c.

The Chapel of the *Unitas Fratrum*, commonly called
Moravians.

THIS congregation in Leominster first began in 1748 by Mr. John Cenick preaching several times, when he came here on his road to Ireland, accompanied by Messrs. Parminster and Brown, all Ministers of the *Unitas Fratrum*. He came again the same year, with the Rev. Mr. Davies, and formed a little Society, which used to assemble in the Marsh. In the year 1750, Mr. Cenick paid a third visit to Leominster, and found this little Society desirous of having a Minister of that Church amongst them. The Rev. Mr. Thorn was sent to them, who continued till the year 1755, he was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Pugh.

In 1759, Bp. Johannes de Wattewille came hither on a visitation from Germany, and formed this Society into a regular Congregation, on the 9th day of September, and the Rev. Mr. Rice was appointed Minister.

A piece of ground at the upper end of the South street was purchased, on which a chapel was built, with a house for the Minister adjoining, under the inspection of Mr. Rice.

The

The chapel was opened in Jan. 1761. by Bishop Gambold. It is a neat plain building, in which is a small Organ. It is not pewed, but provided with two rows of Benches.

Behind the Chapel is a burial ground, and the graves made regular and uniform. It is customary with the *Unitas Fratrum*, to change their Ministers every 4 or 5 years.

Ministers since Mr. Rice.

The Rev. Mr. Nyberg a Swede, since made a Dean.

The Rev. Mr. Rogers.

The Rev. Mr. Tyms. Mr. Collis. Mr. Tettrington.

The Rev. Mr. Horne.

The Rev. Mr. Wilson, the present Minister.

The Rev. Mr. Jones is an Assistant Minister, and always resides in Leominster.

Near to the Chapel is a house, where several Females of this persuasion reside, who carry on a small manufactory of making Gloves, working in embroidery. tambour &c.

The

The Meeting-House of the People called Quakers.

THE first religious Meeting of the people called *Quakers in this town, was on the 27th of May 1656, at the house of Henry Bedford, and the preaching for want of room was in an adjoining field; they met with opposition from Tombes, the Minister of the Church and the Magistrates. Their first Monthly and Quarterly meetings were in the year 1658. By Bessé's collection it appears, that this people suffered much, as well as other Dissenters, from the established Church, in the times of the Long Parliament, and continued till the Act of Toleration, in 1689, for their singular tenets; they were frequently persecuted, fined and imprisoned, for not swearing, not taking off their hats, and for not paying tithes; as well as for preaching, or suffering preaching in their houses. Charles Barnet, a Baker in this town 1670, was fined 20 pounds, for preaching, and afterwards 40 pounds for offending a second time in the same manner.

S

The

* The name of Quaker was given in derision, in the year 1650.

The ground on which this House and burial ground stands, was purchased in 1660; but it does not appear the present house was built or made use of, till the year 1689, the joyful year of Liberty of Conscience; and then it was, that this Meeting-House was licenced at the Quarter-Sessions in this Town.

The ALM'S-HOUSE.

THIS Alm's-House was built and endowed, by the Will of Mrs. Hester Clarke, Widow.

There are two Inscriptions over the Door.

Anno Domini.

This Hospital was erected
By Hester Clarke, Widow, and endowed
At her death, with 20 pounds per annum,
For four decayed Widows, each to have five pounds
Per annum, 50 shillings every 6 months,
Paid them by the Trustees.

The

The following with a whimsical effigy of a man holding an axe in his hand, has attracted the notice of strangers, and has occasioned them to relate many erroneous Tales.

He that gives away all,
Before he is dead,
May take up this Hatchet
And knock him on the head.

This Charity with a donation of 26 shillings per annum, for bread to the Baptist Meeting, is secured on landed property.

S 2

Members

Members of Parliament for L E O M I N S T E R.

This Borough sent Members, 23. Edward I. who are elected by the Bailiff, Capital Burgeses, and Inhabitants paying *Scot and Lot*, in number near five hundred. The returning Officer is the Bailiff, who has a casting vote. All returns from Edward IV. to the 33 Hen. VIII. are lost.

Anno Mariæ I. 1553.

* Will. Streete; John Pollo Gent.

1554.

Lewis Jones. John Evans.

Philip and Mary, 1554.

Nich. Depden. Tho. Wilkes.

1555.

James Warnecombe Esq. Tho. Kerry.

1557

* A person of great Interest (at first against Queen Mary) but soon after coinciding with the measures of government, was brought in for this Borough; he died soon after.

1557.
Alban Byrche. Rich. †Hackluyt.

Elizabeth, 1558—9.
Tho. Hackluyt. Tho. Coningesby Esq.

1563.
Tho. Dallowe. John Morgan Esq.

1571.
Edward Crofte. Nich. Depden Esq.

1572.
Nich. Depden. *Fabian Phillips Esq.

1585.

† Edward

† This Hackluyt was Lord of Yatton near Aymstry and Eton near Leominster, and of a very ancient descent; he was a great traveller and published fundry voyages; in particular one, which I have seen in a large collection at the Parsonage House at Bromfield beyond Ludlow, which formerly belonged to the famous Lord Herbert of Chirbury. Viz. Hackluyt's Voyage to Virginia; as he was a man of great note, and at the same time a great encourager of Voyages &c. his name has of consequence been much distinguished in the page of History during that period. The family is now totally extinct, and what wonder if most of the ancient families in this country be annihilated, since out of 270 in the whole nation, only 8 remain.

* When the Duke of Buckingham made Sale of the manor of Leominster, parcel wile, the most considerable part of the Parish of Middleton was purchased by Fabian Phillips this Gentleman's Son.

† Edward Croft. Tho. || Wigmore.

Elizabeth, 1586

Edward Crofte. Tho. Wigmore.

1588.

Tho. Shoter. Humph. Wale Gent.

1592.

† The family of Croft is of great antiquity, The very name speaks itself Saxon. Sir Bernard á Croft lived in the reign of Edward the Confessor, about the year 1000, if not before, and Sir Jasper á Croft in the time of William the Conqueror, by whom it is probable that his estate was given to Wm. de Scochin for adhering to Harold, and after redeemed by fine or otherwise restored. Since which time the family continued in a succession of Knights---but is lately extinct. The ancient and venerable seat of the family is Croft castle about 7 miles hence, now belonging to Mrs. Johnnes, the country is finely wooded. On the top of the park is a British camp, now called CROFT AMBREY, a place remarkable for it's beautiful situation and fine prospect.

|| This ancient family took it's name from the town of WIGMORE, and the family seat was at Lucton. Their Pedigree says, Richard de Wigmore married the daughter of Sir Jasper Croft soon after the Conquest, whose Descendants having married into the families of Pedwardin, Lumley, Aylesford, Delamere, Lingain, Throcorton, Cornwall, Whitney and other worthy families, Robert Wigmore in the year 1670, was the 22nd descent.

Perhaps my friendly reader may smile at the following old Story, concerning the Wigmore family.

At their seat at Lucton House, a great Oaken Post was set up at the out gate, time almost immemorial, and they had it by tradition that a workman should say, it would stand there as long as the Wigmore were owners of Lucton; the Post fell the beginning of August 1670, and within a few days after Wm. Hopper took possession of Lucton. upon a forfeited Mortgage, and the Wigmore family was deprived of it.

1592
 Sir Fran *Vere Kt. Rich. Coningby.

1597.
 Tho. †Cromwell. John Caswell.

1601.
 Tho. Coningby. John Warnecomb.

James I. 1603.
 Ralph Coningsby Kt. Will. Beecher.

1620.
 Fran. †Smallman Esq. Will. Beecher.

1623.
 Will. Beecher Kt. James ||Tomkins Esq.

Charles I: 1625.
 James Tomkins. Ed Littleton
 Returned again the same year.

1628.

* The portrait of this Gentleman and that of his Brother are in the grand collection at Wilbeck: how great and illustrious his actions were, may be seen *PASSIM* in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. He returned from the Sacking of Cadiz, with an immense property. Anno 1596, during which time he was representative in Parliament for this Borough.

‡ Tho. Cromwell's Grandfather was the famous Lord Cromwell, who from being but a Blacksmith's son at Putney, became Earl of Essex &c.

† This Smallman was of the ancient family of the Smallman's, Lord's of Kinarley.

|| This Tomkins was Lord of Weobly. We find him anxiously engaged in means to serve his royal and unfortunate

1628.

Ja. Tomkins Esq. Tho. Littleton Esq.

1640.

*Sampson Eure Esq. †Walter Kirle Esq.
John Birch Esq.

1654.

John Birch Esq.

1656.

John Birch Esq.

1658—9.

Edward Freeman Esq. John †Birch Esq.

Charles II. 1660.

Edward Pitt Esq. John Birch Esq.

1661.

Rich. Grimes. Hugh Cornwall.

1678.

John Dutton ||Colt. James Pitts.

1681.

unfortunate Master Charles the 1st. and his Brother was one of the principal persons, against whom Pym brought Articles of impeachment for a conspiracy.

* He was Governor of Hurst Castle, and appointed to that command by the Officers of the Army, to seize upon the Person of the King, who was then at Carisbrooke castle, and take him to Hurst Castle.

† He was Brother to Sir John Kirle.

‡ John Birch, Vid Page 43.

|| This John Dutton Colt having frequently delivered his sentiments in favour of a Protestant succession; two inhabitants

1681.

John Dutton Colt. Tho. Coningsby.

James II. 1685.

Tho. Coningsby. Rob. Cornwall.

1688.

John Dutton Colt. Tho. Coningsby.

William and Mary 1690.

T

Tho.

inhabitants of Leominster, either attached to the Duke of York's interest, or as some say, bribed to the action, laid an information against the said John Dutton Colt, swearing, that he stood at a place in Leominster, called the Butter-Cross, and striking his Cane against one of the Pillars of the building, "CALLED THE DUKE OF YORK A PAPIST, AND SWORE HE WOULD LOSE EVERY DROP OF BLOOD, BEFORE A POPIISH PRINCE SHOULD SIT ON THE THRONE OF THIS KINGDOM." Whereupon Officers were immediately dispatched to Leominster to apprehend the said John Dutton Colt: but availing himself of a place of concealment in one of his Bed-chambers, which is to be seen at this day, he eluded, for a long time, the strictest inquiry of his pursuers; tho' they well knew he was somewhere in the house, having received intelligence that he was frequently seen walking, early in the morning, as well as late at night, in the Garden. At length harassed and fatigued by the vigilance of his Enemies, he surrendered himself, trusting to the severity of the then reigning powers, rather than wear out his life in the gloom of solitude, made still more dismal by perpetual apprehensions and terror. He was afterwards fined 100,000 pounds, and imprisoned in the King's-Bench till it should be paid. What part of the fine he paid is uncertain; but he continued about 10 years in the King's-Bench, till he was set at liberty by King William the III. at the time of the Revolution. Whilst he was Prisoner in the King's-Bench, he was twice returned Member for Leominster, once in the reign of Charles II. and once in that of his Brother James II.

Vid. Lodge's Sketches &c.

Tho. Coningsby. John Dutton Colt.

1692—3.

Rt. Hon Tho. Lord Coningsby. J. D. Colt.

1695.

Tho. Lord Coningsby. John D. Colt.

1698.

Tho. Lord Coningsby. Edward Harley.

1701.

Tho. Lord Coningsby. Ed. Harley.

Anne, 1702

Tho. Lord Coningsby. Edw. Harley.

1705.

Tho. Lord Coningsby. Ed. Harley.

Since the Union.

1st. Parliament, 1707.

Tho. Lord Coningsby. Ed. Harley.

2nd. Parliament, 1708.

Tho. Lord Coningsby. Ed. Harley.

3rd. Parliament, 1710.

*Edward Bangham. Edw. Harley.

4th

*Of the Family of the Banghams of Stockton.

4th Parliament, 1713.

Henry Gorges. §Edw. Harley.

5th Parliament, 1715.

Tho. Lord Coningsby. †Sir George Caswall Kt.

Sir ||George Caswall Kt. William Bateman.

6th Parliament, 1722.

Sir George Caswall. Sir Archer Croft Bt.

7th Parliament, 1727.

Sir George Caswall Kt. Will. Viscount Bateman.

8th Parliament, 1734.

Sir George Caswall Kt. *Rob. Harley.

9th Parliament, 1741.

†John Caswall. Capel Hanbury.

Rob. Harley Esq.

10th Parliament, 1747.

Sir Rob. Cornwall Bt. James Peachey.

T 2

11th

§ This Edw. Harley was the Auditor, he was father to Edward Earl of Oxford and Grand-father to the Right Hon. Thomas Harley. This Auditor Harley was Brother to Robert Harley the great Statesman, &c.

† Not duly elected. Re-elected.

|| Expelled the House and sent to the Tower, for being concerned in the South-Sea scheme.

* This Rob. Harley was Son of the Auditor Harley, Brother to Edward Earl of Oxford, who was father to the late Earl of Oxford, to Bishop Harley, and to the Right Hon. Tho. Harley, the present worthy Member for the County of Hereford.

‡ Died.

11th Parliament, 1754.

*Sir Charles Hanbury Williams. Rich. Gorges
Esq. Chafe Price.

12th Parliament, 1761.

Jennifon Shafto. †Chace Price.
——— Willis Esq.

13th Parliament, 1768.

Lord Viscout Bateman. †Rich. Hill.
Fred. Cornwall.

15th Parliament, 1781.

Right Hon. Lord Viscout Bateman.
R. P. Knight. Esq.

16th Parliament, 1784.

John Hunter. Penn Ashton Curzon Esqrs.

17th Parliament, 1790.

John Hunter. || John Sawyer.
Rich. Beckford Esq.

T H E

*Died : he was Embaffador at the Court of Petersberg.

† Vacated his Seat.

† Died

|| Rich. Beckford Esq. petitioned against John Sawyer
Esq. and obtained his Seat in Parliament.

T H E
Vicinity of LEOMINSTER,

Comprehending a short Account of the
Out-Parish and the **Halimots*, formerly
appertaining to the Priory.

About two miles north by West from
Leominster, is the Village of

L U S T O N.

THIS township is in the Parish of Eye, the greatest part of it within the ancient Halimot of Leominster, and contained the Manor Place called the †*Bury*, belonging to the Priory.

In Edward the thirds time, Herewardus de Aula, was (if not Lord) at least a person of some account here, as appears by an old Deed,
and

* *Halimot*, Blount says, under the word *Halimote* or *Healgemote* (from the Saxon *Heal-gemot*, *Aulæ Conventus*) is what we now call a Court Baron, and signifies the meetings of the Tenants of one Hall or Manor. The name is still retained at Luston in Herefordshire.

† *Bury*, from the Saxon word *Bur*, i. e. *Habitatio*, the Mansion House, Court House. or Chief Farm; in Herefordshire besides, there are the *Burys* of Stockton, Hope, Ivinton, &c.

and the Prior of Leominster had three Carucates of land within this town.

Extract from a Copy of an old Roll
Of the extent of the Manors belonging to
Lemster Priory—Anno 1. Ed. III.

In Tuffenhull field are 150 Acres. In Breshull field are 140 Acres. In Wondesbach field are 125 Acres. In Fleta are 12 Acres of meadow, and they carry off 24 load, worth 16 pence a load, the whole, one pound twelve shillings; and the Customarys are to mow the said meadow, and every yard land to carry two load to the Court of *Luston*, besides other works. In Calowcroft are two Acres, and they may carry off two load of Hay, each load one shilling and sixpence, the whole, three shillings. In the More are 15 Acres of Pasture, which may maintain 40 Cows and Calves. In the Pasture called Oxelesue, are 8 Acres of Pasture which may maintain 13 Oxen. The Dove House eighteen pence. The Overseer gives ten Hens and 100 Eggs. The Reaper gives 25 Hens and 100 Eggs. The Forester of Yarpole 50 Hens and 300 Eggs. The Daya 100 Eggs. The Miller of Crowford 50 Eggs. The Customary Tenants give 50 Geese, if they are married, &c.

There was formerly a Park, called the Park of *Over in Luston*, in this Halimot, appertaining to the Priory, as appears by fundry deeds.

Anno

Anno 9 Hen. 4. J: Tuffhida & Wm. Belle of the manor of Leominster granted to Wm. Segat the pasture in the Park of *Over*, with the wood for his life paying yearly to the Exchequer of Leominster, by the Pindar of Luston Manor, 6s. 8d. at the usual terms of the Manor; and he is to preserve the said Park in quiet and free from disturbance, and to be answerable to the said Keeps for the *Tac and Poundlac* under penalty of being fined at the will of the said Keeps, and if he by any colour make any destruction to his own profit, which shall be found by his neighbours, to the value of one farthing, he shall satisfy to the Lord $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and to close and impale the said Park at his own charge, with the underwood of the same, to be delivered him by the Subdean, and to have the boughs of the trees freely given, and wood for the fences by the appointment of the Subdean, and if he be deficient in his rent 2 weeks, they may enter &c.

Queen Elizabeth granted the Manor of *Luston*, late part of the possessions of the Cell of Leominster, and all messuages, lands, royalties in Luston, Eyton, and Lemster Marsh, and in Yarpole, Bircher, Kingland, Elton and Aston, belonging to the said Manor, to Sir James Croft ancestor to *Sir Herbert Croft for life, and
after

* This Sir Herbert Croft on his leaving this Country retired

after to Edward Croft Esq. and the Heirs male of his body. It now appertains to Mrs Johnnes, and the Bury House to the Rev. J. Wall of Kington.

The inhabitants keep their feast of Dedication on the Sunday next after St. Peter ad Vincula, but I find no tradition of any Chapel, which has been there.

About half a mile to the North East in the midst of excellent Pasture ground, are the Church and Mansion House of

E Y E,

Which word in *Saxon* signifies a watery place, and so is this, at least in winter.

About

retired into Flanders, where he died, and was buried under a fair monument in the Benedictines Church at Douay, with this Epitaph, which, as it is scarce, it may not be improper to insert.

Hic jacet
 Corpus Herberti Croft Equitis
 Angli de Com: Hereford
 Viri prudentis, fortis, nobilis,
 Patriæ libertatis amantissimi,
 Qui in hoc monasterio
 In paupere cella tanquam monachus,
 Multos per annos devotè vixit,
 Et piè efflavit.
 Secutus exemplum Primogenitoris sui
 Dni Bernardi Croft
 Qui antè sexcentos annos,
 Relicta militari gloria,
 Monachus in Benedictino cænobio defunctus est.
 Obiit 10mo die Aprilis 1622.
 Requiescat in pacè.

About the time of Henry III. This Manör belonged to the Abbot of Reading, and under him the mean Lord was *Walter de Eye*, and so it continued till Henry the sixth's time, when *Jahn Blount* descended of the family of Kinlet, possessed this place, by marrying the Daughter and Heir of *Walter de Eye*, which family of the *Blounts* continued here five or six generations in good repute; yet holding some of the lands on the East side of the brook, by suit and service to the Cornwalls of Berington Court at Ashton; *Walter Blount* mortgaged this estate to one *Holmes* a Merchant; afterwards it was sold to *Dashfield*, a servant of the Lord Keeper of Coventry, who dying without issue, left it to his Kinsman *Norris*, and he dying in debt, his Executors sold it to *Ferdinando Gorges Esq.* from which family it lately came into the possession of *The Right Hon. Thomas Harley*, by purchase.

The Church is said to be the Mother Church of Orleton, and the Rector here had anciently a portion of two shillings yearly from the Church of Croft. This Parish belonged very early to the Priory of Leominster; *Heya* is reckoned up among the Parishes annexed to it, Anno 1124, when Bishop Richard confirmed the said Parishes and Churches, to the Abbey of Reading: It contains the townships of Berington, Farlow, Ashton, Luston and Moreton, of which two, viz. Ashton and Moreton be-
 V long

long to the Manor of Berington; which Manor appertained till lately to the Cornwalls, now to the Right Hon. Thomas Harley, Representative in Parliament for the County of Hereford, whose beautiful seat at Berington of modern construction, is on the ascent about half a mile from Eye.

