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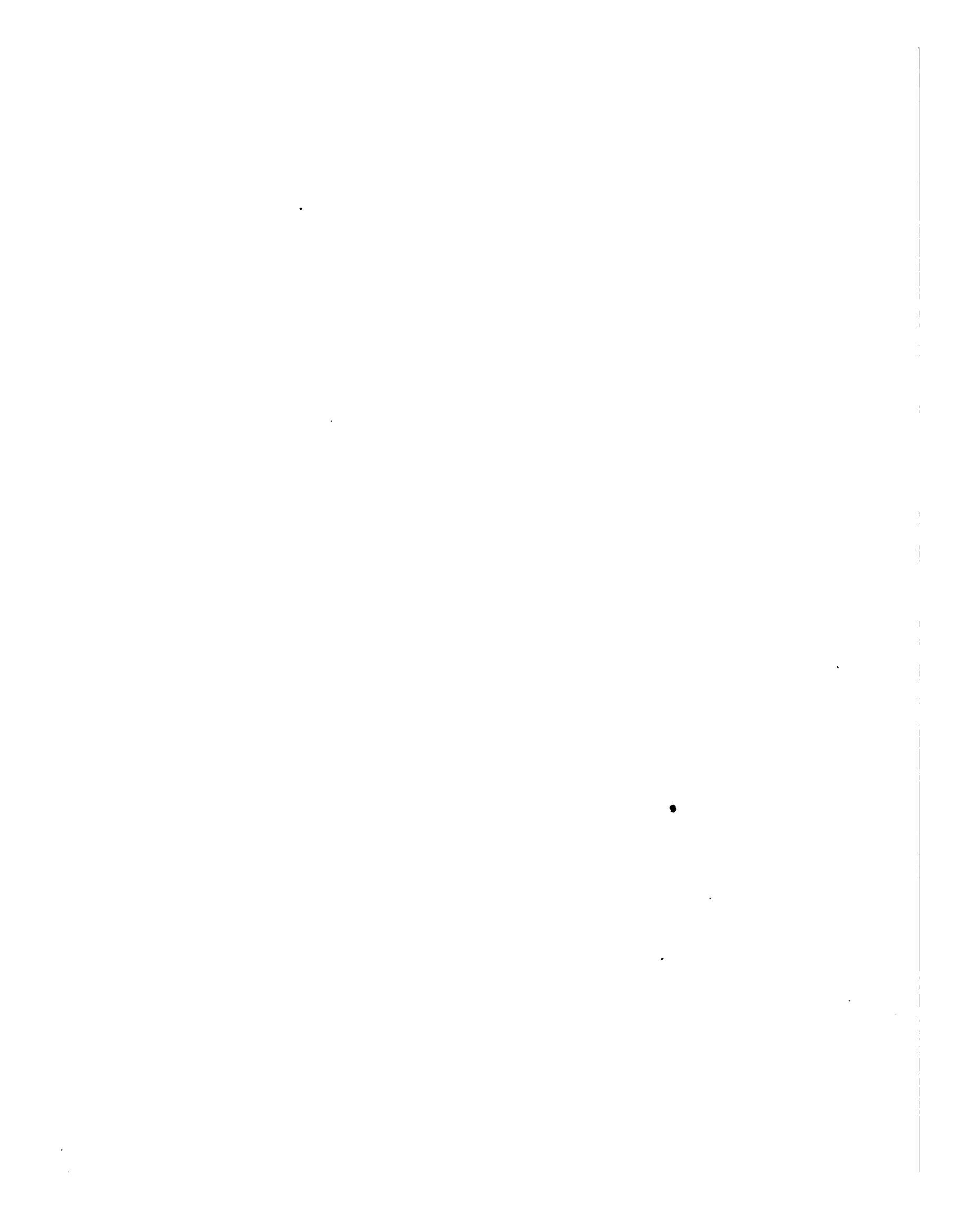
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