Proceeding from thence across the Canal thro' a well cultivated Country, at the distance of about a mile and half, we arrive at

S T O C K T O N .

This town is within the Parish of Kymalton, and here one of the four Halimots is still kept, belonging to the great Manor of Leominster.

State of the Manor, Anno 1. Edward III.

In Whitebroc field are 155 Acres, and should be sowed with 25 horse loads of Corn (except the Rede) and of Oats 30 horse loads and 6 Bushels. In the field of Conemers and in Alvedon are 192 Acres and 2 Selions, and should be sowed with 27 horse loads of Corn (except the Rede) and 32 horse loads and 6 Bushels of Oats.

In the field of Red-weye and in Stalling, are 208 Acres and an half, and should be sowed with 28 horse loads (except the Rede) which is 32 Acres, and should be sowed with five horse loads and 3 Bushels of Corn,
and

and with Oats 32 horse loads, 6 Bushels.

In Estey mead are 20 Acres, and they carry 25 loads of Hay, each load 20 pence, the whole two pounds and eight-pence, and the Customaries mow and gather the said meadow, and carry the hay to Stockton.

In Bolingey are 12 Acres of Pasture, which will maintain 20 Oxen and 2 Heifers

In the More towards Eyam are 11 Acres of Pasture, and about the vivary of Stockton 11 Acres, which maintain 16 Cows.

In Hafshwood are 345 Acres of wood and pasture, which may maintain 100 beasts, 7 Calves, and 20 Cows from the feast of the Holy Cross to the Nativity of St John, and they may fell within 5 years, 60 Acres of underwood at 4 pence an Acre, the whole 20 shillings.

In the pasture of the said Manor they may keep 190 sheep, and if the pasture could be recovered of Brian de Brompton, which is used for Common of the Lord Prior, the said Manor would maintain 240 Sheep.

The Overseer gives 10 Hens and 100 Eggs.

The *Daya* gives 100 Eggs.

The Reaper gives 50 Hens and 100 Eggs.

MD. That 91 Customaries give 151 Geese, those that have wives.

The Miller 100 Eggs.

The Overseer, if he be free, receives yearly vesture of an Acre and a load of hay, and 4

horse loads and 4 Bushels of Corn, and 5 shillings, and if he be Customary he receives yearly 5 shillings, and 8 Bushels of Corn in Autumn, and vesture of 1 Acre and 1 load of hay, and he and his fellows have 5 shillings in Autumn for service and pannage.

The Reaper receives per annum, 3 shillings and 8 Bushels of Corn in Autumn &c.

The Carter receives yearly 4 horse loads and 4 Bushels of Corn, and 4 shillings.

The Swineherd receives yearly 4 horse loads 4 Bushels, 4 shillings and 4 Ells of Cloth.

The Cowherd receives yearly 4 horse loads, 4 Bushels and three Ells of Cloth,

The *Daya* receives yearly 2 horse loads and 11 Bushels and 3 Ells of Cloth &c.

All the Servants yearly receive by favour, a quarter of Oats for meal.

The Forester of Ashwood receives yearly 3 shillings and cloth.

The Stock of the Manor, 3 Waggon bound with iron, one Cart bound with iron, and a brass pot of 5 Gallons.

The whole of the Corn delivered to the Servants in the said Manor, 51 horse loads 4 Bushels and half. The whole delivered of Oats 25 Bushels and half.

The Bury or Manor House which was formerly in the nature of a *Grange* to the Priory of Leominster, is a considerable Farm, and was purchased of the Duke of Buckingham in the year

year 1662, (when this great Manor was sold parcel wise) by Tobias Rustat Esq. and by him sold to Richard Blytheway, who disposed of it to Edward Bangham Esq. not more than 50 years since. It now belongs to the Right Hon. Thomas Harley.

Going from thence towards the south west about a mile, over Eaton Hill, or *Comfort Castle Hill*, and descending towards the River Lug, we come to

E A T O N,

Called in Domesday *Estune*, about a mile to the south east of Leominster.

I find little mention of this Township, except that Hugh the Son of William a Norman was possessed of this Manor, Anno 1124; To this Hugh succeeded Henry, who assumed the Sirname of Kilpec, from the castle of Kilpec his principal seat, but in the sixth year of Henry II. the family became extinct, by default of issue male, and no memory is left of it; except that some of the Townships they possessed in this county, do for distinction retain the name, as *Eaton Kilpec*, the place we write of &c.

The Hackluyts became possessed of it, but at what time cannot be ascertained.

1317. Hugo Hackluyt was High Sheriff of this County.

1357—8—9. Edw. Hackluyt was High Sheriff of this County for 3 years.

1400. Leon. Hackluyt was High Sheriff of this County.

One William Hackluyt, as Leland informs us, who was with King Henry V. at the bataille of Agincourt, set up a house at this village, and purchased land. He had one St. George a Nobleman of France his Prisoner. The chief and most ancient of the Hackluyts have been Gentlemen in time out of memory; they took their names from the forest of *Cluyd* in Radnorshire, and had a castle or habitation not far from Radnor. There were three Knights of these Hackluyts about the time of King Edward III. whereof one was named Edmond. It happened (temp. Ed. III.) that one of the Hackluyts took part with Llewelin Prince of Wales, against the King, whereupon he was attainted, and his lands devolved to the King, or the Lord Mortimer, and never were restored.

Leland says. "About that period one of the Hackluyts fled into the mountains of Wales, and lived as a banished man, but he was afterwards pardoned, and having a Knight that tendered him, because he was his Godson or Kinsman, and had no issue, he made him his Heir, and those lands continued for a long time in the eldest house of the Hackluyts."

According

According to an Old Deed found in Ludlow Castle, John Lenteley was Lord of this manor, 36 Hen. VI. 1458.

In 1477 I find Rich. Hackluyt High Sheriff of this County.

1508	Rich. Hackluyt	ditto
1519	Rich. Hackluyt	ditto
1557	Rich. Hackluyt	ditto

This Hackluyt was Member of Parliament for the Borough of Leominster, and Lord of Yatton and Eaton.

1592. John Hackluyt sent the account of Kenelm's Monument, dated at Eaton.

1613. The Court of Sir Henry Hackluyt was held at Eaton 3 April 11 James I. before Sir Richard Blount Kt. Steward and Supervisor of the said Manor. This Sir Henry married Fortune, Daughter of Robert Aston, he died in King James's reign. His estate at Yatton he left to his prodigal Son Henry, who said, he had cheated a covetous Usurer, who had given him spick and span new money for the old lands of his Great Grandfather.
Vid: Gwillim's Heraldry.

This Manor came afterwards to the family of the *Brabazons* Earls of Meath in Ireland, in which line it still continues.

This old Mansion house and all the out-buildings have been suffered for many years to go to ruins. There are remains of a spe-

cious

cious Hall, and of many large rooms ; there was also a Chapel, which is now converted into a Hop-Kiln. Near the Porter's tower or entrance, is a descent between the walls in form of a large Chimney, called by the common people, *Brabazon's Hole*.

The book of Knight's fees, says concerning Eaton. In Eton Hugo the Son of Bernard, and Robert de Tolefin holds of ancient feofment the tenth part of a Knight's fee of John Pabeme, and the said John holds that of Wm. de Bello Campo (or Beauchamp) of the honor of Bedford ; and the said Walter holds that of the King in capite. William de Eton holds in Eton of ancient feofment the half part of a Knight's fee of Hugo de Kilpeck of the Honor of Kilpeck.

In this township, and not at Eaton Bishop near Hereford, was born the illustrious *Cardinal Adam de Eaton*, who flourished about the time of Henry II. Urban VIII. had given him the Roman purple for his own merit ; he was possessed of great learning for the age he lived in, and was remarkable for his great knowledge in the Hebrew Language. In the quarrel between the Antipope Clement VII. when the Cardinals were much divided in their sentiments as to the succession to the Papal Chair, this Cardinal was, with six others suspected by Urban and apprehended, five of them he caused to be tied up in sacks, and
 thrown

thrown into the Sea: But Adam de Eaton he kept in close confinement, in want and nastiness. Boniface IX. restored him, by whom he was employed in matters of great consequence, at the Court of Hen. II. He died at Rome 1397, where he lived in great splendour, and left this life univerversally regretted.

About two miles to the east, lies

H E N O R.

The family of Pateshall formerly resided there. Of late years, Wm. Poole Esq. enlarged the dwelling and made it an elegant Seat.

About a mile also to the East lies

S T R E T F O R D.

A small Village. There is a Mansion House, formerly belonging to Sir John Payne Kt. *Vid: MS. Blount.*

From Eaton verging a little from the course of the Lug, about half a mile to the south South East, is the Village of

S T O K E.

This is but a Chapelry within the great Parish of Leominster, certified Value 6l. 1s. 3d.

I find in an ancient tax of spiritual dignities, *Ecclesia de Lemster cum capellis de Stoke,*

W

Docklow,

Docklow, &c. The Vicar's Revenue is called Trug Corn.

The account of this Manor (temp. Edward III.) runs in the same manner as in the other Halimots, observing almost an exact proportion both in the quantity of wheat and oats to be sown, as also in the suits and services due to the Lord of the Priory. There were in this Manor, four hundred Acres and a half of Tillage land, and thirty Acres and a half of pasture, with maintenance for a hundred sheep in winter.

The Overseer paid for himself and Reapers, 10 Hens and 100 Eggs, &c.

M. D. The Customaries give 34 geese, if they have a wife.

In the Manor of the More are 70 Acres of Tillage, and 12 Acres of pasture.

The whole of Corn delivered to servants in the Manor of Stoke, per annum, 31 horse loads 9 Bushels and a half, &c.

Delivered to the Baker yearly, of wheat, except the profits, 208 horse loads, in Profits 26 horse loads. *At the coming of the Abbot*, 40 horse loads, and in augmentation per annum to the Baker 104 horse loads, and for certain customs 22 horse loads and 2 Bushels.

To the Brewer yearly besides profits 156 horse loads, and in profits 18 horse loads.

In 1720 the living was increased by Queen Anne's Bounty 200l.

Nearly

Nearly opposite full West, about a mile distant on the other side of the River Lug, is the Village of

W H A R T O N.

Called in Domesday *Wavertune*; It lies within the Parish and Precinct of Leominster. I find Hugh de Croft anciently held lands here, for thus says the Book of Knight's fees. "Hugo de Croft tenet in Warton et Newton de veteri feofamento medietatem dimidii unius feodi miletis de honore de Dilwyn, et idem honor est in custodia Domini Regis."

In 1604, Richard Whitehall a Citizen of London, who had been High Sheriff for the County, built a handsome Mansion house in this Village, but had no issue. It came afterwards into the Coningesby family, who leased it to the family of Beaumont Clarke Esq. whose Grandfather's widow founded the Alm's-House in the Bargates, for four poor Widows. It is now in the possession of the Rev. J. Colt, who married the Heirefs of that family; but on termination of the lease, it becomes the property of the Rt. Hon. Lord Viscount Malden.

There was also an ancient family bearing the name of this place; for I have seen a Deed of William de Wharton of Lemster, dated 35 Edward III. to which his seal was affixed, and a chevron between three fleurs-de-lis, on the shield.

About a mile from this place towards the north, is

B R O A D W A R D.

Much of this township belongs to Brazen-Nose College at Oxford. There is a good house and offices built by the late Dan. Stead Esq. now possessed by Mr. Nicholas Edwards.

Then crossing the Arrow, and advancing to the south west, about half a mile thro' very fertile meadows, we come to the pleasant village of

B R I E R L E Y,

In Domesday called *Bretlege*. It consists of three or four farms. Concerning it I find nothing remarkable, but as being mentioned in Domesday, to have appertained to the great Manor of Leominster, to which Parish it still belongs as a Township. The Manor &c. belongs to Jon. Pytts of Kyre House Esq; tho' the greatest part of the village appertains to the Rev. T. Alban.

At the great Sale of the Church lands made by the Duke of Buckingham, this village is mentioned to have been sold peacemeal: it is to be observed, that the distribution of the Lots, was made by the Clergy, who claimed the Petty Tithes; for they intermixed the
property

property of the various purchasers in the common fields in such a manner, that it was almost impossible to inclose them without numerous exchanges: this may be seen in the old surveys of the estates at Brierley, Wharton and Newton.

From hence down a good new road, at about the distance of a quarter of a mile, we arrive in the King's High Way, leading from Leominster to Hereford, continuing along it towards the south, we again pass thro' Wharton, at some distance beyond, St. Mary's Brook, and soon after leaving the village of Newton on the right, and part of Lord Malden's Park on the other side of the river Lug on the left, Hope Church presents itself at the first turning.

The Parish of

H O P E,

Is situate on the northern side of Dynmore (*quasi Dun-Maur*, the great Hill) It was one of the Halimots belonging to Leominster, and one of the principal Bury's appertaining to the Priory.

The account of this Manor, temp. Ed. III. is as follows.

In the field called Hhenhope are 150 Acres, and ought to be sown with 25 half horse loads of Corn (except the Rede, which contains

contains 7 Acres and one Selion, which should be sown with 18 Bushels of Corn) and 27 of Oats.

In Brounesfield are 120 Acres, and should be sown with 24 half horse loads of Corn (except the Rede) and 26 of Oats.

In the meadow next the Lug are three Acres, and bear 4 loads of Hay, each load worth 1s. 9d. the whole 7 shillings.

In Folkey are two Acres of meadow, and they carry off 3 loads of hay worth 5s. 3d. each load 1s. 9d.

In Cheney are 12 Acres of meadow, and they carry off 12 loads of Hay, worth 21s. 8d. each load 20d.

In Grafcroft and the pasture next Lug, are 8 Acres of Pasture, and can maintain 19 Oxen.

In the said Manor may be maintained 120 Sheep.

The foreign wood towards the west part 16 Acres, and whole wood is sold.

In the wood of Middleover and Plotwood, are 55 Acres, and in every 6 years it is sold, every year 9 Acres of Underwood, and is worth 4s 6d. an Acre.

In the wood over against the Court, are 39 Acres, but no underwood, and can feed yearly 30 hogs. The Pannage is worth 7s. 6d.

In the wood called Birchover, are 4 Acres of underwood, and may be sold within 6 years, worth 6 Shillings per Acre.

A Curtilage, worth 10 Shillings yearly.
 Fruit of the garden and herbage 5 Shillings.
 Dove-House 2 Shillings:

The Overseer gives for himself and his Reapers, if they do not reap, 35 Hens and 300 Eggs. Daya 100 Eggs.

There are also 31 Customary Tenants, who give every one a Goose, for the Vigil, if he has a wife.

The Steward or Overseer, if he be free, receives yearly 4 horse loads, 4 Bushels of Corn, one Acre of Corn and 3s. 4d; and if the Lord Abbot give any wood in the woods within his Bailiwick, he is to have the crop, &c.

The Shepherd receives yearly 3 horse loads, 3 Bushels of Corn and 4 shillings, also one covering at the Conversion, the Daya &c.

The Keeper of the Oxen receives every week a Bushel of Corn, from the hour he is sent to Hope, until the feast of Holy Cross.

All the Servants receive yearly by favour, a quarter of Oats for meal.

The Stock of the said Manor, 3 waggons bound with iron, 3 pair of irons for the Ploughs and a brass pot.

The whole of the Corn delivered to the Servants in the said Manor, 43 horse loads, and 11 Bushels; and 25 Bushels and a half of Oats.

The Church of Hope, dedicated to St. Ma-
 ry

ry was formerly a Chapel to Leominster; it consists of a tower at the west end, a large nave neatly ceiled and wainscotted, and a Chancel; the latter was built by Sir Thomas Coningsby Kt. Great Grandfather to the Lord Coningsby who built the nave, and of whom there is a most beautiful marble monument in the east end.

In the chancel on a flat stone of Alabaster, are represented in Sculpture the effigies of a man and woman, at their heads are quarterly the arms of *Coningsby and Solers* impaled, at their feet the effigies of seven Children: on the margin of the stone is this Inscription in text.

X

Here lyeth the bodie of Humfry Coningsby Of Hampton Court in the Countie of Hereford Esquyer, and Anne his wife Daughter of Sir Thomas Inglefield Knyght, wch Humfry died The III day of April in the yeare of our Lorde God, MDVIII. Of whose soules God have mercy Amen.

X

In this Church was *buried Sir Thomas Coningsby
May 30th 1652.

Also

* Vid. Hope's Register.

Also, Fitzwilliam Coningsby Aug. 23. 1666.

Also, Lady Harvey March 8. 1670.

At about half a mile to the north east on the left bank of the Lug is Hampton.

It belonged to a family that took name from the placè (as the usage was of old) being called de Hampton, as John de Hampton, who was an eminent man in the reign of Edward II. *Ricus de Hampton dedit Ecclesie Sti: Leonardi de Pyonia terras et dimid: sumam Wastell,* to be received yearly at Michaelmas in his capital House of Hampton. This, says Mr. Taylor, is Hampton Richard, now called Hampton Court.

It contains two Manors, **Hampton Richard*, so called from Richard the Marshal second Earl of Hereford, who gave name to sundry places, as *Richard's Castle &c.* The other is *Hampton Mappenore*, part of which lies contiguous to the Lordship of Leominster.

The present noble residence was most sumptuously erected by Henry the fourth, who was Earl of Hereford, after the lands in this County belonging to that Earldom came to him, and

X

was

* A wood in this Manor, out of which a great part of the stone was taken, which built Hampton Court, is called RICHARD'S WOOD.

was given by him to Sir Rowland Lenthall Kt. Yeoman of the Wardrobe to that King. (vid: Lord Coningesby's long Case in Hampton Court Library; tho' Leland mentions it to have been built by Sir Rowland Lenthall)

This Sir Rowland Lenthall, *vid: Leland*, "being a gallant fellowe," either a Daughter or a very near Kinswoman of the King's, fell in love with him, and afterwards married him: Whereupon he had lands given to him, and his heirs, amounting to one thousand pounds per annum, among which lands he had Ludlow for one part.

"Sir Rowland Lenthall was victorious at
 "the battaille of Agincourt, and tooke many
 "prisoners there, by which prey he beganne
 "the new buildinge of Hampton Court, and
 "brought from a hill a springe of water, and
 "made a little pool within the top of his
 "House. *Leland.*

Tho' it seems from this account, that Sir Rowland expended large sums in beautifying and adorning this noble seat, yet I find, that he afterwards sold it to *Cornwall* of Burford; and in the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. Humfrey Coningesby, a Judge of the Court of King's Bench - purchased this Estate. From this, Humfrey Coningesby by many worthy intermediate ancestors descended Sir Thomas Coningesby, the pious founder of the Hospital at Hereford, and Lord Coningesby so often representative in
 Parliament

Parliament for the Borough of Leominster. The name of the Coningsby's becoming extinct for want of issue male (vid: Priory page 88, 89) this Manor came into the family of the Earl of Essex, whose eldest Son The Rt. Hon. Lord Viscount Malden, is the present worthy Possessor.

This venerable and ancient seat, the admiration of all persons of taste, has within these few years been somewhat altered, but without suffering the least diminution of its ancient grandeur. It is situated in a very rich and fertile valley, watered by the River Lug, the eastern bank of which rising into a hill, is covered with beautiful woods; to the west is a noble Park nearly 8 miles in circumference, which has large fish ponds, is well wooded, and presents different points of View; The whole Neighbourhood indeed forms a scene highly pleasant and picturesque.

Returning from hence to the Church, at half a mile to the west is the *Bury House*, formerly belonging to the Priory of Leominster, and was the ancient residence of the Steward for this Manor, it is now a Farm House belonging to an Estate the property of Lord Selfea.