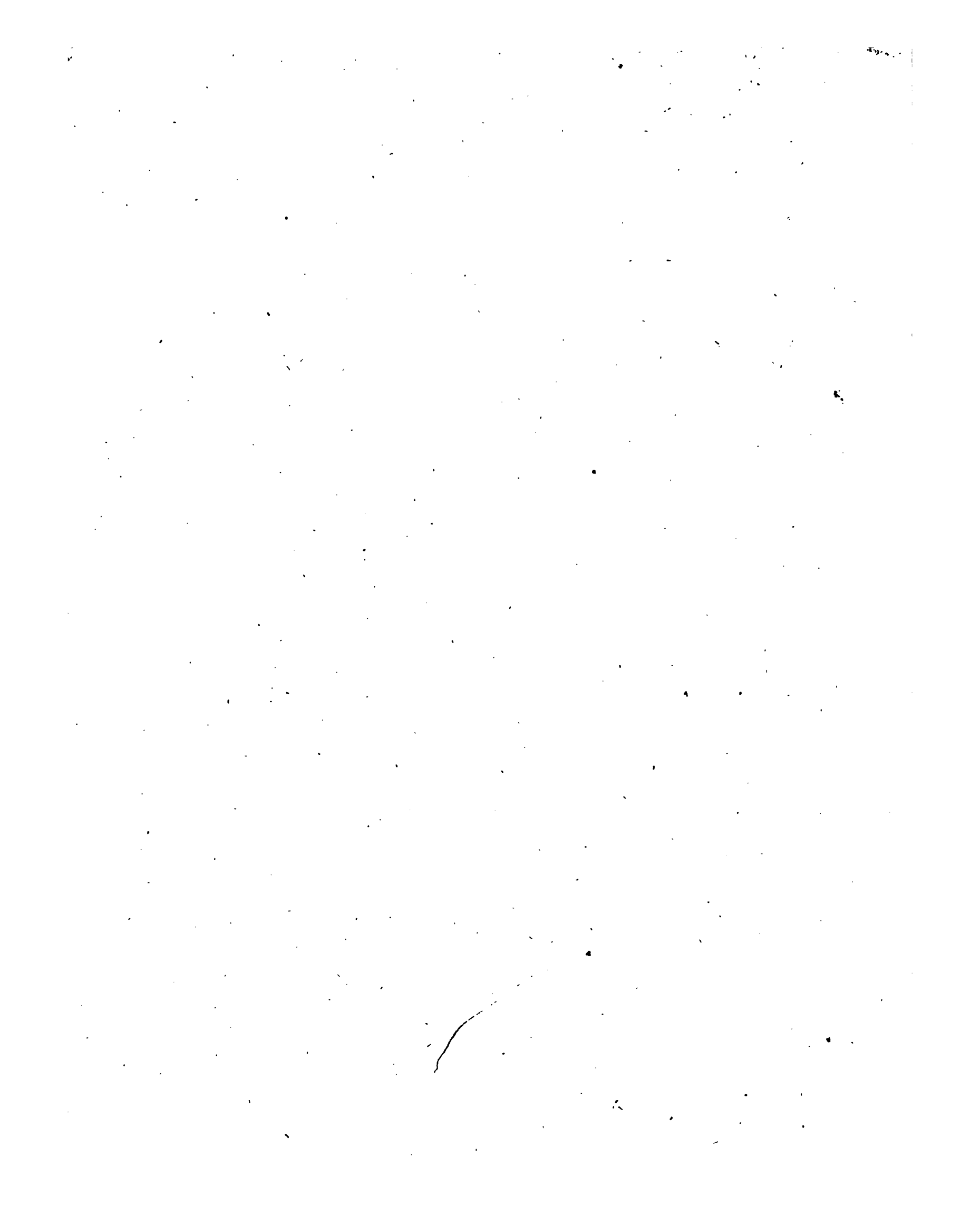
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BY THE REV. I. D. PARRY, M.A.