Proceeding about a mile to the west with a gradual ascent up the Hill, we come to

Winsley, anciēntly *Wintlesley*. In Edward 3^ds. time, Beryton of the Lacy, married the Daughter and Heir of Rowland de Windesley, and by this marriage had this ancient seat with other lands, which have continued in the family ever since; but in latter times, the name has been changed (*Euphoniæ gratiâ*) to Berington. They bear for their Arms, *Sable, three greyhounds Argent, collared Or.*

The House which is newly fronted, is of very old date, and as a badge of its antiquity, there is carved in wood in old Characters, over the Porch, a Cross with these words: *Per signum Tau libera nos Domine.* Upon one of the Cross Beams of this House is carved an ancient coat of Arms, consisting of *bends of five peices*, which perhaps were the Arms of Windesley, before the Beringtons were owners of this place. This is reckoned a very healthy situation, four Beringtons, Brothers, lived to make 320 years between them. (*Vid: MS. Blount*).

The distance is not much above a mile and half from Winsley, down the Hill by *Gaderdehopa*, or Gaterdehope, an estate belonging to Thomas Andrew Knight Esq. to

W I N T E R C O T T,

Which together with Hyde and Ash, make
one

one of the Townships of the Out-Parish of Leominster.

It is divided into upper and lower Wintercott. In old deeds is found the name of Hugo de *Wintercote*.

The greatest part of this Township did formerly belong to the Priory, as appears by sundry old deeds which I have seen. It was not unusual of old, before the Statute of 27 Hen. 8. was made for the enrolment of bargains and sales of lands, that if any Person had bought land or made a settlement of his estate, and feared the loss of such deed or settlement; he then procured certain of his neighbours to view his deed, and to give in testimony of it. I judged an exemplar might not be disagreeable to the Reader, especially since it falls out to be done at Wintercott, the place concerning which we are now discourfing. *Ex ipfo MS. Lat.*

“ Know all present and to come, that I
 “ Robert Walan have given and granted to
 “ Hugh de Croft all my land of Wintercott,
 “ which I held of the Abbot and Convent of
 “ Reding, with all its appertenances, to be
 “ held and had unto him and his Heirs, pay-
 “ ing to the Abbot and Convent of Reding,
 “ 50 shillings yearly on the passion of St. Peter
 “ and St. Paul, and to this gift and con-
 “ cession I have put my Seal.”

Witnesses.

William

William Fitzwarren.	Joh. de Brompton.
Wyron de Grendon.	Joh. de Sto. Albino.
Phil. de Sarnesfield.	Roger de Sarnesfield.
Bryan de Brompton.	Hugo Fitz-Bernard.
Joh. de Pirebunne.	Rob. de Poyer.
Hug. de Bley.	F. Julias.

40 Queen Elizabeth, I find Richard Warncombe Esq. seized of the Manor of Wintercott, and diverse other lands &c. in the County of Hereford, but having no issue of his body legitimate, his estate descended to his six Sisters, who made partition of his estate after his death.

The Manor of Wintercott upon their partition came to Philip Scudamore Esq. in right of Joane his wife, who was formerly Relict of Walter Kyrle Esq. she being one of the six Sisters and Coheirs of the said Rich. Warncomb.

Philip Scudamore and Joane his Wife gives his Manor of Wintercott in marriage with Sibill their Daughter to Sir John Kyrle Bart.

Sir John Kyrle and his Lady in consideration of 400 pounds, grant and convey Wintercott to Rob. Kyrle Esq. and his Heirs forever.

Rob. Kyrle Esq. by his last Will and Testament dated 25th March 1616, leaves his Manors &c. in Wintercott, Ivinton, Stoke &c. to James Kyrle Esq. and his heirs in fee simple.

James Kyrle in Feb. 1645 died, and the Manor of Wintercott and other lands descended

ed to Colonel Rob. Kyrle, his Son and Heir, who conveyed it by deed and fine to John Jay.

From that period it continued in constant succession in the family of the Jays, till within late years; Charles Berington Esq. having married the only remaining Heiress of that family, is in possession of the estate, on which he has built a good Mansion House.

A S H AND H Y D E.

I find little concerning them, no more than as being Townships within the great Parish of Leominster. The latter gave name to the ancient family of the *Hydes*, now extinct.

The distance from Wintercott, towards the east thro' fine tillage and pasture land to Iwinton is about a mile,

I V I N T O N.

Extract from an old Roll, of the extent of this Manor, Anno 1. Edward III.

In the West field are 144 Acres, and should be sown with 27 horse loads of Corn (except the Rede) and 29 and a half of Oats.

In the field against the Park are 132 Acres, and should be sown with 26 horse loads (except the Rede) and 28 and a half of Oats.

In

In Merrell field are 146 Acres, and should be sown with 26 horse loads of Corn (except the Rede, which contains 10 Acres, and should be sown with two horse loads and a half of Corn) and also with 28 and a half of Oats.

In Enchenye meadow are 46 Acres, and they may carry 46 loads of Hay, worth 4l. 12s. at 2 shillings a load.

In Bungey are 16 Acres of pasture, and may maintain 180 sheep, with the help of the fields.

In Ivynton More are 63 Acres of pasture, and may maintain 80 Oxen and Cows.

In Middlemore are 12 and in Calvernoft 6 Acres of pasture, and they may maintain 20 Oxen.

In Ivynton Park are 360 Acres, and they may fell every year 40 Acres of underwood at 6 pence per Acre, in all 20 shillings.

The meadow in the said Park produces 3 loads of Hay worth 5 shillings, and the said Park will maintain 100 Beasts, and 10 ———, and 300 Sheep from Holy Cross, until St. Peter in Prison.

The fruit of the garden 2 shillings per annum, the Herbage 5 shillings.

The Servant's Curtilage is worth per annum 12d.

The Overseer gives 5 hens, and half a hundred of Eggs.

The

The Reeper gives 5 hens, and half a hundred of Eggs.

The Daya gives 100 Eggs.

The Miller gives 100 Eggs.

MD. That 36 Customary Tenants give each a goose, if he be married.

The Overseer receives yearly 3s. 4d. and 8 Bushels of Corn in Autumn, one load of Hay, and the vesture of an Acre of Corn, if he be a Customary, and if he holds a Yard land, he gives 10 shillings per annum, and is quit of all work.

The Reaper receives yearly 4 horse loads and 4 bushels of Corn, and three shillings in Silver.

Also the servant that is besides the Reap, receives every week a bushel of Corn.

Besides, the Overseer, Reap, and servant, have 5 shillings for service in Autumn.

The Carter receives yearly 4 horse loads, 4 bushels of Corn, and 4 shillings wages. The Swineherd receives yearly 4 horse loads and 4 bushels of Corn; one purtell and 4 ells of Cloth. The Shepherd receives yearly 4 horse loads and 4 bushels of Corn, 4 shillings, 1 ewe and 1 lamb; and he also receives from the Purification until the Holy Cross, 6 bushels, the time of casting the Lambs.

The Keep of the lambs receives from Holy Cross to Michaelmas, 10 bushels and a half.

The Cowherd receives yearly 4 horse loads 4
 Y bushels

bushels of Corn, 2 shillings and 4 ells of Cloth. The Daya receives 4 horse loads, 4 bushels of Corn, and 5s. 5d. The Subdaya receives yearly 2 horse loads, 11 Bushels of Corn, 3 ells of Cloth &c. The Hedger receives yearly 6 bushels of Corn, &c.

All the Servants receive yearly by favour, 6 Bushels of Oats for meal.

The Stock in the said Manor, 3 Waggon, 3 pair of irons, a brass pot of 5 gallons.

The whole of the Corn delivered to the Servants in the said Manor, is 58 horse loads 7 bushels and a half. The whole delivered of Oats, 13 Bushels and a half.

Leland in his Itinerary speaks thus of Ivinton, "Arrow cometh from Pembruge town about a two miles and halfe to Emington Mill (i. e. Ivinton Mill) Ivinton village is a great Lordship belonging to Leonminster Priory, and there is a bridge over Arrow of stone. The ground about Arrow beneath Ivinton is lowe, and there be many fayre meadowes that be overflowed, and the grasse of them saved scant once in six years."

Concerning this place I find the following Deed. *MS. Lat.*

Anno 23 Ed. 3. Hugh le Wynde came on Tuesday the feaft of St. Andrew, and by licence of the said Keeps conveyed to John in le Wynde, 9 Acres of free land, for which 9
Acres

Acres the said Hugh made fine with the said Keeps, Anno 23. The fine was to be 13s. 4d. of which none is yet paid; To hold the said 9 Acres in villenage for the life of the said John, in form following, viz. So that the said John pay the said fine of 13s. 4d. at the terms &c. for the said Hugh, every year 3s. 4d. until &c. And the said 9 Acres are acquitted and defended from all services and rents, against the Lord and all other men; and the said John, or whoever in his name shall hold the said 9 Acres, are to pay yearly to the said Hugh so long as he lives, at Michas, two horse loads of wheat, good and pure, 4 bz of Beans, 8 bz of Oats: and he is to find easement for the said Hugh in his house, and he is to have free egress and ingress, whenever he pleases; And it shall be lawful for the said Hugh to sit, lye, or stand next the Chimney of the said John, when he shall think it necessary, without hindrance from the said John, or any in his place: And the said Hugh, while he lives, is to have all the underwood of the Hedges, but not to dig the Hedges; And if the said John should go the way of all flesh, unless his Heir or his Wife faithfully keep the said agreement It shall be lawful for the said Hugh to re-enter and hold the said Land, to hold &c. as he first held it, paying and doing as he before did &c.

Anno 46 Ed. III. The said Keeps granted land to Walter Atte Walle, with this addition. "Nor shall it be lawful to feed sheep or lambs on the said land under penalty."

It appears from the old accounts, that this Township was in a much more flourishing condition some Centuries past; the high road from Leominster to Hereford went thro' it: there was also a Tavern here, according to an old cause, 20 King Edward.

"Robert Goddard of Leofminstre, Simon le Paynter of the same, Hugh le Skynner of Wavertune, Andrew le Leche of Leofminstre, Geffrey son of Geffrey in the Wode, and John son of Bernard, were together at a Tavern at Ivintune, and contention arising, John wounded Geffrey, so that he languished for half a year, and died; and the said Geffrey after the said John had wounded him, shot an arrow (*sagittando*) and struck the said John, of which he died immediately, &c."

There was formerly a chapel in Ivinton, the high altar in which, was dedicated to St. Martin and St. Benedict, D. D. 1377, by Archiliensis Suffragan of the Bishop of Hereford. No part of it is now remaining.

The Court of Ivinton was the seat of the ancient family of the Warnecombs, now extinct; who bore for their Arms, *gules, a fesse indented*

indented, three Lion's heads inter three scallop shells, in three Torteaux's Or. I find in a commission under the great Seal, XXIII Queen Elizabeth, to survey lands &c. James Warnecombe of Ivinton mentioned as one of the Commissioners.

The Manor, with the Bury House, Parks &c. belong to Jon. Pytts of Kyre House Esq. The Court of Ivinton is the property of John Salwey Esq. of the Moor, near Ludlow.

About half a mile to the North West, thro' some excellent pasture and tillage, we arrive at

S T A G B A T C H.

It consists of only two or three Houses. The one to a farm belonging to the Rev. J. Colt; the other is a large modern house appertaining to Mr. Davis. Adjoining, is a farm called Corner's Cop, formerly the residence of the family of the Clarkes, before they resided at Wharton.

There was anciently a family which took its name from this Township, as appears from the following deed.

“ On Tuesday after the Nativity of St. Mary, Anno 16 Ric. 11. Thomas Chaucombe Custos of Leominster, granted to William Robins of Stagbatch, who succeeded *Walter de Stagbatch*, that he should be
free

“ free from the great works in Autumn, but
 “ to perform the customs, called *Houfbienrepus*
 “ for three days, and to give a goose and
 “ hen, and tallage when the Lord pleases ;
 “ and as long as the said William continues
 “ in the office of Overseer (*Præpositi*) and
 “ Pindar of Ivinton, he is to pay for his na-
 “ tive land 16s. to the Exchequer of Leo-
 “ minster, and when he shall be removed from
 “ the said Office, to pay 20s. yearly : And to
 “ do suit to the Halymot of Ivinton yearly,
 “ as the Customary Tenants of Cholstrey do,
 “ and to stand there in rank with them, as
 “ the custom is &c.

In the command under the Great Seal to
 James Warnecomb and others, 23 Eliz. to
 take possession of certain lands exchanged with
 the Bishop of Hereford, the tenths of Stag-
 batch were given in at 12l. 13s. 5d. when
 they were but 18s. 4d.

At a small distance North by East, lies

C H O L S T R E Y.

Anciently called Cerlestren, of which I find
 little or nothing remarkable. The Manor does,
 or did belong to the Bishop of Hereford. It
 consists of three or four farms and a mill.
 Concerning this place I find the following
 deed among the Priory Records.

“ On Friday after St. Hilary Anno 21.
 “ Ric.

Ric. 11. John Tiffhyde and John Chauntrell, Keeps of Leominster, granted to John Baldewyn, all that Messuage and a native yard land in Chorlestre, together with the free land which Adam de Baldewyn and his Wife lately held there. To hold for his life, paying yearly to the Exchequer of Leominster, for the Messuage and native land 13s. 8d. at the usual terms for all works and customs, and to pay woodgavell and wynturgavell and tax of hogs, one goose and two hens, and to pay to the Abbot's Cap, and to the Mill and a Heriot, and for the free land 10s. at the usual terms, and to new build a house called *Infethous* at his own charge, within 6 years, and gave 6 capons fine. And he is to find the said Wife of Adam de Baldewyn, a bushel of Corn every week during her life, to begin at Michas, and to provide her a Cow during her life, of which she is to have possession, for her stock, of 3 shillings price, or else 3 shillings; and wood of the wood growing there, worth 12d. &c.

The distance from Cholfrey along the banks of Pinfley under Courfenah Hill, is about a mile to Leominster.

STATE OF NAVIGATION.

SUCH* is the variety of streams and springs, with which this part of the County abounds, that in point of number it may perhaps vie with most places in the kingdom; and it appears that its Inhabitants have not been totally regardless of the improvement of this blessing; considering what infinite advantage must accrue to a country so fertile and productive, could a proper Navigation be established, and fresh supplies opened to support and increase its fertility, and extend its commerce. By nature it is very capable of receiving such improvements; yet tho' various attempts have been formerly, and indeed of late years made, to put so beneficial a scheme into execution, they have hitherto been defeated, and rendered ineffectual, notwithstanding the noble provision made by the Legislature, equal to the most extensive and arduous undertaking; and it is now left for this age of Spirit, activity and enterprize, to complete a work so highly advantageous.

MS.

Upon

When the first attempt under an Act of the 14th year of King Charles the 2nd. failed, and it afterwards became the Subject of Parliamentary interference, a 2nd Act passed in the 7th and 8th of William the III. entitled, an Act for making Navigable the Rivers *Wye and Lug*; which recites that an open navigation thereon, and the streams falling into the same, might occasion a great increase of public trade, and beneficial easy conveyance for Ship Timber &c. It recites the said former Act, and that Sir William Sandys, Windsor Sandys and Henry Sandys (who alone were entrusted with executing the powers delegated by that Act) never did any thing towards making *Lug* navigable &c. therefore that the benefits to the Inhabitants might not be totally obstructed by the failure of former Undertakers, and that the County might be encouraged, by the opening those Rivers, and making them a common stream for Barges and other Vessels; it was thereby enacted, that all the powers granted to Sir William and the Sandys; should be vested in the Lord Bishop of Hereford, for the time being, the principal Nobility and Gentry of the County therein named, the Mayor of Hereford and the *Bailiff of Leominster*, for the time being, for executing the powers thereby given: as the expence was likely to amount to a large sum, and the benefit was likely to accrue to

the county of Hereford, the Commissioners were authorized to assess and levy on the County such sum, as should by them be deemed necessary, not exceeding 377l. 4s. 5d. per month, being a third part of 1131l. 13s. 4d. Land Tax charged on that County, to be raised on the County, City and Borough, for carrying on and completing the work: the whole annual sum amounting to 4526l. 13s. 1d. to continue from Midsummer 1696 to 1700, and the Commissioners were authorized to borrow at Interest, not exceeding 16000l. for making the said Rivers navigable, and for no other purpose, upon the security of that Act.

The Commissioners named in that Act accepted the trust, and a large sum of money was raised, part whereof was lost (as it is said)

The Commissioners appointed by the second Act of Parliament being most of them dead, the Lord Bishop of Hereford, the Mayor of Hereford, and the BAILIFF of LEOMINSTER, some years since, made the appointment of new Trustees, which is probably in the custody of the Clerk of the Peace; and a worthy Baronet of the south side of the County, made application to Lord Grantley (then Sir Fletcher Norton) Speaker of the House of Commons for his advice, whose opinion was, that a bill should be brought into that House, for reviving and effectuating the last Act of Parliament, and for adding such Navigable Canals, as should be deemed proper, under the Authority of that proposed Bill, and declared if the County agreed to the measure, and the usual and necessary steps were taken, there was no doubt but an Act would pass, and adequate supplies be granted for carrying and completing the whole.

said) thro' the insolvency of a person appointed *Receiver*, under the direction of the Act, and nothing effectual was performed ; so the design was abandoned or suffered to die away: which proved so great a discouragement to the County, that nothing further was done, under the ample provisions of the Act.

But in the year 1714 the Lord Lieutenant with Sir Thomas Morgan (who then represented the County) and diverse Gentlemen in his Lordship's neighbourhood set on foot a subscription for the sole purpose of making *Lug* Navigable, to the amount of about 1200*l.* whereof three fourths were already paid to an Undertaker named *Chinn*, who executed the plan so improperly, ignorantly or unskilfully, that the undertaking proved abortive, and all the money was thrown away. The Architect absconded, and his security was obliged to refund a great part of the money. Instead of building locks at proper places, he put up gates, where he found bridges crossing the River. The Basin and Wharf were made at Eton Bridge. Barges were made, and conveyed goods to and from the town, the Bells of the Church were sent to Chepstow to be recast, and returned when increased to 8, by this conveyance ; since that time no further attempts have been made on that River.

Thus the matter rested till the year 1777, when many Gentlemen of this part of the

county, conceived that navigable cuts might be successfully made.

1st from Leominster to Stourport.

2ndly to the City of Hereford.

3rdly from the River Severn near Bridgenorth, thro' the collieries in that country down Corve Dale, to the extremity of Herefordshire near Leintwardine.

Mr. Rob. Whitworth an able Surveyor, was directed to take a view, and give his opinion as to the practicability of those Schemes, and probability of the expence; and upon the 20th December 1777, Mr. Whitworth made his report, and stated his opinion as to the distance, expence, and difficulties attending the different schemes: whereby it appears that he took a Sketch of the Lands extending from *Leominster* to Stourport, and viewed the country by way of Bromyard to Hereford, and that as he had no particular direction to reconnoitre the country from the River Severn down Corve Dale to Leintwardine, he did not see much of it, but pointed out a line, a Canal might proceed from Leintwardine thro' the country to the City of Hereford, by Mortimer's Cross, Kingsland, *Leominster*, and down the vale of Lug to Hereford: and also from Kingsland to Hereford, near Eardisland, Dilwyn, Weobly, Sarnesfield, Norton and down the Vale between Bishopton and Foxley Hills, thro'

thro' a fine country to Hereford.

Upon the 8th April 1778, a general meeting was held in London, and most of the Herefordshire Gentlemen of consequence who were then in town attended, and directed that Mr. Whitworth should take an actual survey of the proposed navigable Canals, delineated in the plans then produced.

Mr. Whitworth made his report upon the 7th of August 1778, stating his endeavours to take the levels of the Country from Stourport to Little-Hereford, and the impossibility at that time, either to measure or take the level thro' it, and that he had not been able to complete the plan farther than Stockton; that a Tunnel or subterraneous Passage of 1528 yards long would be necessary, and that the expence of it would be 7 or 8000 pounds; that other places between Severn and Little-Hereford would be rather expensive, but not more than common in most undertakings of the same kind.