AUTHOR OF THE HISTORY OF WOBURN, &c.

"Mihi quidem nulli eruditi videntur, quibus nostra ignota sunt."—Cicero, quoted by Gibbon.

*"Nescio quâ natale solum dulcedine cunctos
Allicit."—*

"They have been at a feast of learning, and stole the scraps."—Shakespeare.

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THE Author of these humble pages requests the Reader to bear in mind; that he originally undertook to give illustrations of Plates only; not a complete History.—By this he was exonerated from a heavy responsibility. The Subscription having unexpectedly and totally failed, no more than this part will be published: to which a different title has consequently been given.

On taking a survey of the Authorities, it was found that there was room for considerable extension, and in consequence, this Part has been increased to three times the size at first intended; the price, therefore, to non-subscribers, has been necessarily doubled.

He is fully aware, that by a more experienced hand, and with very great time, labour and expense, a much more complete work might have been produced; at the same time, the reader will be possibly willing to believe, that no inconsiderable share of each of these has been bestowed on the present. The work of Mr. LYSONS has been, in some measure, taken as a guide—but his original authorities have, in almost all instances, been consulted, and others in addition.—Many of these being in Latin, have

been translated in the most literal manner, and without any attempt at elegance: the Critic may, perhaps, find this last deficiency in most of the original matter. If any branch of his subject has been much abbreviated, or neglected, it is that of *genealogy*; which, however pleasing to a few, he conceives to be calculated to excite less universal interest.

A valuable offer of assistance from Mr. BRAY, the venerable author of the History of Surrey, and from one or two others, came too late to be of use.—To those few Gentlemen who contributed their names as Subscribers, he returns his Thanks.

The Plates, it is presumed, will be found good specimens of Lithography; and the larger one, he hopes, will be considered highly creditable to the artists employed in its production.

*Aspley, nr. Woburn,
December, 1827.*





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ILLUSTRATIONS OF BEDFORDSHIRE.

BEDFORD.

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

THE Grammar School, or, as it is frequently called, the Harpur School, at Bedford, is a neat and respectable building of stone, rebuilt in 1767.— The windows are handsome, in the style of Queen Elizabeth's reign. The centre has a pediment with quoins, and over the door, in a niche, is a statue of the Founder, in his robes as Alderman, in white marble; on the pedestal beneath the statue, is the following inscription:—

*Ecce. Viator! Corporea Effigies
Gulielmi Harpur: Equitis Aurati;
Scholæ istius
Quam cernis, amplam et ornatam;
Munificentissimi Fundatoris.—
Si ANIMÆ Picturam spectare velis,—
In Charta Beneficiorum invenias
Delineatam.*

Which may be thus literally translated—

Behold, Traveller! a *bodily* resemblance
Of WILLIAM HARPUR, Knight;
Of this School
Which you perceive, ample and adorned,
The very munificent Founder :—
If you wish to behold a picture of his *mind*,—
You may find it delineated in the Record
Of his Benefactions!

On the side nearest the road, is the house of the head-master, a respectable brick structure, with a large ground, and iron railing, in front; on the other side, is the street parallel with the west end of St. Paul's church, beyond which are the Hospital and Preparatory School, which will be noticed hereafter.

In the year 1557, (6 Ed. VI.), the mayor, bailiffs, burgesses, and commonalty of Bedford, petitioned the king for license to erect and establish a free and perpetual Grammar School there, for the instruction of children and youth in grammar, literature, and good manners. The King, by letters patent, bearing date August 15th, in the same year, granted the license desired, that they or their successors, might found and establish a school of the above description; the same school to be of one master and one usher;—the warden, or keeper of the college of the Blessed Mary Winton, in Oxford, commonly called New College, and the fellows for the time being, or the major part of them, to elect, or remove, &c., the said master and usher. The king also granted the corporation, license to have, enjoy, purchase, &c., lands, lordships, revenues, &c. &c., under any tenure, and from any benefactor, to the amount of 40*l.* per annum, for the maintenance of the school, for the marriage of poor maidens of the said town, for nourishing and educating poor children there, and also for distributing the surplus in alms.

No further account follows this proceeding, till the year 1566 (8 Eliz.), when an indenture was made between Sir William Harpur, Knight, and Alderman of the city of London, and his wife Dame Alice, of the one part, and the corporation of Bedford on the other—reciting the letters patent, and witnessing that in pursuance of them, the corporation did erect and establish a free school in a messuage in the town, called the

“Free School House,” lately built by Sir William Harpur, of one master and one usher; the master and usher of which were Edmund Grene and Robert Elbow. And further, that Sir William Harpur and Dame Alice, did grant for the maintenance of the school, and the other charitable purposes, the “School House,” and all the houses, &c., rooms and gardens of the said Sir William Harpur, to the same adjoining; and also *thirteen acres and one rood of meadow land*, lying in divers parcels in the parish of *St. Andrew, Holborn*, in the county of Middlesex, for all the above purposes. And the corporation covenanted to apply them faithfully to the required ends.

Of Sir William Harpur, so careful and liberal a benefactor to his native town, the few particulars that can be gleaned, ought to be carefully preserved.—The inhabitants of the Town might reasonably store them in Darius’s casket. He was a member of the Merchant Tailor’s company: like the beginning of Pope’s civic hero, though with a different end, “a plain good man;” and, “with God’s blessing on his industry,” according to his epitaph, he acquired a considerable fortune. He was Sheriff of London 1556 (4 Mary), and Lord Mayor 1561, (4 Eliz.);—he, doubtless, displayed in that office the same munificent and compassionate spirit towards his citizens, as he did towards his own townsmen. But such circumstances have not obtained a place in history. The year of his mayoralty is distinguished in the city annals by only one remarkable occurrence, viz., the burning of the spire and roof of the noble old cathedral of St. Paul’s, on the 4th of June. It was generally supposed to have been occasioned by lightning, several vivid flashes having been seen in the city about the time; but there were not wanting rumours of an incendiary origin, in the modern acceptation of the term. The spire, of timber covered with lead, was one of the loftiest in the world; being, with the stately central tower on which it rested, five hundred and twenty feet high. The behaviour of the Lord Mayor is spoken of in terms of approbation, in a cotemporary account, as having been very active, as his station required, with the aldermen, and in concert with the Bishop of London and others, in taking every means for suppressing the fire, and preventing disturbances. A short time afterwards he received a letter from the Queen, requiring him to exhort the citizens, among other bodies of men, to a general contribution towards

putting the church immediately in repair. The citizens appear to have come forward liberally on the occasion, both by subscription and voluntary assessments.

Sir William died Feb. 27, 1573, in the seventy-seventh year of his age, and was buried in the south aisle of the chancel in the adjoining church of St. Paul's; there is a lofty altar tomb bearing his arms, and with the effigies of himself and his last wife, and the following inscription:—

“ Hereunder lieth buried the body of Sir William Harpur, Knight, Alderman, and late Lord Maior of the citie of London; with Dame Margaret his last wife: which Sir William was borne in this towne of Bedford, and here founded and gave land for the maintenance of a grammar schoole.”

On the wall above, was a tablet, which has been removed, and a handsome modern one has been erected near the tower, having on it medallions of himself and his wife Alice, his arms and knight's helmet emblazoned; and a long inscription, from which the following sentence is selected:—

“ The mayor and other gentlemen, who are stewards of this estate, and dispensers of this charity, and who, 'tis hoped, will for ever continue to discharge this sacred trust agreeable to the spirited designs of their munificent benefactors have, in a grateful sense of their benefits, caused this monument to be erected, that the influence of their example may follow the respect due to their memory.”

No alteration took place in the value of the lands in London, till the year 1668, when they were let on a lease of forty-one years, at 99*l.* per annum; and in the year 1684, on a reversionary lease for fifty-one years, at 150*l.*, on building leases. In the year 1763, when many of the leases fell in, the annual value was increased to 3000*l.*; the number of houses and buildings is about three hundred, which form several courts, streets, &c. &c., on the north side of Holborn, too well known to need description*. In consequence, an act was passed 4 George III., for extending the objects of the charity, and another to amend the former, in 1792. By these acts, the lord-lieutenant of the county, the members for the town

* Bedford-row, Bedford-street, Gray's-inn-passage, Featherstone-buildings, Hand-court, Three-cup-yard, Princes-street, Red-lion-street, Lamb's-conduit-street, Theobald's-road, New North-street, Bedford-court, Boswell-court, East-street, East-mews, Harpur-street, Harpur-mews, Richbell-court, Green-street, and Eagle-street.

Bedford—2 Schools, 5 Houses for masters and clerk, 66 Alms-houses;—let, 42 Tenements, 8 sites, gardens, &c., in the parish of St. Paul; and 8 ditto, in St. John's.

and county, the mayor and corporation, the master and usher of the grammar school, and eighteen inhabitants of Bedford, six to go out yearly, were constituted trustees and administrators. Provision was made for endowing twenty alms-houses; for 800*l.* annually to be given in marriage portions of 20*l.* each, to *forty* poor maidens of the town; 700*l.* in apprentice fees, for *fifteen* boys and *five* girls; 300*l.* for clothing and maintaining children; 100*l.* for gratuities to deserving poor girls at service; for 260*l.* per annum to the master, and 180*l.* to the usher of the grammar school, with other perquisites, and for a master and two ushers to the English school; three exhibitions to scholars, of 40*l.* per annum each. The residue of the income to be expended in building and endowing more alms-houses, and some other charitable objects.