Altho' Mr. Whitworth's plans were not put in execution, the subject did not however lie dormant: no particular improvement could be pointed out, more wanting, and likely to be of more utility than a Navigable Canal. Owing to the great distance from any certain Navigation, the Coal and Lime is brought from other Counties at a
great

great expence, and the produce of the Country obliged to be carried by land, thro' some of the worst roads in the Kingdom, to a Market. For this Town and neighbourhood towards the West entirely, and many miles Southward, is supplied with large Coal from the Clee-Hill, at the distance of from 12 to 16 Miles; these Coals cost at the Pit 9s. and 1s. loading per Ton (the Lime costs less) and including carriage, amounts from 20 to 30 shillings per Ton, the prime cost at Stourport is said to be 8s. 6d. the Coals at Pensax are low, but the quality inferior to those at the Clee-Hill, or Stourport.

An application was made in 1778, to Lord Viscount Dudley, who offered to contract for the delivery of any the greatest quantity of Coals on the banks of the Severn; and it is well known, that from Coalbrook Dale downwards on both sides of that River, the mines are inexhaustible. Application about the same time was made to the wealthy Company carrying on the Iron and Coal works in that Dale, to know if they would concur, in opening a Canal from Buildwas Bridge to Wenlock.

The scheme was approved of, but it was mentioned that the Gentlemen of Herefordshire should consider what Goods and Merchandise they proposed sending; as it was the largeness of tonnage which supported inland Navigation; for it cannot be contended that
any

any Canal attended with great expence can be successful, without the vast advantage arising from the cheapness of coals in particular, thro' a Navigation upon moderate terms, and a large tonnage; to which may be added, a variety of other Articles, such as Grain of all sorts, Merchandise of every denomination, Timber, Vessels, Charcoal, Bark, Cider, Malt, Hops, Wool, Leather, Lime and Lime-Stone, Iron in Pigs and Bars, and various other Articles.

Almost every scheme for improving the Navigation of this Country proving abortive, thro' a continued series of unsuccessful attempts; the design seemed to be entirely given up by the Gentlemen of the County. But at length about the month of June, in the year 1790, the practicability of opening a communication with the Collieries and Stourport (part of which had been previously surveyed by Mr. Whitworth) seemed to break forth again. A few Inhabitants of Leominster, consisting mostly of respectable Tradesmen, considered, that the idea of opening a communication by water, between *Leominster* and Stourport, had been agitated some years before, and tho' approved of by men of rank and property, had, thro' supineness in some, and selfishness in others; ended in disappointment; they therefore subscribed a small sum of money to defray the expence of publishing a few
Hand-Bills

Hand-Bills, and of inserting some paragraphs in the Hereford Journal, merely to specify the utility of the scheme in Question. It met some opposition, and many, either thro' prejudice or ignorance opposed the plan, by stating, that navigable Canals far from being useful and beneficial to the Country, would only produce the contrary effect, and by conveying away its produce, occasion an artificial scarcity and dearness of provisions.

But the peculiar advantages of such a communication appearing evident, what had in the beginning been treated by some in a ludicrous manner, blazed out by the force of its own recommendation. Upon a more mature examination of the imports and exports of this Country, it was approved of, with a commendable zeal and spirit, by persons of rank and opulence, and met with almost the unanimous approbation of the Land Owners, thro' whose lands it was of necessity to pass.

A Subscription was made in order to enable Mr. Dadford to inspect the ground from *Leominster* to Stourport; part of his report being made out, it met the public attention, and a meeting was therefore called at *Leominster* to examine the practicability of the proceeding.

The Lord Lieutenant of the County, the Right Hon. T. Harley, Sir Walter Blount Bart. and various other persons appeared to support

support it, when it was unanimously resolved, that a Canal between the County of Hereford and Stourport, would open a communication with several extensive Collieries and Lime works, and would in other respects be of great public utility.

A further subscription was then made. Mr. Dadford was directed to make an accurate survey of the proposed navigable Canal, and make his report as to the practicability and expence of the same, at the next general meeting, which was to be held at Tenbury.—Mr. Dadford accordingly stated that he had taken his levels of the proposed Canal (a plan of which he had delineated) from Leominster to Stourport, that three Tunnels would be requisite; one under Putnal field near Orilton of 350 yards, another at Soufnat of 1400 yards, and the other under Aberley Hill near Pensax 3850 yards; that the latter part towards Stourport would prove extremely expensive, but that the general estimate of the proposed Canal, allowing for various contingencies, might not amount to more than 82,907 pounds.

A survey was afterwards taken from this town to Kington, which increased the estimate to 120,000l. The report was approved of, and an Act was obtained with some opposition; about 70,000l. were subscribed and since then, a further Sum. of 10,000l. The work

A a

is

is completed from Soufnat to Leominster, except the tunnel at Putnal field, which has hitherto baffled the efforts of the Levellers and Miners ; but as there are but about 100 yards to be perforated, it is expected the difficulty will be soon overcome and coals landed on a temporary Wharf near this town. To view the line of this Canal to Stourport, it appears surprisingly romantic, and, except the inclined plane, had every variety and difficulty to encounter. Besides the Tunnels, it has aqueducts, the one over Team is of the greatest magnitude and elevation. It descends to the River Severn by 17 steps of locks. The level goes so high about Tenbury and on each side of it, that it seems to hang by the side of the hills, and threaten to tumble down into the road. When this great work is completed, great benefits are expected to be derived from it by this town and neighbourhood.

The Committee chosen for conducting this Business, are

The Right Hon. Tho. Harley. Right Hon. Viscount Bateman. Sir Walter Blount Bart. Wm. Greenly Esq. T. Clutton Esq. Charles Berington Esq. Rich. Dansey Esq. Tho. King Esq. The Rev. Dr. Dale. The Rev. Mr. Ingram and Mr. Richard Hayling.

Solicitor. Fran. Edwards Esq.—Treasurer. Phil. Davis Esq.

Dissertation

DISSERTATION

O N T H E

General Productions of the Country.

THIS town and neighbourhood is particularly famous for five W's, *Water, Wool, Wheat, Wood-and Women*; for as Blount says, if England be the Paradife of Europe, this is the garden of England: and what is Paradife itself without it's Eve. ?

The soil is naturally rich and fertile, and the air hereof is very healthy, as appears by the vivacity of the Inhabitants; for as a good soil is generally attended with a good air, the Inhabitants live to a very old age: many aged people, who in other countries are confined to their beds and chimney corners, are here found in the fields both able and willing to work; as the soil is fertile, so are the women; for the wife of one Jeremy Griffiths of the South Street, had four boys at a birth in 1677, and sundry persons now living in and near the Borough have very large families.

The *Cider* produced in this part of the County of Hereford, is equal to any in the Kingdom, especially the Redstreak, which is

called the masculine, and the Moile the feminine cider. The Heyting is also deemed excellent, growing mostly between Leominster and Ludlow. The ground in general yieldeth plenty of Corn, but every part is favourable to the bringing forth abundance of fruit, which thrives in an uncommon degree, merely thro' the natural goodness of the soil. Here you may see the highways and common lanes intersected with Apple and Pear trees, growing without the least care in cultivation; for the ground itself is so inclined to produce fruit, and that in fruit and taste excelling most others. The Golden Pippin, the Nonpareil &c. are excellent fruit for the table, and when properly preserved, will endure good for a series of years. The quantity of Redstreak and Golden Pippin trees however annually decrease, as no method has been hitherto found out of propagating them, so as to produce fruit equal in strength, flavour &c. to the original Apple. No garden can possibly surpass the general view of this part of the County during the Apple and Hop season; no bare rocks, barren heaths, morasses or commons of any extent are to be met with; the low grounds are extremely fertile, and the hills are mostly either covered with thick woods or cultivated to their summits: the whole country indeed at that particular season appears to a beautiful advantage. For the methods

of making and treating Cider, *Vide Marshall. and Sketches by the Rev. J. Lodge.*

The *Wool* in and near Leominster, commonly called *Lemster Ore*, is a most estimable branch of commerce; it has been frequently sold for thirty shillings a stone. It equals, if not exceeds the Aquilean or Tarentine wool in the south of Italy, tho' it does not cost so much charge and curiosity in the ordering of it: for in those parts the Shepherds cover the sheep with skins, to preserve their wool from the injury of the bushes, weather and dirt: here they are only housed in the winter, which, with the virtue of the soil and hard fare upon the fallow grounds, produces the desired effect: for if those fine woolled sheep be put into pasture grounds to feed, their wool will be courser, as their flesh becomes fatter. Mr. Drayton thus writes of the wool.

- “ Where lives the man so dull, on Britain’s
farthest shore,
“ To whom did never sound the name of
Lemster Ore,
“ That with the silk work’s web for small-
ness may compare,
“ Wherein the winder shows his workman-
ship most rare ;
“ So doth this fleece excel all others in the
land,
“ Being neatly bottom’d up, by Nature’s
careful hand.

And

And in his battle of Agincourt, when he blazons the ensigns of the several shires, he has,
 “A golden fleece fair Hereford doth wear.
 Alluding to the fineness of the Lemster wool in that shire.

Yet the great, and one of the principal products of this fertile and pleasant part of Herefordshire, and indeed the main hope of the farmer, is *Hops*: The cultivation of it seems peculiarly agreeable to the richness of the soil; by its produce many Planters have realized a genteel property, and some farmers enabled to purchase those estates they formerly rented.

Various have been the arguments to prove the small profit to be obtained from hops; some even have ventured to say, that the cultivation of that plant has been prejudicial to the Country; but when we see the Planters annually increase and pay great attention to their lands in this line of cultivation; when we see *even the Hop-dealers* grow rich by their purchases; a thought must naturally strike any person, that these people cannot be so void of sense, as not in a series of time to be conscious of their own interest. The fact is, that in this branch of husbandry, of late years, twenty succeed, for one who fails.

Of the generality of the Hop Planters in the county, the most successful, at least as to the major part, have been those near *Leominster*. The natural fertility and richness of the
 the

the soil is so congenial to the growth of Hops; the vicinity to the town enables them to obtain proper manure, which in the country, where there is a large extent of ground to cultivate, cannot be so properly attended to; what is besides, a weighty reason, tho' little attention has been paid to it, their not having any tithe on their hops, but only (as I imagine) a small modus, which must certainly empower them to derive more profit from their sales, than their Neighbours who are subject to the payment of it.

To investigate the proper culture of hops, or to examine their various kinds, would be futile; as they have been elsewhere so ably treated. *Vid: Mr. Marshall's rural economy of Gloucestershire, and Lodge's Sketches.*

It is however deemed requisite to elucidate and to *endeavour* to prove the argument already advanced, as to the profit to be derived from hop plantations, and with deference to give reasons for deviating from the opinions of others who have treated the subject. This can only be done by calculating the produce of any certain spot of ground, from it's first planting, during the course of a few years: But then, in calculations of this nature, great care should be taken, not to run into extremes, as to the expence of cultivation, which seems to have been the defect, (if any) of those who have hitherto treated the subject. I therefore
submit

submit the following account, not as the *average produce* of the Country, but as a proof that a very fair profit is oftentimes to be obtained from this branch of Husbandry.

CALCULATION

Of the produce of 900 *tumps* of Hop Ground, taken from an actual examination near Leominster.

NB. An Acre of Hop Ground consists of 1000 tumps, equal to about two thirds of a Statute Acre.

FIRST YEAR.

	L.	S.	D.
Rent	1	10	0
Ploughing	0	7	6
Manure	0	10	0
Setting it out	0	2	6
Hop roots 3000 at 4d. per 100	0	10	0
Planting	0	2	0
Working, Weeding &c.	1	1	0
	4	3	0
Profit by a Crop of Potatoes	3	3	0
Loss	1	0	0

SECOND

SECOND YEAR.

	L.	S.	D.
Rent	1	10	0
Manure	0	10	0
Working &c.	1	7	0
Poles 2000 at 10s. per 100	10	0	0
Picking, drying 4 Cwt. at 1l. per Cwt.	4	0	0
Sacking &c.	0	16	0
Duty on 4 Cwt.	2	0	0
Last year's los	1	0	0
	<hr/>		
Profit by 4 Cwt. at 5l. per Cwt.	21	3	0
	<hr/>		
Los	1	3	0
	<hr/>		

THIRD YEAR

Rent	1	10	0
Manure	0	10	0
Working &c.	1	7	0
Picking, drying, Sacking 4Cwt half at 1l. per Cwt,	4	10	0
Duty on ditto	2	5	0
Last year's los	1	3	0
	<hr/>		
Profit by 4Cwt. half at 4l. per Cwt.	11	5	0
	<hr/>		
Profit	6	15	0

B b

FOURTH

FOURTH YEAR.

	L.	S.	D.
Rent, Manure, Work,	3	7	0
Poles _____	2	0	0
Picking, drying, &c.			
6Cwt. at 1l. per Cwt.	6	0	0
Duty on ditto _____	3	0	0
	<hr/>		
	14	0	0
Profit by 6Cwt. at 9l. per Cwt.	54	0	0
	<hr/>		
Profit _____	39	13	0
Last year's Profit	6	15	0
	<hr/>		
Profit _____	46	8	0
	<hr/>		

FIFTH YEAR

Rent, Manure, Work	3	7	0
Poles _____	1	0	0
Picking, drying &c. 12Cwt. at			
1l. per Cwt.	12	0	0
Duty on ditto _____	6	0	0
	<hr/>		
	22	7	0
Profit by 12 Cwt. at			
3l. 10s. per Cwt.	42	0	0
	<hr/>		
Profit _____	19	13	0
Last year's Profit	46	8	0
	<hr/>		
Profit _____	66	1	0
	<hr/>		

Befides

Besides, it must not be thrown out of the Calculation to make proper allowances, where the various branches of Husbandry, are done by a careful Planter, who raises the greatest part of the Poles on his estate, and buys the remainder out of the annual falls, which in this woody country are made in the adjacent coppices ; who likewise has his hop-yard worked by his regular Labourers ; for then we must suppose, that the expence will be greatly diminished ; more particularly so in plough hop-pards, where the Planter does the work with his own team, men &c. in that case, the expence in a large extent of ground, cannot be above two thirds.

In the small estimate above, we see that the Planter has a real surplus balance of sixty-six pounds one shilling in four years ; there not being any produce the first year, it cannot be reckoned. Now if one pound be annually allowed for bringing in a fresh supply of Poles, it will be some time before the great expence of ten pounds will be again deemed necessary ; which in a newly planted Hop-yard, joined to the first non-productive year, makes so considerable a reduction in the present profits.

As to the article of manure 10s. per annum per acre, as a regular expence, will doubtless be deemed too much by many ; to avoid this, a custom has lately prevailed, tho' among few, which is that of sowing turnips in their

Plough Hop-yards between the rows, and having them afterwards eaten off by sheep. This method must greatly tend to meliorate the soil, and to diminish the quantity of manure, which otherwise must of necessity be expended on it.

Again, supposing an acre of planted hop-ground to produce 5 Cwt. of Hops, the expence on an Average upon the Planter has been ascertained by intelligent persons, to be in the following ratio per each Cwt.

	L.	S.	D.
Rent and taxes at 11. 10s. per Cwt.	0	6	0
Dressing and working ditto	0	6	0
Supply of Poles annually, 200 per Acre ditto	0	5	0
Manure ditto	0	4	0
Picking ditto	0	11	0
Drying ditto	0	6	0
Duty at 10s. per Cwt. ditto	0	10	0
Sack ditto	0	4	0
Sacking ditto	0	0	6

The average expence of a Cwt of hops 2 12 6

Let it now be considered, who the persons are, who become Losers by this branch of commerce; it will be found, 1st that the loss generally falls on those, who entirely depend upon their hops for the profit of their farms, and who of consequence in a great year of Hops, are reduced to the necessity of selling at

at perhaps 30 or 40 shillings per Cwt, not being sufficiently rich, so as to afford to keep a large stock upon their hands. At this low price, which seldom happens, they do not lose much, and I have known some who having kept a few bags in reserve, by the incredible advance in the price, have been enabled to make up their loss by a small quantity, and even obtain an overplus balance. *2ndly* a loss generally happens to those who speculate, who having purchased a large quantity, and the market dropping, perhaps thro' the prospect of a fair crop the ensuing year &c. must of necessity be obliged to dispose of them with loss, as all who deal *in that manner* must do, and sometimes pay dearly for their experience; but it generally happens thro' the prior reason, viz: that they cannot afford to keep them. Therefore it is mostly the case that a Hop-Dealer or Planter, who is rich, will, with proper care and assiduity, become richer; and on the contrary the person who ventures upon a small stock, and aiming at profit makes his purchases at a high price, on a sudden depression in the value, will be sometimes obliged to sell, in order to pay others; and thus by not only losing his *interest*, but likewise diminishing his *principal*, will be soon annihilated in the commercial world, whilst a richer man would weather out the storm.

The

The chief arguments which are alledged against Hop-yards in general are, that they mostly prove injurious to the Landlord, by the Tenant taking too much care of that particular part of the estate, and expending all his manure there, when it should be partly distributed over his pasture and tillage, and that the holders of hop-farms are for the most part slovenly over the rest of their land &c. &c. But let it be considered, that at least that part of the farm must be meliorated, and the Tenant enabled to pay a larger rent than he possibly could for a tillage farm: besides, Hop-yards are mostly nurseries for orchards, and by the time the hop-yards become old and unprofitable, the Landlord has the satisfaction of seeing a fine young orchard on his estate, the rearing of which, on other lands, is attended with much trouble and expence; as to the Tenant spending the greatest part of his time on them, it must reasonably be expected, that an industrious man who has the world to fight with, to obtain a livelihood, and maintain a family, will of course endeavour to promote what coincides most with his own interest, and strive during the term of his Lease, not only to pay his rent, but if fortune should smile upon him, to lay by *something for a rainy Day*.

From the great increase of our Breweries in various parts of the Kingdom during late years, this

this article is become absolutely necessary, which must not only be productive of a great revenue to Government, but likewise tend greatly to enhance the national richness and commerce. Thus upon the least failure in a crop, as the deficiency must absolutely be supplied, they who have any stock by them, will be amply indemnified, and be well reimbursed for the interest of their money.

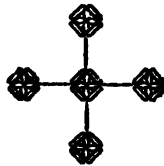
Modern improvements in agriculture have not made a very rapid progress; many farmers, particularly those who are rack tenants, do not much choose to leave the old beaten track. The method of watering their meadows seems to be tolerably well understood, yet not generally put in practice.

The Oak, Ash, Elm and Poplar prevail most as timber, yet we are not without plenty of every other kind, that are to be found in other countries. The willow or fallow is very much planted, particularly in the low grounds near the banks of the Lug, the Arrow &c. where it proves wonderfully productive in supplying hop-poles for the hop-yards. As to Shrubs, the Hawthorn, Blackthorn, or Sloe tree, the Dog-rose or Hypbriar, wild Honey-suckle, common Briar, Hazel, Furze, Broom, Juniper, Fern and a great variety of Shrubs, Plants &c. grow spontaneous in the hedges, woods and uncultivated places.

The Country affords nearly an equal share
of

of pasture and arable land : it produces excellent Wheat, Barley, Peas and Oats ; the compost generally used is dung and lime. The low grounds are extremely fertile, the high variously so.

There is a great variety in the soils of this Country ; but it chiefly consists of a deep rich clay, in many places stiff, in others loose and mellow ; in some places loomy, in others marly, all of a colour inclining to red. There is neither flint or chalk to be met with ; neither is there any sharp sand or gravel to be found upon the surface. There are many good Quarries, which afford excellent stone for tile and paving, as well as pendal and wall stone : yet not a mineral of any kind does this Neighbourhood produce, tho' coal has been bored for in diverse places.



A P P E N D I X.

No. I

THE Suit and Rent to Leominster, in the time of Edward the Confessor and William the Conqueror (from Domesday Book) and rendered Custom.

To the Conqueror.

Hugh Aluc, Hatfield,	5s.
Osborn Son of Richard, Mapleton, Silver,	5oz. of
Orfo de Abetot, Butterly,	3s. 4d.
The Abbess, Fencott	3s. 4d.
Roger de Lacy, Hampton Richard for Rent	13s. 4d.
Hampton Mappenor	
Sarnesfield Roger, for Taxes	
Gaterhope	2s. 1d.
Ralph de Toden, Ferne, Brimfield, Sarnesfield, Eton,	11s. 10d.
Will. de Scohies, Risbery, Wharton, Newton, Dilwin, Hatfield, 2 Quarts of Honey.	11s. 10d.
William Son of the Norman, Bradford,	1s. 8d.
Drogo Son of Ponz, Hampton Wafer, Hamnish,	8s. 8d.
C c	Durand

Durand Vice Comes, Middleton, 5s.
 Ilbert, Dilwyn and Luntly, 5s.
 Alac, and Hyde, 5s.
 Griffin the Youth, of Land, and what Louvin
 held, 2 days labour in the
 Week.

Roger de Mortimer, Wigmore Castle and some
 Lands in Bripfield, 2s. 1d.
 to the Confessor, and separat-
 ed from Leom. before the
 Conquest.

Abstract.

Demesne Rents	23l.	0s.	0d.
36 Members Rents	35l.	15s.	3d.
Foreign Suitors Rents	4l.	6s.	1d.
	<hr/>		
	63l.	1s.	4d.
	<hr/>		

No. II.

The original Charter is enrolled in the
 Tower, on the roll called *Carta Antiqua*.

Vid. No. 7.

No. III.

The Abbot's Commission for Constituting his
 Officers. *MS. Lat.*

THOMAS by the Divine Permission, Abbot
 of

of the Monastery of Reading. T O A L L to whom these present Letters shall come, health: Know ye, that we confideing in the Circumpection, Fidelity and Industry of our wellbeloved Thomas Staunton, and John Hasell our Fellow Monks of the Monastery aforesaid, as also of John Ruffell and John Luntley, have constituted them jointly and severally our Stewards, Bailiffs and Attornies of our Manor of Leominster, together with our possessions in the County of Hereford, and all their singular Appertenances whatsoever, as well to hold all our Hundred Courts and Hallymots there, as also in our Name to challenge and use all our Liberties and Franchises, and Conufance of Pleas, before what Judges soever, or in what Courts or other places soever, and by whomsoever, they shall be exhibited, and those Pleas to hear and determine, as also to perform, exercise and use all those things for our Honour and Profit that rightfully belong to the Business aforesaid, within the Liberty aforesaid. The said John Ruffell taking yearly for performing the aforesaid Business, the accustomed Fees. And we will ratify and confirm whatsoever the said Stewards, Bailiffs, and Attornies, or any one of them shall do in the premises. Giving also in charge to our Tenants and Subjects of our said Manor and Liberty, that they be attending, obedient, aiding and assisting to our Stewards, Bailiffs, and

C c 2

Attornies,

Attornies .aforesaid, in the Exercise of their Offices, as it becomes them. In Witness whereof to these presents our Seal is put. Given at Reading the 22nd of May in the Year of King Henry the sixth, since the Conquest.

Another of the same kind. *MS. Lat:*

To all to whom this present Writing shall come, health in the Lord. Know ye that we by the Divine Permission, Abbot of the Monastery of Reading, have Assign'd, Ordain'd, and Constituted our beloved Brethren in Christ, Thomas Staunton and John Hasell our fellow Monks, and also Rich. Wygmore and Thomas Mordesford jointly and separately Bailiffs, Stewards, Attornies and Deputies. To hold all our Hundred Courts, within our Liberty of Leominster, in the County of Hereford. And to hear and determine all Pleas belonging to us and our said Monastery, or that shall happen within our said Liberty. And further to do and determine whatsoever shall belong to the Steward, and Bailiff in the said Hundred, and belong to the said Court. And we will ratify and allow whatsoever the said Thomas and John, Richard and Thomas, or any one of them, shall do in the Premises, during our Pleasure. In Witness &c. the 1st of Nov. in the Year of the Reign of King Henry the VI. since the Conquest.

The

The first Commission of the Ld. Abbot was directed only to the said Brethren and fellow Monks and Richard Wygmore jointly, in the 9th Year of the Reign of K. Henry IV.

Copy of a Bond for an under Bailiff of the
Town of Leominster. *MS. Lat:*

Let it appear to all Men, We John Son of Giles of Bradfield, Wm. Salisbury, Henry Hoker and Wm. Tanner Jun. of Leom. are holden and every one of us by this Writing are firmly Bounden to the Abbot of Reading and the consent of the same and their Successors in 20l. sterling, to be paid to them, or their certain Attorney, at Leom. at the Feast of the Ascen. of the Virgin Mary next coming, to which payment truly to be made at the day and place aforesaid, We do bind ourselves and every one of us, our Heirs and Executors. In witness whereof we have to these Writings put our Seals. Given at Leominster on Sunday the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, in the 6th Year of King Richard II. since the Conquest.

Under Condition that if the within named John Son of Giles Bradfield, doth well and truly serve the said Abbot and Convent of Reading and their Keepers of Leominster, in the Office of Under Bailiff of the said Town, and doth well and truly execute all Summons, Attachments,

Attachments, Distresses and Executions; And doth faithfully account for the profits extracted out to him, with the said Keepers of Leom. and pay the same when then required, then this Writing to be void or else to remain in its full force.

No. V.

A Corrody for an Under Goaler for Life.

THIS Indenture made between Richard Abbot of the Monastery of Radyng and the Convent of the same place, on the one part, and John Lunteley of Lucton on the other part, Witneffeth, that the said Abbot and Convent have demised and granted to the said John the Custody of the Inner Gate of the Manor of Leom. to hold for 99 years, if he live so long, so that the said John shall be Deputy at the Goal of the Manor to keep the same, with the Prisoners received in the same, and that hereafter, during his Life shall be received there, and also, if any one for whatsoever Cause taken, attached or arrested and delivered to his Custody, the same, he shall safely keep; and shall be observing to the said Abbot and Convent of Redyng; and to the Keep or Keeps of Leominster for the time being, in all lawful and honest commands, and for the observing of which, the said Abbot and Convent grant to him; that during
the

the said Term, so long if he lives, he shall receive in the Hall of the Manor of Leom. his Victuals in Meat and Drink, as the serving men (*Valettus*) do every day there. And moreover the said John shall receive every Year during his Life, one Robe of the sort of the serving men and 4s. for his Salary, with all small profits belonging and due to the said Office. And if the said John for any necessary Cause, appearing to the said Keeps, shall absent himself or by Infirmity cannot personally execute his Office, he shall receive every Day 2 white Loaves and a flaggon of the best Ale, with a mess of Meat or Fish, as the serving men shall be served with in the Hall on those days. And he is to find a sufficient Servant, for whom he will be answerable to execute the said Office during such his absence. And if it shall so happen, that he cannot through debility, execute the said Office personally, he is then to find at his own charge a fit and sufficient person to securely keep the said Office. In witness whereof to one part of these Indentures, the Abbot and Convent have put their common Seal, and to the other part the said John hath his Seal, dated at Redyng on Thursday after the Feast of St. Simon and Jude, An. 17 Rich. II.

11 Hen. 4. *This Indenture* made on the Eve of the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Anno

11. Hen. 4. Witneffeth, that it is agreed between the Religious Men, Tho. Eslee, Lord Abbot of the Monastery of Reding and the Convent of the same place on the one part, and John Spycy of the other part, viz. 'that the said Abbot and Convent do grant and demise to John Spycy the Office of *Under Porter of the White Gate* of the Manor of Leominster for his Life, by keeping which Office and also by overseeing and assignig of the Hay, and Provender of the Stables for the guests there, the said John shall receive of the said Abbot, Convent and their Successors, every day during his life, one loaf called a pryked loaf, and a loaf called a crowned loaf, one flaggon of second ale, and half a mess according to the day, with a cup (*pocello*) or little Pot of the second ale, as often as it shall be drawn to be served there, as the custom is. Besides he is to receive every day a white loaf of the Hall bread, a cup (or pot) of the best ale, and half a mess according to the Provision of the day, and every year 6 yards of Cloth of the Boy's sort; and if the said, by illness, infirmity or negligence, do not execute his said Office, he is to find at his own charge another honest man to perform the said Office. And if he absent himself from keeping the said Gate, one whole natural day without licence, from the Keep or Keeps of the said Manor; the

the allowance above-mentioned shall be withheld. In witness whereof to our Part of this Indenture remaining with the said John, the said Abbot and Convent have put their common Seal, and to the other part, the said John Spycey hath put his Seal; dated at Reading the day and year above-mentioned.

This Indenture made between Richard, Abbot of the Monastery of Radyng and the Convent of the same place, on the one part; and John Lunteley of Lucton on the other part, Witneffeth, that the said Abbot and Convent have demised and granted to the said John, the custody of the *Inner Gate* of the Manor of Leominster, to hold for 99 years if he live so long; so that the said John shall be deputy at the Goal of the Manor, to keep the same with the Prisoners received in the same, and that hereafter during his life shall be received there, and also if any one for whatsoever cause taken, attached, or arrested and delivered to his Custody, the same he shall safely keep; And he shall be observing to the said Abbot and Convent of Radyng, and to the Keep or Keeps of Leominster for the time being, in all honest and lawful commands.

And for the observing of which, the said Abbot and Convent grant to him, that during the said term, if so long he live, he shall receive in the Hall of the Manor of Leominster, his victuals in Meat and Drink as the

Serving men (*Valettus*) do every day there; and moreover the said John shall receive every year during his Life, one robe of the sort of the Serving men, and 4s. for his Salary, with all small Profits belonging and due to the said Office: And if the said John for any necessary cause appearing to the said Keeps shall absent himself, or by infirmity cannot personally execute his Office, he shall receive every day two white loaves, and a flaggon of the best ale, with a mess of meat or fish as the serving men shall be served with in the hall on those days; and he is to find a sufficient Servant, for whom he will be answerable, to execute the said Office during his absence. And if it shall so happen that he cannot thro' debility, execute the said Office personally, he is then to find at his own charge a fit and sufficient person to securely keep the said Office. In witness whereof &c.

Dated at Redyng on Thursday after the
Feast of St. Simon and St. Jude,—
Anno .17: Ric: 2di.

No. VI.

1553, 1. Mary. The Charter of Incorporation of Leominster.

The original is enrolled on the Patent Roll of the 1st year of Queen Mary, part 15, remaining in the Roll's Chapel.

The

Translated from the Latin MS.

The Queen, to all to whom &c. Greeting.

WHEREAS, our Borough of Leomynter *als* Leompster, in our County of Hereford is an ancient Borough, and hath been a parcel of the late possessions of the Priory of Leomynter *als* Leompster in the same County, which Priory was a Cell annexed to the late Monastery of Redinge in our County of Berks. And that the Burgeses, Men and Inhabitants of the same Borough for the time being, have been acquitted time immemorial from County Courts, Hundred Courts, and from all Pleas and Complaints, Toll, Passage and Carriage, and that they may sell and buy wherever they will, over all England, without Toll; and that nobody may disturb them by land or by water. And that they may not be summoned nor impannelled upon Assizes, Juries, Attainders, Recognizances or any other Inquisitions before Justices of Assize or Goal delivery, or Justices of the Peace, or any other Justices without the said Borough to be taken. And that the said Borough aforesaid, have time immemorial, peaceably had, held and enjoyed, as well the said discharges, freedoms, and immunities, as several other rights, jurisdictions, liberties, franchises, privileges, discharges, freedoms and immunities, as well by prescription, as by reason or pretence of several Charters,

Grants and Confirmations, by several of our Ancestors Kings of England, to some Abbots of the said Monastery of Redinge, and otherwise heretofore anciently made.—Which Borough and the Men and Inhabitants thereof, have been governed time immemorial, and are yet governed by one Bailiff and twenty-four Burgesses, elected and nominated from among themselves from time to time. And which Borough with other possessions of the said late Monastery and Priory, came to the hands of our most dear Father Henry the Eighth late King of England, by reason of the Dissolution of the said late Priory of Leomynster and of the said late Monastery of Redinge; And the same Borough is now in our hands; and whereas the Inhabitants of the said Borough of Leomynster, for the better rule and government of them, and the improvement of the same Borough, have humbly prayed us, that we would be pleased to make, bring and create the same Inhabitants into a Body Corporate and Politic. KNOW YE, that we, for the care, industry and faithful services of the Bailiff, Burgesses and Inhabitants of the Borough of Leominster aforesaid, in the time of the Rebellion, by John late Duke of Northumberland attainted and convicted of High Treason, and his Confederates attempted against us, our Crown and Dignity, heretofore done us as by loyal Subjects, in that according to their strength
and

and ability, they did, as we are informed, valiantly withstand the said late Duke and his Confederates aforesaid, who to us were most troublesome, quelling as much as in them lay, their rash attempt: being willing of our clemency further to consult the interest, profit, and advantage of the Bailiff, Burgeses and Inhabitants of the Borough aforesaid, and their Successors, as well in consideration of the premises, as of their hearty affection towards us, and graciously granting the Petition aforesaid of our special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, have granted, and by these presents for ourselves, our Heirs and Successors, do grant to the same Men, Burgeses and Inhabitants, that the same Borough and Town of Leomynter be hereafter incorporated of one Bailiff and Burgeses. And that the Burgeses, Men and Inhabitants of the same Borough, by the name of Bailiff and Burgeses of the Borough of Leomynter, hereafter for ever be and shall be one Body Corporate in thing, deed and name, and one Community for ever, and that they have a perpetual succession; and that by that same name, they be and shall be Persons able and capable in Law to purchase, have, receive, and possess Lands, Tenements, Rents, Possessions, Liberties, Franchises, Privileges and Hereditaments to themselves and their Successors, in Fee and Perpetuity, and that they the Bailiff and Burgeses and their Successors, by the name of
of

of Bailiff and Burgesſes of Leomynſter, can and may plead and be miſpleaded, anſwer and be anſwered, defend and be defended, before any Juſtices or Judges whoſoever temporal or ſpiritual in any Courts or Places whatſoever, and in all and ſingular actions and cauſes, matters complaints and demands of what kind or nature ſoever they be, as our other Liege men, Perſons able and capable in Law can and may plead and be miſpleaded, anſwer and be anſwered, defend and be defended, and that they the Bailiff and Burgesſes and the Succeſſors of them hereafter for ever have and may have one common Seal to ſerve for tranſacting their affairs, and other matters happening or falling out from time to time, within the Borough aforeſaid; And we will and by theſe preſents we ordain and grant, that always hereafter there be and ſhall be in the Borough aforeſaid, twenty and five of the better and more honeſt and diſcreet Inhabitants of the ſame Borough, who ſhall be called the Capital Burgesſes of the ſame Borough, and that thoſe Capital Burgesſes of the ſame Borough ſhall make, be, and be called the Common Council of the Borough aforeſaid, for all things, matters and affairs, touching or concerning the Borough aforeſaid, and the Rule and Government thereof; And we will and by theſe Preſents for ourſelf, our Heirs and Succeſſors, we ordain and grant that whenſoever it ſhall happen, that any of the
ſame

same capital Burgeses aforesaid, for the time being dies, or is removed from his place and office of Capital Burgeses, or departed with his family from that Borough, that then and so often, it may be lawful, and shall be lawful for other Capital Burgeses of the same Borough yet surviving or remaining, or for the major part of the same to elect, nominate and provide one other of the more better and more honest, discreet Inhabitants of the Borough aforesaid, in the room of him who thus dyeth, or who is removed from his place, or who departeth with his Family from that Borough; and this as often as the case shall thus happen; and moreover we have granted, and by these presents we do grant for ourself our Heirs and Successors to the aforesaid Bailiff and Burgeses of the said Borough of Leomynter and their Successors for ever, that the Capital Burgeses of the said Borough for the time being, or the Majority of them hereafter at all times to come yearly on Monday next after the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, at the Forbury Yate-house of the Borough aforesaid, or in some other convenient place within the Borough aforesaid, can and may freely and lawfully elect and nominate one more discreet and substantial Person from among themselves the same Capital Burgeses for a Bailiff of that Borough, who, for one year, from that time next ensuing, shall be in the same Office, and shall bear

bear, exercise and execute the Office of a Bailiff of the Borough aforesaid, in and through all things for the same time, if he shall live so long; and if he shall decease within the said year, or in any wise shall be removed from his Office, then they can and may within six days next following after his decease or removal, freely elect and nominate another Burgeses from among themselves to continue for the same year in the room of him so deceased or being removed; which Bailiff so nominated or elected in the room of him that deceased or was removed, shall exercise and may and can exercise the Office of a Bailiff aforesaid, until Monday next after the Feast of St. Michael, then and immediately following such nomination and election so had and made. And that he who shall be so elected into the Office of Bailiff of that Borough, shall from that time every year ensuing after his Election before the Old Bailiff of that Borough for the time being, in the Forbury Yate-house aforesaid, or in some other convenient place of the same Borough wherein he shall be elected, take his Corporal Oath yearly in due form of Law for the faithful executing of that Office; And that the Bailiff aforesaid for the time being, and his Successors yearly from that time for ever, can and may with the assent of the Capital Burgeses of the Borough aforesaid, or of the major part of the same on the said Monday next after the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel

Archangel, and so from time to time nominate, elect and appoint Constables and other all and singular Ministers and Officers of the Borough aforesaid, and that the Bailiff and Capital Burgeffes of the Borough aforesaid for the time being, and their Successors or the Majority of them from time for ever, from time to time, as shall seem most expedient to them, have and can and may have power and authority of summoning, nominating and electing and appointing all and singular Men whomsoever, inhabiting within the said Borough, not exceeding the number of twenty-four Burgeffes, into the Office of inferior Burgeffes of the Borough aforesaid. And know ye further, that we assigned, elected, nominated and appointed, and by these presents for ourself, our Heirs, and Successors, WE do nominate, elect, assign and appoint Humfry Streete of Leominster aforesaid, to be the first and present Bailiff of the said Borough of Leominster, and that he shall remain and continue in the Office of Bailiff of the said Borough, until Monday after the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, next to come, and upon the same Monday until another be elected, preferred and sworn into that Office, if the same Humfrey Streete shall live so long; and Know ye, that we have assigned, nominated, ordained and appointed, and by these presents for ourself, our Heirs, and Successors, we do assign, nominate, ordain and appoint

E e

our

our beloved and trusty Sergeant Philip Hobby Knight, and our beloved Robert Phillips, Alban Byrch, John Hyllesley, John Polle the elder, William Streete, Richard Perren, Richard Meyricke, Henry Stewarde, Thomas Baker, John Jay, John Shoter, John Kewe, Nicholas Bayly, Philip Morris, Humfrey Monde, Edward Colebachie, George Monox, John Polle Baker, Richard Stevens, John Howells, William Polle, Richard Trumper and John Caldwell Inhabitants of the Borough aforesaid, to be the first and present Capital Burgeffes of the Borough of Leominster, as long as they behave themselves well in that Office. And we will, and by these presents we ordain and grant that the Bailiff of the Borough aforesaid for the time being, be and shall be our Justice, our Heirs and Successors within the Borough aforesaid, and that he have full power and authority to keep our peace, our Heirs and Successors; and to do and execute all other things, which belong to a Justice of our peace or of our Heirs and Successors in any of our Counties of England, to do and execute for the good of our Peace, of our Heirs and Successors, in all and singular its articles within the Borough aforesaid, according to the force, form and effect of the Statutes and Ordinances thereupon provided.