The annual income, at the beginning of the present century, amounted to about 5000*l.* A great augmentation being about to take place in 1827, a new act was applied for, and obtained in 1826;—the value then was as follows: two hundred and ninety-seven houses in London, 6,793*l.* 5*s.*; fifty houses, pieces of land, &c., in Bedford, 153*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*;—total, 6,946*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* The value at the present moment is about *eleven thousand pounds!* and at future periods will be still further increased.

By this act of 1826, the former acts are repealed, but many of the former provisions are inserted in it. The trustees are the same in number, both official and otherwise, as before, and are elected with the forms usual on such occasions; they take an oath to administer justly and impartially the trust reposed in them. The eighteen must have resided three years in the town, be possessed of a freehold, in the town or county, of 20*l.* per annum, or occupy a house in the town of 20*l.* rent; they are a corporate body, with a common seal, bearing the founder's arms. No trustee to be a partaker of the charity, or a lessee, &c. Penalty for acting without being qualified, 50*l.* Trustees to be balloted for by the inhabitants paying scot and lot; six to go out yearly. The estates are vested in them for the time being. They may, on difficulties, petition the court of Chancery. The Attorney-General may petition against them, in case of misconduct, &c. &c. &c.

The master, who must be in orders, and a graduate of Oxford or Cambridge, appointed by New College, Oxford, and generally a fellow; removable by New College on just cause; has now 250*l.*, and five guineas

yearly for each boy educated for six months in the year. The second master, who must have the same qualifications, 140*l.*, and four guineas for each boy; any sum not exceeding 100*l.* to any other master or usher; and to the mathematical master, three guineas for each boy, above the age of fourteen years, instructed in mathematics.

The master and assistants in the English school, and the mistress of the girls' school, are appointed and removeable by the trustees. The master's salary not to exceed 200*l.*, the assistant's 120*l.*, the mistress' 50*l.*

Books are supplied to the scholars, and rewards not exceeding 50*l.* per annum. Eight exhibitions of 80*l.* per annum, tenable for four years, for either Oxford, Cambridge, or Dublin.

All children of inhabitants of the town, are admitted to the grammar school, between the age of eight and fourteen: and to the preparatory school at any age; the number of boys in the preparatory school, is about 270. Two examiners are sent by New College, in May, every year. The masters of all the schools, mistress, and matron, may receive a *super-annuation* allowance of not less than one-third of their salary.

Eight hundred pounds is given, as before, for the marriage of *ten* poor maidens, *each quarter*, of 20*l.* each, to be drawn by lot. The unsuccessful candidates to have a preference the next year.

Fifteen hundred pounds is given in apprentice fees of 30*l.* each, for *forty* poor boys, and 15*l.* each for *twenty* poor girls, in quarterly proportions. One half is to be paid at first, and the remainder when they have served half their time. The boys must be between the age of thirteen and fourteen, and the girls fourteen and fifteen; they must also be the children of householders resident ten years, but some indulgence is properly given in this respect, if their parents are deceased. These apprentice fees are also drawn by lot.

There is also given to *ten* poor boys and *thirty* girls, who have been unsuccessful candidates, 2*l.* each for clothing, on going out to service, and 3*l.* to each at the end of the first year. To those who continue in the same place the second, third, and fourth years, 2*l.* each year; and if in the same place as the first year, 1*l.* per annum in addition: and to those who have continued in the same place *five* years, 5*l.* more at the end of that time: the service must not be with relations, and they must produce proper certificates. Also, all those who have been apprenticed,

on a certificate of good behaviour, at the expiration of the time, receive a donation of not less than 10*l.*, and not exceeding 20*l.* These are particularly feeling and judicious provisions, and confer honour on whoever may have suggested them.

Five hundred pounds is given annually to poor decayed housekeepers, and other proper objects, being inhabitants of the town.

Sixty-six alms-houses are established. Each poor old man, or woman, in the *twenty*, first built, receives *ten shillings* weekly, and 3*l.* per annum for clothing; but a man and his wife may be received into any of them, and they then receive *fifteen shillings* weekly, and 5*l.* for clothing. Each person in the *forty-six* others, receives *seven shillings*, and 2*l.*; if a man and his wife, *ten shillings and sixpence*, and 3*l.* Widows of poor men that were placed in the alms-houses, receive also the *full allowance* respectively.