And to cause all those whom they shall find doing or transgressing against the force, form,

form, and effect of the Statutes and Ordinances aforeſaid, to be puniſhed according to the Law of our Land, and to hear and determine all and ſingular thoſe things according to the Law and Cuſtom of our Kingdom of England, ſo fully and entirely and in as ample a manner and form, as Juſtices of the Peace in our County of Hereford, or elſewhere within our Kingdom aforeſaid, before theſe times have had or executed or ſhall have and execute for the future without the borough and liberty aforeſaid. PROVIDED nevertheless, that the ſame Bailiff for the time being may not proceed to determine any felony without our ſpecial mandate, our Heirs and Succeſſors, excepting to us, our Heirs and Succeſſors, all and ſingular Fines, Amerciaments, Redemptions and other Profits thence iſſuing or growing. We have alſo granted and by theſe Preſents do grant for ourſelf, our Heirs and Succeſſors to the Bailiff and Burgeſſes of the ſaid borough of Leominſter, and to their Succeſſors, that they hereafter for ever make and may have the eſſay and aſſize of bread, and wine, and ale, and of all other vendible Victuals whatſoever, and the correction and puniſhment of the ſame, and of every parcel thereof, as often, and when there ſhall be need, ſo that no Clerk of the Market of ours, our Heirs and Succeſſors may enter into the ſaid borough for the doing or exerciſing any thing belonging to his Office.

And further of our more abundant grace, we do, will and by these presents for ourself, our Heirs and Successors, we do grant unto the Bailiff and Burgeses of the said borough of Leominster, and to their Successors, that the same Bailiff and Burgeses and their Successors may have and hold our Court of Record every second week (that is to say) on Monday for ever, to be held in the Court House of the borough aforesaid, and that they have in the same Court the like same sort and such power, jurisdiction and authority of holding personal Pleas and Quarrels of what kind soever, before the Bailiff and Burgeses of the borough aforesaid for the time being, or their Steward or Deputy; and of hearing and determining all and singular such Pleas and Quarrels according to due form of Law, in as ample a manner and form as the last Abbot of the late Monastery of Redinge in the County of Berks, or any of his Predecessors in their Courts of the said borough, held from two weeks to two weeks, ever before these times have had or were used to have or ought to have, and that they and their Successors hereafter for ever may have and hold in the Court House of the borough aforesaid, on the said Monday, all and all manner of personal Pleas and Quarrels, without our writ concerning, and for any sums of debt whatsoever, and concerning all manner of Trespasses, Detinues, Ac-

compts.

cōmpts, Agreements, Contracts, Causes, and Demands whatsoever within that borough arising or happening, to be heard and determined before the Bailiff and Burgeses of the borough aforesaid, for the time being, or their sufficient Steward or Deputy, according to the Law and Custom of our Kingdom of England. PROVIDED nevertheless, that such Debts, Damages or other Causes whatsoever, do not amount to the sum of five pounds; and that the Bailiff of the borough aforesaid and the Burgeses of the same for the time being and either of them, and the Steward of the same borough, or his sufficient Deputy have power and authority to hold hear and determine all and singular such Pleas and Quarrels according to due form of Law and to proceed to judgment in and upon the same and to make executions thereof, as was used by and is consonant to our Laws of England: And moreover of our abundant Grace, we have granted to the aforesaid Bailiff and Burgeses of the borough aforesaid, and to their Successors, that the same Bailiff and Burgeses and their Successors from time to time as to them shall seem meet, have, make and appoint one Sergeant of the Mace, or two Sergeants of the Mace, within the said borough for the time being, to make and execute Summons, Distresses and other Attachments and other Precepts of the Court aforesaid, upon all Goods, Chattels of Debtor or Debtors
within

within the said borough, by virtue of a warrant or precept, or any other Process whatsoever, to be by the authority of the Court above-mentioned, or otherwise to them or to any of them from time to time directed; and that the Bailiff and Burgeses of the borough aforesaid and their Successors, for ever by the said Sergeants or either of them may have Power and Authority to attach any Men or Women whatsoever, by all their Goods and Chattels in any Pleas whatsoever, of Debt, Accompt, Trespass, Covenant and Detinue of Chattels and other personal Actions within the borough aforesaid, in what manner soever made or arising, which shall be moved or shall happen to be moved before the Bailiff and Burgeses of the borough aforesaid for the time being, or their Steward or Deputy in the Court of the same Bailiff and Burgeses within the said borough at the suit of the Party; And we have also granted and by these Presents we do grant for ourself, our Heirs and Successors, unto the aforesaid Bailiff and Burgeses and their Successors, that all and singular Precepts, Warrants, Summons, Attachments and Mandates by the Bailiff of the borough aforesaid for the time being, for any cause or matter soever arising to be granted, directed or prosecuted to the Sergeants of the Mace within the said borough, or either of them be directed, or by them or by either of them, according to the force,
form

form and effect of the Mandates, Warrants and Precepts aforesaid to be duly executed and returned, and that all and singular such Precepts, Warrants, Summons, Attachments, and Mandates executed or returned by such Sergeants of the Mace, or either of them shall be of the same effect and force in Law, as if the same Precepts, Warrants, Mandates, Summons, and Attachments had been directed to our Sheriffs, our Heirs or Successors in any of our Counties of England for the time being, and executed and returned by such Sheriffs. We have moreover granted to the aforesaid Bailiff and Burgeses and to their Successors, that they for ever have a Prison or Goal in some convenient place within the borough aforesaid, according to their discretion therein to be limited and assigned for all and singular Persons whatsoever, that by the aforesaid Bailiff and Burgeses or by their Deputy or Steward, shall be apprehended or taken within that borough from time to time, and all those Persons that happen for any cause to be committed to the Prison or Goal aforesaid, to be there kept safe and secure, until they be delivered from thence, according to form of Law. And moreover of our more abundant grace, we will, and by these presents for ourself, our Heirs and Successors, we grant unto the said Bailiff and Burgeses and to their Successors for ever, that they the same Bailiff and Burgeses and their Successors, may
by

by their last wills bequeath tenements, which they have or shall purchase to themselves in the said borough, to what Person or Persons soever they shall please, as they were used to do in all respects before these times. Provided nevertheless, that they come not to Mortmain; and of our more abundant Grace, we have granted, and by these presents for ourself, our Heirs and Successors do grant unto the aforesaid Bailiff and Burgeses and their Successors, that they and their Successors for ever, have the return of all our Writs and Attachments, so that no Sheriff or other Bailiff or Officer of ours or of our Heirs, may enter that Liberty for the executing of the same Writs and Summons and Attachments, or the exercising any other Office there, except in default of them the Bailiff and Burgeses and their Successors, and other their Officers there, and also that they have all and all manner of Goods and Chattels, waifs and estrays and the Goods and Chattels of Felons and Fugitives happening within the borough aforesaid; so that if any of the Men of the same liberty ought to lose his life or limb for any fault, or shall run away and will not stand trial, or shall commit any fault whatsoever, for which he ought to lose his Goods and Chattels, wheresoever Justice ought to be done him, whether in our Court or our Heirs, or in another Court; that then it may be lawful for them and their Officers, without

without being hindered by us or our Heirs, Sheriffs, or other our Bailiffs or Officers whatsoever, to take possession of the Goods and Chattels aforesaid, within the borough aforesaid, and to retain them for the use of the said Bailiff and Burgeses and their Successors; and that they have all amerciaments, year, Day and waft and deodands from all Inhabitants within the said borough, so that the same Bailiff and Burgeses and their Successors, may by themselves or their Sergeants or other Officers levy the amerciaments, fines and deodands, goods of Felons of such Inhabitants, without being hindred by us, or our Heirs, Justices, Escheaters, Sheriffs, Coroners, or other our Bailiffs or Officers whatsoever.

And further we have granted and by these presents for ourself, our Heirs and Successors, we have granted to the aforesaid Bailiff and Burgeses and their Successors, that they for ever have and shall have two Fairs within the borough aforesaid, to be kept yearly, (that is to say) one Fair to be kept there on the Feast of St. Peter the Apostle, and on the morrow after the same Feast, and another Fair to be kept there yearly on the Feast of St. Simon and St. Jude the Apostles, and on the morrow after the same Feast; WE have also granted that our Men of our Kingdom of England and Ireland and of all our and other lands may come to the aforesaid Fairs, and may

F f

come,

come, and go well and in peace, and may have all such liberties and acquittances, as the Mayor and Citizens of our City of Hereford in our aforesaid County of Hereford, have at the fairs in the said City of Hereford in the County of Hereford. And of our more abundant grace, we have granted and by these presents for ourself, our Heirs and Successors, we do grant unto the aforesaid Bailiff and Burgeses of the borough aforesaid, that the same Bailiff and Burgeses and their Successors, have and shall have for ever, for every week in the Year, on one day of the week (that is to say) on Friday, one Market to be held in the borough aforesaid, with all the liberties and free customs which our Mayor and Citizens of our City of Hereford aforesaid, or any others have or ought to have by reason or pretence of such market in the said City of Hereford; WE have also granted of our special grace, and by these presents we do grant unto the aforesaid Bailiff and Burgeses and their Successors, that hereafter for ever they have, hold and enjoy, and can and may hold and enjoy, all and singular the same, such and such like liberties, free customs, franchises, privileges, rights, jurisdictions, acquittances, discharges and immunities, which and such as and in such manner as the Burgeses and inhabitants of the said borough of Leominster for the time being, heretofore had, held, or enjoyed, or ought to have

have held, or enjoy, by reason or pretence of any prescription, usage or custom heretofore time out of mind had, or used, or by reason or pretence of any Charter, Grant, or Confirmation, or some Grants, Charters, or Confirmations, by any or some of our ancestors or otherwise made. And that the aforesaid Bailiff elected for the time, and being for one year, as soon as he shall be thus elected Bailiff, to be our Coroner and our Heirs within the borough aforesaid, and shall do and execute the Office of a Coroner, and all and singular things which belong to the Office of a Coroner within the borough aforesaid, and that he shall take an oath of well and faithfully executing that Office of a Coroner, by the same Bailiff, before the aforesaid old Bailiff or Steward, or some other capital Burgeses in the place aforesaid, before he take upon him and perform the Office of a Coroner aforesaid; And that no other Coroner of our Heirs or Successors shall in any wise enter into the said borough or the precincts thereof. And we do, will, and by these presents for ourself, our Heirs and Successors, we do ordain and grant that hereafter there be and shall be one Grammar School for the Instruction and Education of Children and Youth in the borough aforesaid, to be supported by the Bailiff and Burgeses of the borough aforesaid, and their Successors for ever: And also of our more abundant grace, we

have granted and by these presents we do grant for ourself, our Heirs and Successors unto the aforesaid Bailiff and Burgesles of the said borough of Leominster, that they hereafter have, enjoy and hold, and can and may have, hold and enjoy to themselves and their Successors for ever, all and singular Lands, Tenements, Possessions and other things whatsoever, which have heretofore been had, or granted unto the Bailiff, Burgesles, or Inhabitants of that borough, by the name of the Bailiff and Burgesles of the borough of Leominster in the said County of Hereford, or by any other name or addition of name, or unto other Persons to the use of the same Bailiff and Burgesles, or Inhabitants of the same borough of Leominster, without impeachment or hindrance from us, our Heirs or Successors, or some of our Officers or Ministers, or of our Heirs or Successors whatsoever, any Statute, Act, Provision, before these times made, enacted, ordained, or provided in any other thing, cause or matter whatsoever in any thing notwithstanding; and we do, will, and by these presents for ourself, our Heirs and Successors, we do ordain and grant that the said borough of Leominster and the circumference and compass thereof, and the jurisdiction of the same hereafter, extend and stretch out and can and may extend, and can and may extend and stretch out, as well in length and breadth as in circumference, to
the

the like and such bounds, meers and limits, and in such manner as the said borough of Leominster and the circumference and compass of the same and the jurisdiction thereof, time out of mind extended and stretched out; and used to extend and stretch out (that is to say) Eastward as far as the bridges called Estey bridge, and Hucke bridge, and Southward as far a field of Land called Bottolsgreene field, and Westward as far as a field of Land called Myddylfield, and Northward as far as a bridge called Spittlehouse bridge; and they shall extend in circumference by going and proceeding Southward from the said bridge, called Estey bridge, by the water of Lug and Kenwater, as far as the said bridge called Hucke bridge, by going Southward by the Land and Pasture called the Hucke, and by the Land and Pasture called the Close Meadow, and by the Land and Pasture called the Poles, and by the Land and Pasture called Sturmyes Crofte, and by a field of Land called Swetnell, and by the Land and Pasture called the Harpes, as far as the said field called Bottolsgrenefield; and from the said field called Bottolsgrenefield by going westward by a field of Land called the Wynyard field, and by a field of Land called Stonyfilefield, otherwise called Sandpitfield, and by a field of Land called Stockyng-hill, as far as the said field of Land called Myddylfield, and from the same field of land called

called Middlefield by going northward by a field of land called Wegnold field, as far as a rivulet and course of water called Pynswelly; and from thence by a certain pasture called Old-field, as far as a meadow called the New Meadow; and from thence by a certain pasture called Osborne, as far as the rivulet and course of water of Lugg, and from thence as far as the Mill called Crower's Mill; and from thence as far as a certain close of land and pasture called Brickclose, and from the same close of land and pasture as far as a field of land called the Millfield; and from thence as far as the bridge called Spyttebridge, and from the same bridge called Spyttebridge by going eastward by a field of land called Brunden, and by a land and pasture called the Lyes, as far as a rivulet and water called Ridgemouth alias Portman's Morelake; and by the same rivulet as far as the bridge aforesaid called Estey bridge; And that it shall be lawful for the Bailiff and Burgeses of the said borough of Leominster and their Successors from time to time, to make perambulation or perambulations thereof for the true and better knowing thereof, to be had as often as it shall seem to them necessary to be done; and this without any writ or warrant therefore, from us, our Heirs and Successors in this behalf to be had or procured: And we do, will, and by these presents for ourself, our Heirs and Successors,

cessors, we do ordain and grant to the aforesaid Bailiff and Burgeffes, that from time to time it may be lawful and shall be lawful for the Bailiff and capital Burgeffes of the borough aforesaid, or to the major part of the same for the time being, to make, ordain and establish good and wholesome, honest and reasonable Statutes, Ordinances and Constitutions, as well for the better rule and government of the Bailiff and capital Burgeffes and other Officers and Inhabitants of the borough aforesaid for the time being, how they may carry and behave themselves in their offices and busineses, for the good of the Public and the common Interest of the borough aforesaid, as for the better preservation and disposition of the lands, tenements, possessions and revenues given, granted and assigned to the Bailiff and Burgeffes aforesaid, and their Successors, or hereafter to be given, granted and assigned, and for other causes and busineses touching or concerning the borough aforesaid, which Statutes, Ordinances and Constitutions being good, honest and reasonable, will and require by these Presents to be inviolably observed; Provided, that the said Laws, Statutes and Ordinances to be made by the said Bailiff and Burgeffes be not, neither shall be repugnant, nor contrary to the Laws and Statutes of our Kingdom, our Heirs or Successors: And that the burthens of the said borough of Leominster, and of the
Free

Free Grammar School, there may the better be sustained; KNOW ye therefore, that we in consideration of an hundred pounds of lawful money of England, paid into the hands of the late Treasurer of the court of Augmentations and Revenues of the Crown of our most Dear Brother Edward the 6th. late King of England, by the Bailiff and Burgeses of the said borough of Leominster, to the use of our said Brother; whereof it appears that our said brother was fully satisfied and paid: And the same Bailiff and Burgeses and their Successors have been acquitted and discharged thereof, by the foresaid Treasurers of the said Court of our foresaid brother; of our special grace, certain Knowledge and mere motion, have given, granted and by these presents for ourself, our Heirs and Successors, Do give and grant unto the foresaid Bailiff and Burgeses of the said borough of Leominster, all those our Messuages, Cottages, Lands, Tenements, Meadows, Pastures, Rents, Reversions, Services and Hereditaments whatsoever, called or known by the name or by the names of Cottage Rent in the said borough of Leominster or elsewhere, within our lordship of Leominster in our County of Hereford, parcels of our said lordship of Leominster, in the same County of Hereford, and to the late Priory of Leominster in the said County of Hereford, formerly belonging and appertaining and being a parcel
of

of the possessions thereof, which Priory of Leominster was a cell annexed to the said late Monastery of Redinge in the said County of Berks, and all those 13 Messuages, or Tenements of ours, and all our one close of land with its appertanances now or late in the several tenures or occupations of Richard Polle, Thomas Butler, Rich. Baker, Evan Baker, John Wancklen, John Poole, Hugh Symonds, Roland Milward, Owen Morrice, Hugh Cousen, Walter Caldewall, John Powell, and John Howe, situate lying and being in Leominster aforesaid, within the Hundred of Wolphy in the said county of Hereford, and formerly belonging and appertaining to the late service or Chantry of the Holy Trinity in Leominster aforesaid, and being a parcel of the possessions thereof; and also all our Messuages, Cottages, Gardens, Lands Tenements, Meadows, Pastures, Rents, Reversions, Services and Hereditaments whatsoever, with the appts now or late in the several tenures or occupations of John Hays, John Polle jun. Thomas Maskall, Nicholas Glover, Elener Awellen otherwise called Llyn, Richard Blewen otherwise called Richard Bylwen of Hockton, John Morris, John Addis, William Badnecke, George Menewes, otherwise called George Menox, Maud Wankelin Widow, Maud Sebright Widow, Walter Watson otherwise called Walter Whetston, John Stephens, John Paties, John Payne, Henry Sheward, and

G g Hugh

Hugh Halwall, situate lying and being in Leominster aforesaid and Ivington and elsewhere in the said County of Hereford, formerly belonging and appertaining to the late service and Chantry of St. Mary's in Leominster aforesaid, in the same county of Hereford, and being a parcel of the possessions and Revenues of the said late service or chantry of St. Mary's in Leominster aforesaid, issuing out of lands and tenements now or late of Hugh Matlewes in Leominster aforesaid; and all that our yearly rent of 6d. and the services to us belonging and appertaining, and the late parcels of the possessions and revenues of the late service or Chantry of St. Mary's in Leominster aforesaid, issuing out of lands and hereditaments now or late of John Shotter, otherwise called Shoter in Leominster aforesaid: and all that our yearly rent of 6d. and the services to us belonging and appertaining and late parcel of the possessions and revenues of the late service or chantry of St. Mary, issuing out of the lands and hereditaments of John Seaffon otherwise called John Season of Leominster aforesaid: and all that our yearly rent of 6d. and the services to us belonging and appertaining, and late parcel of the possessions and revenues of the said late service or chantry of St. Mary of Leominster aforesaid, issuing out of lands and hereditaments now or late of John Polle senior in Leominster aforesaid. And all that

that our yearly rent of 6d. and the services to us belonging and appertaining, and late parcel of the possessions and revenues of the said late service or Chantry of St. Mary of Leominster aforesaid, issuing out of lands and hereditaments there, now or late of David Lycar, als Lucar als Lokyar. And all that our yearly rent of 4d. and the service to us belonging and appertaining, and late parcel of the possessions and revenues of the said late service or Chantry of St. Mary's in Leominster aforesaid, issuing out of lands and hereditaments there, now or late of Richard Perren. And all that our yearly rent of 12d. and the service to us belonging and appertaining, and late parcel of the Possessions and Revenues of the late service or Chantry of St. Mary's in Leominster aforesaid, issuing out of lands and hereditaments now or late of Roger Berche als Byrche. And all that our yearly rent of 12d. and the service to us belonging and appertaining, and lately parcel of the Possessions and Revenues of the said late service or Chantry of St. Mary's, issuing out of lands and hereditaments, now or late of John Polle Junior in Leominster aforesaid. And also all that our messuage or tenement, and all those our lands, meadows, pastures and hereditaments whatsoever with the appertinances in Leominster aforesaid, now or lately in the tenure or occupation of Willin Dongcastell als Doncastell, and formerly belonging

and appertaining to the late service or Chantry of St. Mary's; called Philip ap Morgan's lands in Leominster aforesaid, and being parcel of the possessions thereof; and our one Pasture with the appts in the Parish of Leominster aforesaid, now or late in the tenure or occupation of Philip Nicholas and formerly belonging and appertaining to the said late service or Chantry called Philip ap Morgan's lands, and being parcel of the Possessions thereof; and also all our House or Tenement, or our one Barne with the appts in Leominster aforesaid, being heretofore given, granted, assigned and appointed by Thomas Gillam for the perpetual maintenance of an anniversary. And all our Messuages, Lands, Tenements, Rents, Reversions, Services and Hereditaments whatsoever in the Parish of Leominster aforesaid, which heretofore belonged or appertained to the said late Chantry or Service of the Holy Trinity and St. Mary in Leominster, and to the said late service or Chantry of St. Mary's in Leominster aforesaid, called Philip ap Morgan's lands or to any of them, or which were heretofore assigned or appointed for the maintenance of some Priests heretofore officiating in the said late Chantry or Service or in any of them: And also all and all manner of Woods, Underwoods and our Trees whatever, of in and upon the Premises, growing and being, and the Reversion and Reversions whatsoever

foever of all and singular the Premises and of every parcel thereof. And also the rents and yearly Profits whatsoever reserved upon whatsoever leases and grants of the Premises or of any Parcel thereof in what manner soever made, so fully, freely and entirely, and in as ample a manner and form as any Priest, Chaplain or Incumbent of our said service or Chantry of any of them or any other Person or Persons, the Premises or any parcel thereof heretofore having possession or being seized thereof ever had, held or enjoyed, or ought to have, hold and enjoy the same or any parcel thereof, and so fully, freely and entirely, and in as ample a manner and form as all and singular the Premises came or ought to come to the hands of our aforesaid most Dear Brother, by reason or pretence of a certain Act made and provided (among other things) in a Parliament of our said most Dear Brother, held at Westminster in the first year of his Reign concerning the dissolving and determining diverse Chantries, Colledges, Gilds, Free Chapels and Fraternities and others, or by what other means, right, title soever, and now are or ought to be in our hands : Which Messuages, Lands, Tenements, Meadows, Pastures, Pasture grounds, Rents and all other the Premises above granted by these Presents, with the appts do now amount to the clear yearly value of 36l. 17s. 3d. **TO HAVE, HOLD AND ENJOY**
the

the aforefaid Meffuages, Lands, Tenements, Cottages, Gardens, Meadows, Pastures, Pasture Grounds, Commons, Rents, Reversions, Services, Woods, Underwoods and all other and fingular the Premises above granted by these Presents, with all their appts unto the aforefaid Bailiff and Burgeffes of the faid borough of Leominster and their Successors for ever. To be held of us, our Heirs, and Successors, as of our Manor of East Greenwich in our County of Kent, by Fealty only in free Souage and not in capite, and paying therefore yearly to us, our Heirs and Successors 16l. 17s. 3d. of lawful money of England to the receipt of our Exchequer, our Heirs and Successors on the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, and the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, by equal Portions to be paid for all rents, services, payments and demands whatsoever to be therefore given, paid or made in any wise to us, our Heirs or Successors; and further of our more ample Grace we have given and granted and by these Presents we do give and grant unto the afore-mentioned Bailiff and Burgeffes all the Issues, Rents, Revenues and Profits of all and fingular the Premises above granted by these presents, with the apperteanances from the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel last past, to this time proceeding or growing. TO HAVE to the faid Bailiff and Burgeffes of our gift without account, or any thing

thing else therefrom to be given, paid or made in any wise to us, our Heirs or Successors.

And further of our more abundant grace, we do, will, and for ourself, our Heirs and Successors, we do by these Presents grant unto the afore-mentioned Bailiff and Burgeffes of the said borough of Lempster and unto their Successors, that we, our Heirs and Successors hereafter for ever, and from time to time will discharge, acquit and save harmless as well the same Bailiff and Burgeffes and their Successors, as the foresaid Messuages, Lands, Tenements, Meadows, Pastures, Pasture Grounds, Rents, Reversions, Services and all other and singular the Premises by these Presents above granted, and every parcel thereof against us, our Heirs and Successors, and against any other Persons whatsoever and any other Person whatsoever, from all and all manner of Corrodies, Rents, Fees, Annuities, and Sums of Money and Impositions whatsoever issuing or to be paid in any wise from the Premises, or from any parcel thereof or thereupon charged or to be charged, excepting the services and rents above reserved by these Presents, and excepting the Leases and Grants in any wise made of the Premises, or any parcel thereof, upon which the ancient Rent or more is reserved, and excepting the Covenants that are in such Leases and Grants, and excepting the impositions which the Farmers of the Premises are bound

to

to discharge by reason of their Indentures and Leases, and excepting the 10s. called Cottage Rents, issuing out of the aforesaid Lands and Hereditaments, and allowed yearly for the Fee of the Bailiff or Collector of the same Rents, and excepting the 2s. 1d. issuing out of a part of the Premises, parcel of the possessions of the same late service or chantry of the Holy Trinity in Leominster aforesaid, and to be paid yearly to Edward Fox Gentleman, and to his Heirs: And excepting the 6d. issuing yearly out of a part of the Premises, part of the possessions of the said late service or chantry of the Holy Trinity, and payable yearly to Roger Acton of Bockulton and to his Heirs, and excepting 3d. half-penny issuing yearly out of a part of the same Premises, parcel of the possessions of the said late chantry or service of the Holy Trinity and payable yearly to the Heirs of John Delabere.

And we do, will, and by these Presents for ourself, our Heirs and Successors, we do ordain and grant, that the Bailiff and Burgeses of the said Borough of Leominster and their Successors, shall out of the Issues and Revenues of the said Lands and Tenements and of other the Premises, pay or cause to be paid yearly for ever to the Master and Usher of the Free Grammar School to be by them elected and maintained in the said Borough of Leominster for the time being, 20l. of Lawful Money of
England

England on the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, the Nativity of our Lord, the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, to be paid every year by equal portions. And further of our more ample grace, we have granted, and for ourself, our Heirs and Successors, We have given licence to the aforesaid Bailiff and Burgeffes of the said Borough of Leominster, and their Successors that they may purchase, and have Lands, Tenements, Rents, Reversions, Possessions and Hereditaments to themselves and their Successors to the value of 10l. per annum of any person or persons whatsoever, willing to give, bequeath, sell, grant or assign the same to them or their successors, and to such Person or Persons, that he or they may give, grant, sell, assign or bequeath such Lands, Tenements, Annuities, Rents, Possessions and Hereditaments to the yearly value of 10l. to the same Bailiff and Capital Burgeffes and their Successors. **TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** to them and their Successors, as it is aforesaid for ever. In like manner we have given and granted a special Licence; And this without any other writ of *ad quod Damnum*, or any other Royal Mandate, or some other Inquisitions to be taken thereupon returned into our Chancery; and without some other Royal Letters Patent on this behalf to be obtained made or had, the

H h statute

statute of Mortmain, and any other Statute, Act, Ordinance or Provision to the contrary made, provided or ordained notwithstanding : We do also will, and by these presents we do grant to the aforesaid Bailiff and Burgessees that they have and shall have then our Letters Patents made and sealed in due manner under our Great Seal of England, without fine or fee, great or small to be given, paid or made therefore in any wise to us in our Hanaper or elsewhere to our use : Because expresse mention &c. In Witnes whereof &c.

Witness the Queen at Westminster the 28th day of March In the first year of Queen Mary.

By a Warrant of the Privy Seal.

No. VII. *M. S. Lat.*

Henry by the grace of God, King of the English and Duke of the Normans ; to his Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Earls, Barons, and to all good Christians as well present as to come, Greeting for ever : Know ye, that three Abbies were formerly destroyed in the Kingdom of England, their sins requiring it, that is to say, Reding, Chelsey and *Leominster*, which a lay hand has long possessed, and has alienated and divided their lands and possessions ; But I by the advice of the Clergy and others of the
faithful

faithful, for the health of my soul and of King William my Father, and of King William my Brother, and of William my Son, and Queen Maud my Wife, and of all my Ancestors and Successors, have built a new Monastery at Reding, in honour and to the name of the Mother of God and ever Virgin Mary, and of the Blessed John the Evangelist; And I have given to the same Monastery, Reding itself, also Chelsey and *Leominster*, with their appendages, with woods and fields, and pastures with meadows and waters with mills and fishponds (or fisheries) with churches also and chapels and churchyards and offerings and tythes with money and a monyer (or mint) at Reding; I have also given to the aforesaid Monastery Thatchcham and the church of Weregrave, so that as they were in my hand, they may be free absolute and full, in the hands of the Abbot and Monks of Reding. Nor may any person small or great by debt or by custom or by violence, exact any thing from the men and lands and possessions of the monastery of Reding, nor riding or expedition, nor building of bridges or castles nor carriage (or vehicle) nor summage nor tribute (taxes or subsidies) nor customs, nor works, nor tribute, nor gift; But the monks of Reading and their family and their effects shall be free from all gold and toll, and every other custom by land and by water, in passing over bridges and seaports throughout England; And the

Abbot and his Monks shall have for their men, and for all their possessions and for strangers forfeiting therein, or intercepted there with the forfeiture, all hundred Courts and pleas, with soc: and fac: and thol: and theam: and infantheof: and hutfangtheof: and hamfoken: within Borough and without Borough in ways and paths, and in all places with all causes, which are or may be.

And the Abbot and Monks of Reding shall have in all their possession all connuzance (judging or jurisdiction) of assaults, and thefts, and murders and effusion of blood, and breach of the peace as much as belongs to the Royal Power, and of all forfeiture. But if the Abbot and Monks shall neglect to do this justice (or exercise this jurisdiction) the King may cause it to be done, so that he lessen not in any thing the liberty of the Church of Reding; And the Men of the Manors thereabouts shall come to the Hundred Courts of Reding and *Leominster*, according to the custom of preceding times, and if they refuse to come to Justice, when they shall be called, the King shall take the forfeiture and compell them to come and make satisfaction. And we do appoint as well with regard to the Ecclesiastical as Royal Power, that upon the decease of the Abbot of Reading all the possessions of the Monastery, wherever it shall be, shall remain entire and free, with all its right and custom in the hand and disposal

disposal of the Prior and Monks of the chapter of Reding. And this we do therefore appoint and being appointed have confirmed to be kept for ever; because the Abbot of Reding hath no rents for himself alone, but common with the Brethren, and he who by Gods favour shall be canonically elected Abbot in his stead, must not abuse the alms of the Monastery by bestowing them on his secular Kinsfolks or any other persons, but must take care to entertain the Poor, and Travellers and Strangers. He must not give the Demefne lands in fee, nor make knights unless in the Holy Garments of Christ, in which he must have a care modestly of entertaining the young ones, but providently to entertain the adult and discreet persons, as well Clergy as Laity. No person shall hold any of the possessions of the Monastery of Reding, absolutely in fee, but at a yearly rent and service due to the Abbot and Monks. No person shall bear any office in the house and possessions of the Abbot of Reding by inheritance, but the Abbot and Monks have power to change the Steward or any other Officer at their pleasure. To this Monastery of Reding, and all belonging to it for ever, I give and confirm this liberty, freedom and immunity, which I recommend to the Kings that are to reign after me in England, for Gods sake to be kept; that God may keep them forever. But if any one shall willingly presume to infringe or lessen or alter the design of
this

this our donation, may the Supreme Judge of all streighten him, and root him out with his posterity, that he may remain without any inheritance in ruin and famine: But whoever shall preserve the Monastery of Reding, with the liberty and possessions aforesaid: May the Most High, who reigneth in the Kingdom of Men, establish him in all good things and keep him for ever. &c.

No. VIII.

Letters and Confirmation of Pope Innocent III.
Anno Domini 1207.

*Translated from the printed Copies thereof published
at Paris by Stephen Baluzius.*

To the Abbot and Convent of Reading of
the Cluniac Order.

THE Holy Roman Church out of her usual motherly affection, doth most tenderly love her dutiful and humble children; and like a kind Mother defends them with the guard of her protection, against all the disturbances which evil men would give them. For this reason, my beloved Sons in the Lord, having willingly consented to your just requests, do receive under the protection of St. Peter and ourself the Monastery of Reading, where you are devoted
to.

to the Divine Obedience, together with all the goods, which it is at present reasonably possessed of, and which it may for the future obtain by just methods and the help of the Lord, and also all the persons that serve God therein ; And more particularly we do by our Apostolical Authority, and further by the privilege of this present writing, confirm you the Churches, Chapels, lands, possessions, revenues, liberties and immunities, and whatever else you have obtained of the Pontiffs or bounty of Kings or Princes, or by purchase or by gift or by offerings of the faithful, or by any other just methods, in the same manner as you now enjoy them, just and peaceably ; strictly forbidding any one to presume rashly to molest you or your monastery concerning any of the Privileges or grants of our Predecessors Roman Pontiffs. No one therefore shall infringe our protection, confirmation and inhibition &c. If any one shall &c. Given at St. Peters at Rome the 14th of the Kalends of March, in our tenth year.

To the Abbot of Reading and his Brethren as well those present as the future, professing a regular life for ever.

WE tho' undeserving are assumed to the dignity of Chief Pontiff by the disposal of the Divine Mercy, that we might with a partial care and tenderness, employ ourselves for the state
of

of all the Churches, and afford them the patronage of the Apostolical See, that God may be the more worshiped in them, the more quiet they are from the molestation of evil minded persons. Therefore, my beloved Sons in the Lord, we have out of our clemency yeilded to your desires and to take unto St. Peter's and our protection, the above named Monastery of St. Mary. of Reding of the Cluniac. order, wherein you are devoted to the divine obedience, and do confirm the same, by the privilege of the present writing. Appointing first that the Monastic Order according to God and the rule of St. Benedict, which is instituted in that Monastery, be inviolably preserved there for all succeeding times. And further that all possessions, all goods, which the Monastery now possesses, justly and canonically, or that hereafter by the grant of Pontiffs, the Bounty of Kings or Princes, by the gift of the Faithful or by any other just methods, with the help of the Lord obtained, shall remain firm and untouched to you and your successors, among which we thought proper to mark these by our express words, Reading, Chelsea and *Leominster*, with the churches, chapels, church-yards, tithes, offerings, together with the woods, fields, pastures meadows, waters, mills, fishponds or fisheries, with all other the appertenances, Tache with its appts. and the church of Weregrave, Wittelhie with its appts. Wicchebury with its appts.

appts. Bleibury with its appts. the land which you have in Henrede with its appts. Rockenton with the church of the same village and all its appts. the churches of Stanton of Haneborke and of Inglesfelde with their appts. Dudlesfaude with all its appts. the land which you have in Heitum with its appts. also the land which you have in Lingeborche and in Stretfield, which was Hugh de Mortimers and in Ebricheteswerde with all their appts. the lands and rents which you have in London and Berchamstede with their appts. the land of which you are possessed below the tenement of Hon, in the name of the Dower of your church with its appts. the Priory of May with its appts. and Lindgrofs in Scotland with its appts. also let no one presume to demand or extort from you the tenths of your ploughlands, which you till with your own hands, or at your expence, or of the tenths of the increase of your cattle. But when there shall be a general interdict of the Kingdom, you may, after shutting your gates, and keeping out the excommunicated and interdicted, without tolling the bell, celebrate divine service in a low voice. We do also by our Apostolical authority, inhibit any one to publish a sentence of excommunication or an interdict against you or your Monastery, without a manifest and reasonable cause, or to oppress you with new and undue exactions. We command also the Christma or Sacred Oil for

the consecration of Churches or for the ordination of Monks and others of your Clerks, who shall be promoted to Holy Orders by the Bishop of the Diocess, provided he be a Catholic, and hath grace and communion of the Apostolic See, to be given to you gratis and without any abuse. Furthermore we do by our apostolical authority forbid any one building a Church or Oratory within the Parishes of your Churches, without consent of the Bishop of the Diocess, and of the Chapter of Reding, the privileges of the Roman Pontiffs notwithstanding being preserved. Also being willing to provide for your peace and tranquility for the future by our fartherly care: We do by our apostolical authority forbid any one to commit rapine or theft, put fire, shed blood, rashly to seize or kill any man, or act any violence, within the limits or places of your Granges, and further we do by our Apostolical authority confirm, and by the privilege of the present writing do strengthen all liberties and immunities granted by our predecessors Roman Pontiffs to your Monastery, and also all liberties, immunities and exemptions from secular exactions which have been granted you by Kings and Princes and others of the faithful. We do therefore decree it to be unlawful for any person whatsoever rashly to disturb the Monastery, or to take away its possessions, or to keep them when taken away by others, or lessen them, or molest them with
any

any manner of vexation, but that they shall all be preserved intire for the government and support and all other general uses of those for whom they were given : the authority of the Apostolical See, and the Canonical Power of the Bishop of the Diocess being preserved.

If therefore hereafter any Ecclesiastical or secular Person shall knowingly endeavour rashly to controvert these our constitutions, after the second and third admonition, and doth not amend his fault, by making a proper satisfaction, let him be deprived of the dignity of his Power or Honour, and know that he is guilty before God for the iniquity he hath committed, and from the most sacred Body and Blood of God &c. until his punishment. But the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all those who preserve all the laws to this place &c. to the end *Amen.*

Given at the Lateran by the hand of John of Mary in Cormidin, Cardinal Deacon, Chancellor of the Holy Roman Church, the 10th of the Kalends of April : of the Indiction the ninth of the Incarnation of our Lord 1207 and of the Pontificate of our Lord Pope Innocent the third the tenth year.

No IX.

Carta Richardi *Episcopi Herefordiæ* de pertinentibus ecclesiæ Leominstriæ.

Ego Dei Gratia *Herefordiensis* Episcopus *Richardus*, manu meâ propriâ concessi & confirmavi eclesie *Radingiæ* et ejus Abbati primo Domino *Hugoni* eclesie sancti *Petri* de *LEOMINSTRE*, cum omnibus ad ipsam pertinentibus parochiis, scilicet de *Bradeforda* et de *Ach*, et de *Leena*, et de *Diliga*, i & ii. quæ ambæ magis proximæ sunt *Leominstre*, et de *Lunthelega* & *Chinardeslega*, et de *WINNETONE*, et de utraque *Sarnesfelda*, & de *Titelleg a*, de *Hopa* quoque, & de *Wavertona* & de *Newtuna* & *Gaderdehopa*. De *STOKE* quoque, & de utraque *Hethfield* & de *Riseberia* & *Humbra* & *Gedesfenna*, & *Butterlega*, & *BRADEFFELD*, & utraque *Hamtona* & *Forda* & *Heanoura* & *Eatuna*, *HEENTUN*. De *Stocktuna* quoque & *Essetuna* & *Bremelfelda* & *Uptuna* & *Miclatuna* & *Dreituna* & *Hamenes* & *Whiale* & *PUTLESDUNA*, & *BROCMANSTUNE* & *Forda*,. De *Lustuna* quoque & *Heya* de *Crofta*. Hæc antiqui & autentici viri in presentia mea attestati sunt, & plurima quæ antiquitus de parochia *LEOMINSTRE* fuerunt, pro vetustate nimia se tacuisse dixerunt. Nos vero ea quæ suprascripta sunt eclesie *Radingensi*, et ejus Abbati confirmamus, salva judicia quam unicuique servare debemus. Actum Anno Domini *MCXXIII*.

See Dugdale Mon Ang. MSS Cod in Bibl. Cott. Impress in Mon. Angl.

No X.