A medical gentleman may be appointed to attend the alms-houses and the hospital, with a salary not exceeding 60*l.* per annum.

The hospital is to maintain not less than twenty-six boys and girls, and not more than fifty. They are boarded, clothed, supplied with every necessary, educated, and apprenticed. They attend St. Paul's church; and the inhabitants of the alms-houses are also required to attend some place of worship, if able.

The above is a compendious summary of the act: the surplus of the annual revenue, if any, is to be invested and accumulated. If too much is expended in any one year, it is to be made up the next.

There is no doubt of the honourable intentions of the trustees to fulfil punctually and zealously the object of the charity. But, in addition to their respectable characters, the charity is fenced in by legal enactments, that cannot be broken or evaded. *Once* only before the passing of any of these salutary acts (as appears by the Gen. Mag. 1759), a complaint was made of misapplication; but there was some party feeling mixed up with this, which is now by no means in existence.

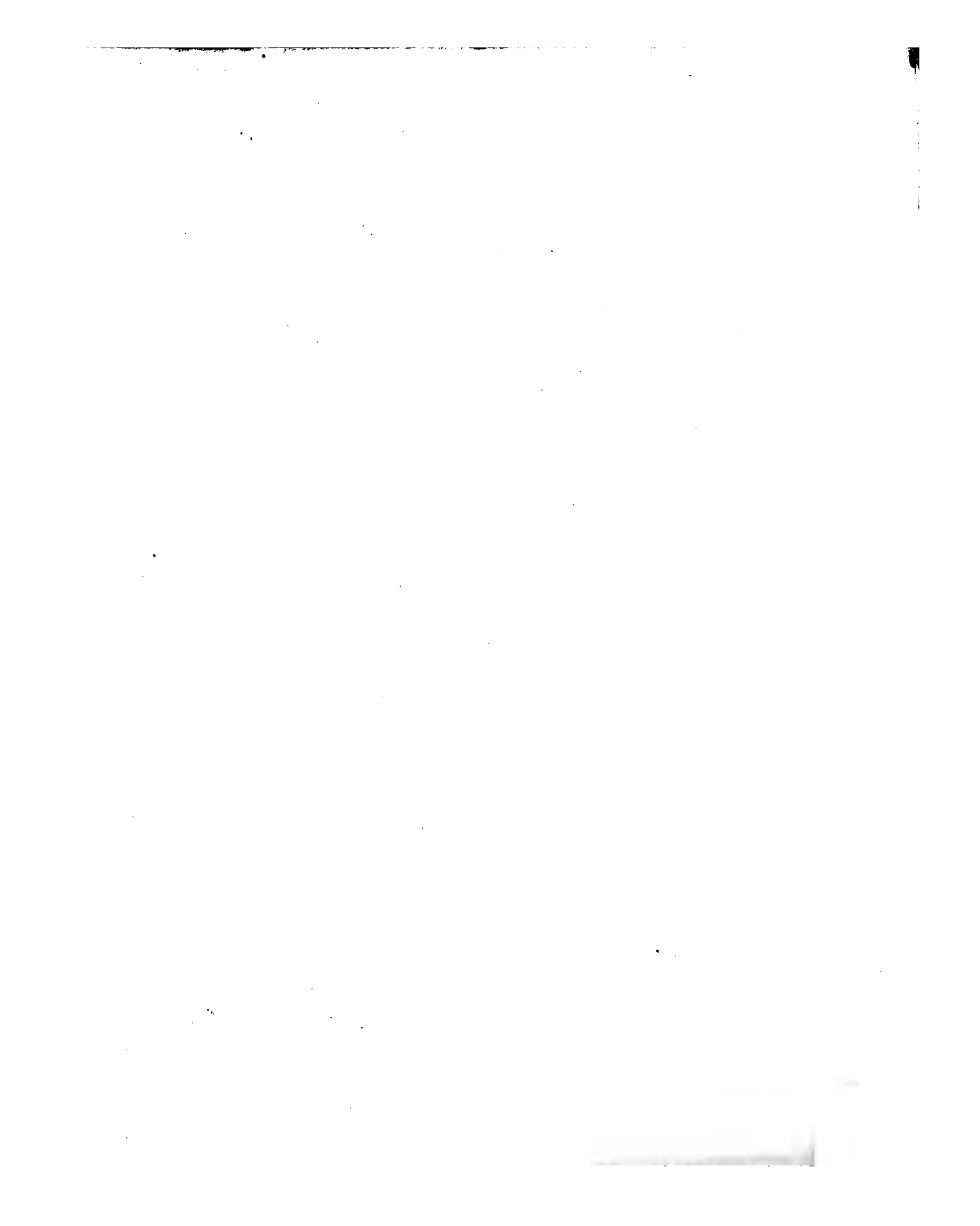
The right of presentation to the mastership was usurped by, or perhaps lapsed by careless indifference to, the corporation, from about 1580 or 1590, to 1725; when New College petitioned, and recovered it (Carlyle's Gram. Schools). The list of masters presents nothing requiring notice. The present head-master is the Rev. J. Brereton, D.D., the second the Rev. T. Brereton, M.A.