A Corody granted to JOHN MAWNE of
ASSCHETON : *MS. Lat.*

KNOW all men by these presents that We Thomas by divine permission Abbot of the Monastery of Radyng and the Convent of the same place, to our chosen in Christ, John Mawne of Asscheton Esq. for the service he has done us and what he shall hereafter do, We grant him maintenance in victuals and drink for his life in our mannor of Leominster (viz.) while the said John is well and in the Hall there, he shall be served at Dinner and Supper as the fellow Monks are, except only on Flesh days in Advent, Septuageffima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima, on which days he shall be served as the other Esquires are. And if he be sick or absent for any reasonable cause, he shall have the same maintenance in his chamber within our Mannor; and he shall receive yearly during his life one Robe of the fuit of our esquires, and four loads of fuel in our said Mannor, a chamber which Wm. Mason Chaplain inhabited, and a stable in the angle or corner next the stable pole for one horse to be kept with hay only; and we further grant to the said John, that whilst he dwells in the town of Leominster, or elsewhere without the bounds of the said Mannor, he shall receive
every

every day two white (monks) loaves, and one prykkyd loaf, one flaggon and a half of the best ale, one mess and an half of flesh or fish according to the day; provided that on those days he is in the Hall, he shall not also receive the said allowance; and the said John shall always be our faithful Friend to us and to our Monastery as he hath faithfully promised. In witness whereof we have hereunto put our common seal. Given in our Chapter of Radyng the first day of August on the feast of St Peter in Prison.

No XI. *MS. Lat.*

Wages of the Family in the Priory of Leominster at the feast of the Nativity of our Lord, paid by the hands of the Clerk in the 9th year of King Henry 4th.

Lieutenant or Deputy	2s.	Clerk	2s
Dean of the Chambers	2s.	Pantarer	2s.
Hofler		1s	Taylor or Groom of
		the Wardrobe	2s
Porter	2s.	Porter's Servant	1s
Second Butler	6d.	Butler or Manciple	1s
Third Butler	6d.	Baker	1s.
Second Baker	6d.	Third Baker	6d.
First Smith	3s. 4d.	Second Smith	1s. 6d.
Keeper of the Dean's Palfrey			1s.
Keeper of the Sub-dean's Palfrey			1s.
Sub-dean's Servant	6d.	Dean's Servant	6d.
			Gardiner

Gardiner	1s.	Miller	6d.
Laundress	3d.	ob. Sexton's Boy	3d. hp.
Scullion	3d.	hp. Under Tyler	3s 4d.
Huntsman	1s.	Lieutenant's Boy	3d.
Maltman	6d.	The Boy that washes	
		the Monks Vestments	3d. halfpenny.
		The sum total	1l. 10s. 3d.

and so much each of them at the feast of Easter.

No XII.

Copy of a Corody granted to John Bengz and
Maud his Wife. *MS. Lat.*

TO all to whom these presents shall come,
Thomas by divine permission Abbot of the Mo-
nastery of Redyng and the Convent of the
same place HEALTH IN THE LORD :
Know ye that we have granted to John Bengz
of Leominster our Servant, to receive of us
and our Successors in our Mannor of Leomin-
ster every week during his life 7 white loaves
of the Hall and 7 wheaten loaves called pryk-
ked loaves and 7 flaggons of Ale from the
Offices of the Brewer and Baker in the said
Mannor to be received. And we also grant to
the said John that he receive yearly of us and
our Successors during his life 4 loads of fuel
in the Town of Leominster to be carried at
his own charge : and we grant the said John
he custody or keeping and Overseer of our
Park

Park of Aschewode for his life with all fees lawfully belonging to the same (viz.) every week a Bushel of wheat to be received by the appointment of our keeps for the time being, together with the boughs, crops and bark of all the trees in the said Park, whilst he in his own Person or his assigns do faithfully keep and govern the said Park, we also grant to Maud Colle his wife that she receive of us and our successors every week during her life 7 white loaves of the Hall, 7 prykkyd loaves, 7 flaggons of the best Ale and four load of fuel per annum in form above-said. In witness whereof we have hereunto put our common seal. Given in our Chapter House in Radyng in the Eve of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Anno Dni. 1422 and in the first year of the reign of King Henry the 6th.

No XIII.

King Henry the VIII. Appointment of Bailiffs or Stewards for the Lordships and Liberties of Leominster.

HENRY by the Grace of God King of England Fr. &c. defender of the Faith, Lord of Ireland, and on Earth Supreme head of the Church of England. To all to whom these present Letters shall come, Greeting. Know ye that we of our special Grace and certain knowledge mere motion have given and granted
and

and by these presents do grant to our beloved fervant Simon Hyatt and George Hawe Gents jointly and separately the office of Bailiff or Bailiffs of all and singular our Manors Lands and Tenements and also all our Villages within our Lordship of Leominster in our county of Hereford, following (viz.) our manors or villages of Westharnes, Ivyngton with Hope, Stokton, Stoke, Luston, Leominster Borough, Leominster Cottages, and all our Lands and Tenements late assigned for the portion of the Priory of Leominster aforefaid. And we do make, ordain and constitute by these presents the said Simon and George, jointly and severally Bailiffs of the said manors and of the rest of the said premises parcel of our lands lately belonging to the late monastery of Reding in the county of Berks, being now in our hands by the attainder of Hugh the last Abbot there for High Treason, attainted; to hold, enjoy, exercise and occupy the said office, to the said Simon Hyatt and George Hawe or either of them by their selves or by their sufficient deputy or deputies, for terms of their lives and the longest liver. and further, We have given and granted and by these presents do give and grant to the said Simon and George for exercising and occupying the aforefaid Office the wages and fees of 17l. 6s. 8d. per annum, to be had and received yearly; such wages and fees to the said Simon

and George for the term of their lives or the longest liver of them, out of the Issues, profits, Farms and Revenues of the said manors, lands, tenements and villages of any or either of them, and as well to retain in their own hands as in the hands of any other Bailiffs, Receivers, Farmers, Tenants or other occupiers of the Premises or of any of them for the time being at Michaelmas and Lady-day by equal portions, together with all other our profits commodities, privileges, advantages and emoluments whatsoever to the said office any way due, accustomed, belonging or appertaining in as ample a manner and form as any other or others the said office heretofore having and occupying have had and received in and for the exercising and occupying the said office. And further of our Grace we have given and granted and by these presents do give and grant to the said S. H. and G. H. all and all such sums of money and so many and such of the said fees and wages (amounting together to 17l. 6s. 8d.) from Lady day last, hitherto growing and arising. To have and to receive the same to the said S. and G. of our gift and reward of the issues, profits, farms and revenues, of the said manors, lands tenements and villages or any of them retained as well by their own hands or by the hands of any other Bailiffs, Receivers, Farmers, Tenants or other occupiers of the said manors and premises for the
time

time being without accompt or any other thing, therefore to us, our Heirs or Successors to be rendered paid or done: any statute, act, ordinance, permission or restriction to the contrary thereof made, published, ordained or provided or any other thing cause or matter whatsoever in anywise notwithstanding. In Witness of which thing we have caused these our Letters to be made Patent, Witness ourself at Westminster the 9th of Oct. Anno 33. And so the like Fee is allowed this year 17l. 6s. 8d. and in Fees to Ralph Herietts occupying the Office of the under Steward of the possessions of the late Priory or Cell. of Leominster this year, as was allowed in the accompt of the Bailiff of Leominster for the preceding year 2l. 6s. 8d, the whole 43l. 13s. 4d."

No XIV.

A collection of grants of lands in and near the town of Leominster, made to the Monks of the Altar to celebrate Divine Service. *Translated from a small Latin MS in Vellum.*

In this M S are recorded near a hundred donations mostly in manner following.

The Charter of Hugh Lawer of half a Burgage in the Street towards Hereford now next, and beyond the *Town Ditch.*

KNOW the present and future that I Hugh Lawer for the health of my soul and of my Ancestors and Successors, have given, granted, and by this present Charter have confirmed to God and the Virgin Mary, and the Convent of Leominster in free pure and perpetual alms, half a burgage in the Street towards Hereford, which Oddo the Smith sold me, to find for ever a wax taper, burning every Saturday at the Altar of the Virgin Mary, and a lamp to burn every day from morning 'till night before the said Altar, and another lamp to burn all night on sundays and fridays before the Cross of the Altar of St. James. At my petition with the consent of the Convent, my Heirs and assigns shall hold for ever the said half burgage, of God, and the Virgin Mary, and the Convent without any secular service, paying yearly at Michaelmas to the Sub-dean of Leominster 12 d. for the freedom of the said town, and to the keeper of the Altar for the time being 2lb. of wax to maintain the said taper, and six gallons of oil for the said lamps (viz.) at michaelmas 1lb. of wax and three gallons of oil, and at Lady-day 1lb. of wax and three gallons of oil. But the said keeper is to take care of the making ready the said lamps for the health of his own soul.

If any one shall knowingly presume to break, diminish, or alter this my gift, let the highest judgments fall on them, and they and their posterity be rooted from the earth, nor come
 within

within the pity of the Mother of mercy ; and whoever preserves this my grant, the Lord prosper him here and hereafter : And therefore to strengthen this my grant &c.

There are above a hundred similar Donations of Burgages and rents in every street in the Town (viz.)

In alto vico	The High street,
In novo vico :	The New street,
In vico versus Dushley	The Dishley street,
In vico versus Sanctum Andream) The Church street,
In vico versus Mareftun	
In vico versus Eton	The Etnam street,
In vico versus Hereford	The South street,
In viculo versus Crowford	The Vicarage street
In Burges's lane	The Burges's street,
	Cronelle lane,
	Mappenor's lane,
	Pynnefurdling lane,

I have noted these merely to shew the Antiquity of the Streets.

Under the title of *extra burgum*, there were donations out of Luſton, Luſton, Yarpole, Ivington, Alvedon, Eaton, Stoke, Kymbolton, and Myle's Hope, written *Hope Milonis*.

No XV.

An estimate of the loss by the Fire that destroyed the Church.

WE

WE whose names are hereunto subscribed, being Carpenters, Masons, Plumbers, Glaziers, Joiners and Blacksmiths, having viewed and thoroughly considered the particulars of the loss and damage occasioned by the late sudden and lamentable Fire which happened in the Parish Church of Leominster in the County of Hereford upon Monday the 18th of March last, whereby this said Church is demolished; do, upon our several Oaths, according to the best of our several knowledges and beliefs estimate the several particulars to put the Church in the same condition, as it was when the said fire happened, to amount unto in the whole, the sum of Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred Forty One Pounds 18s. 1d. And which said Sum, we do hereby upon our several oaths and under our several hands certify this Hon. Court to be the charge of putting the said Church into the same repair it was in when the said fire happened according to the best of our several knowledges. In Testimony whereof we have hereunto subscribed our hands in open Court at the general Quarter Sessions of the Peace held for the said Borough of Leominster the 8th day of April anno 1700 anno Regiæ Will tertii duodecimo. Before Thomas Price Gent. Bailiff of the said Borough, and one of the Justices for the same, and James Caswall the Elder, & Edward Bangham Gents: two other of the Justices of the Peace for the said Borough.

John

John Holland	}	Carpenters,
Tho. Bradway		
Tho. Bedford	}	Masons,
Tho. Howells		
Rich. Cook	}	Plumbers,
Haac Tomkins		
William Griffiths	}	Glaziers
Tho. Price		
John Butt	}	Joiners,
Tho. George		
Tho. Winde	}	Blacksmith.
Edw. Pember		
Tho. Martin	}	
Rich. Halsh		
Rich. Goudge		

F I N I S.

ADDENDA

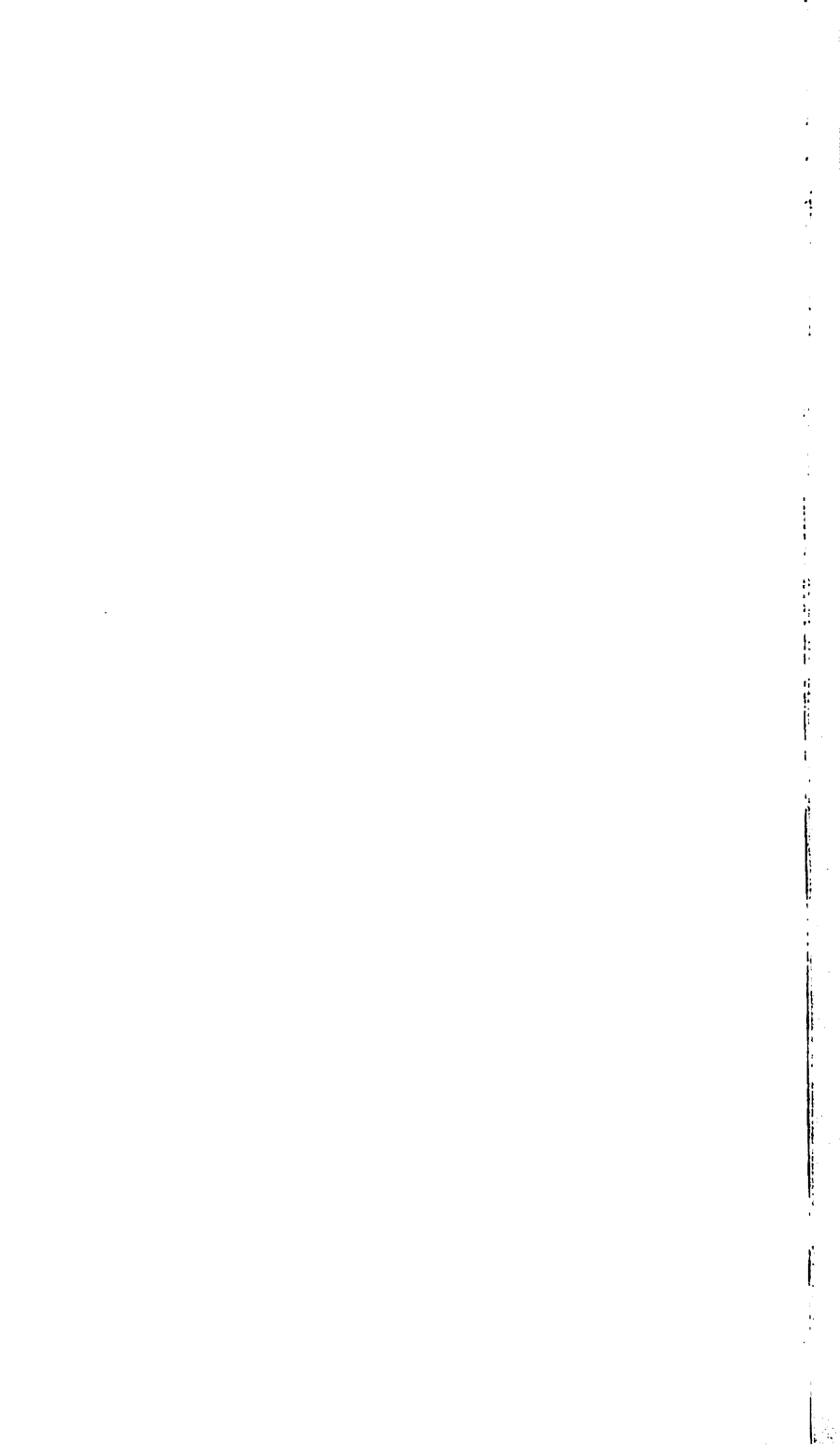
to the Benefactions.

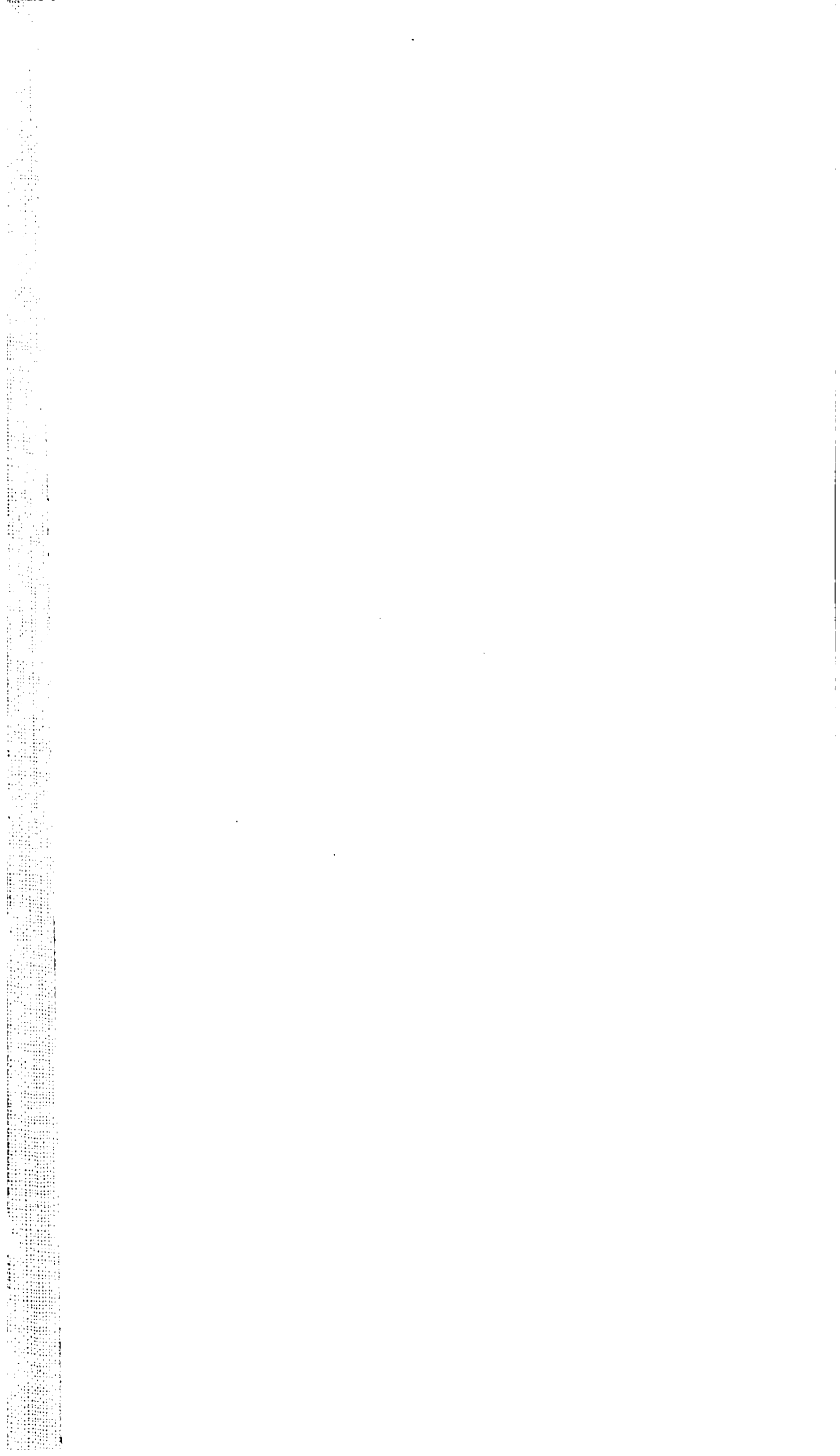
The Rev. G. B. Cornwall M. A. in his life time purchased Two Hundred Pounds stock in in the three per Cent Consols, the Interest to be applied in a dinner for 60 poor Housekeepers of the Borough of Leominster on New-Year, Day for ever.

Thomas Coleman Esq. } Trustees.
John Tudor Esq. }

ERRATA

- PAGE 36 in the note, for Pitts read Pytts.
47 line 6 for situated read situate.
80 from the Town to the Church and Priory
read from the Priory to the Church.
81 line 21 leave out *it* and the ensuing comma.
83 line 14 for appertinances read appertinences.
87 in the note, line 4 for factious read facetious.
88 line 11 for konorary read honorary.
110 line 5 for Conqeror read Conqueror.
113 in the note, after by will, read W. Toldervy Esq.
226 line 3 for thet read that.
132 line 14 after Marlow insert *a full stop* and *be.*
133 line 22 after *in the* insert 87
-





MAY 1 9 1931