Sir William Harpur's benefaction, which, at first was, for the time, a very liberal one, has proved in the event a most noble one, and, as will be supposed by all, of great and lasting benefit to his native town. The annual value is now *two hundred and seventy-five times* the original amount. This is a pleasing instance of the happy success which sometimes attends, and may be reasonably expected to attend, beneficent designs. The effect of his bounty on this town has been truly regal, and well fulfils the fine Eastern metaphor—"ut ros in herbâ:"

—————"It droppeth as the gentle dew from Heaven,
Upon the earth beneath."

And, if the pedantry may be pardoned, of quoting a few words in the original, from the highest authority, which almost any one can translate, but of which, perhaps, no translation will give an adequate idea, his final and permanent eulogy may be summed up thus:—

ΕΣΚΟΠΗΣΕΝ ΠΤΩΧΟΙΣ ΕΔΩΚΕΝ· Η ΔΙΚΑΙΟΣΤΗΝ ΑΥΤΟΥ
ΕΙΣ ΑΙΩΝΑΣ.





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BEDFORD.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH.

ST. PAUL'S, the principal church in the town of Bedford, is a large and handsome Gothic structure, of the Fifteenth century. It is situated in an open part of the town, called St. Paul's-square, containing the Sessions House, and other public buildings; and abutting at the north-east corner on the Market-place.

There was, undoubtedly, a monastic establishment at Bedford in the eighth century, and perhaps a considerable time before. There was, also, long before the Norman conquest, a collegiate church dedicated to St. Paul, whether connected with, or consequent to the other, is not known. The "Canonici de Bedeford," occur in Domesday book, after "Canonici de Lundun." The town of Bedford, (the lordship) is said to have belonged to this church, and that Remigius, Bishop of Lincoln, had unjustly taken it away from them, and detained it in his own hands.

Whether the present church stands on the site of the old one or not, cannot be positively ascertained. Tanner says that it does not, because Faukes de Breaute is said to have pulled down the church of St. Paul, in order to rebuild, fortify, and enlarge the castle, about the year 1218. But it does not necessarily follow that the church was *adjacent* to the

castle—he, perhaps, only wanted the materials, and not the site. The greater part of the present church, is too modern in its architecture, to be thought the immediate successor of the former.

Some time between the years 1148 and 1170, the prebendaries of St. Paul's were changed into Black or regular Canons, and removed to Newenham, in the adjoining parish of Goldington, by Roisia, wife of Paganus de Bello Campo, or Beau Champ. There were, however, some seculars at Bedford in the year 1164, as mention is made of a homicide committed by one of them, Philip de Broc, of which, and the consequences, more will be said hereafter. Leland attributes their removal from Bedford to this cause, but he has created a great confusion and difficulty, by speaking incidentally of their having been removed to *Lincoln*; “the prebends had their houses about the circuite of Sainte Paule's church, of the which the names of two prebendes remayn, although their stallis be at Lincolnne.” What he means by this, can hardly be ascertained in the present day. Perhaps he may allude only to a certain number, whose benefice might be on a separate foundation; there are certainly now four prebends at Lincoln, which have the “Corpus prebendæ,” as the phrase is, in Bedfordshire.—Bedford Major, and Minor, Biggleswade and Leighton, Beau-desert; the account, however, of their removal to Newenham, is regular and certain:—“Simon de Beauchamp,” says Leland, “confirmid and performid the acte of his mother; he lieth afore the high altare of Saint Paule's church in Bedeforde, with this inscription graven on brass and sette on a flat stone.—

“De Bello Campo jacet hoc sub marmore Simon
Fundator de Newenham.”

Of Beau-champ 'neath this marble Simon lies,
Founder of Newenham.

It seems likely that St. Paul's was in some measure used as a collegiate church under Newenham, as there are canons' stalls in the north chancel of the present church, and the “Custos Sancti' Pauli” occurs in a record of the year 1240. From this time the history of St. Paul's merges into that of Newenham.

The ground-plan of St. Paul's church is rather unusual in this neighbourhood, though more common in other parts of the kingdom, and of

very general occurrence in North Wales. The body or nave consists of two lofty and spacious aisles, of equal height and dimensions. At the east end of the north side, is the tower, which supports an octagonal stone spire, and on three sides rests on arches. On the south, is an apartment corresponding with it in size, and beyond these are two spacious chancels of equal dimensions. The extreme length from east to west, is 147 feet, the breadth 45. The aisles are divided by five pointed arches, resting on lofty and light clustered columns. The chancels are also separated by two very acute arches, with clustered columns. The church has battlements and pinnacles throughout, and two handsome porches;—the south, which is lofty, has two small statues of St. Peter and St. Paul, in niches, with handsome canopies; there is an empty niche of the same kind on the north porch. The north and south sides, have a double tier of windows, which adds much to their appearance; the lower ones have been modernized in a bad style, and deprived of their tracery. At the west end, are two large and handsome windows, in the original state. The roof of the whole of this church must once have been very handsome; the corbels are turreted and bear shields;—above which, are light upright figures of Saints or Prophets, supporting the beams; in front of each is carved a Stork, an emblematic bird common in old churches. The pulpit, which stands on the second pillar from the east, is of stone, octagonal, adorned with handsome tracery in a solid and fine style, without exuberance of ornament. The south chancel contains some handsome modern monuments. The east end is fitted up as the archdeacon's court. The present archdeacon is the Rev. H. K. Bowney, D. D., a learned, vigilant, and judicious ecclesiastical ruler. There is a handsome niche and fret-work canopy on the north side of the chancel window: a similar one on the south side was destroyed when the first tablet to Sir William Harpur was erected. The north chancel has at the west end, twenty old stalls of carved oak. Near the altar is an altar-tomb on the north side, divested of its brass, which can hardly be Simon de Beauchamp's. The floor is nearly paved with the tombs of vicars of the church; some of the inscriptions are rather elegant. It is to be regretted, that this chancel is not kept in neat order, or in a state befitting the principal church of the town. On the north wall is a monument of grey marble, with two Composite pillars, to Thomas Christie, Esq., who died in 1697, and his wives

Alicia and Anna : he was a member of parliament for this town, and gave the great tithes of this parish to the vicarage, subject to the payment of a small weekly allowance to eight poor persons in alms-houses, which he erected. On the south wall is an effigy, between two Corinthian pilasters, in a pulpit and canonicals, with a large ruff, of Andrew Dennys, vicar of this church, and rector of St. John's, where it is said he was buried. There is a long eulogistic Latin inscription, in gilt letters, now nearly obliterated. The countenance has an inflated and rather ludicrous appearance, which doubtless the sculptor did not intend.

On the middle of the floor is a long and narrow slab, having an inscription on it in *Gothic* capitals in old rhyming French, which in modern characters stands thus:—

MURIEL. CALT. GYT. ISSI. DE. SA. ALME. DEUS. EUEYT.
 MERCY. KY. POR. SA. ALME. PRIERA. XL. IOURS. DE.
 PARDUN. AUERA. +

It may be thus translated, in about the same style as the original.—

Muriel Calt doth rest below,
 God on her soul his mercy shew ;
 Whos'er will pray her soul to save,
 Shall forty days' indulgence have.

There are galleries of wainscot on fluted pillars, all round the body of the church, which is capable of accommodating a large congregation. The corporation-seat is on the south side, handsomely built of wainscot; over the mayor's seat is a handsome canopy, supported by two fluted Corinthian pilasters, and bearing the Town arms emblazoned, viz., *Argent*, a spread Eagle, *sable*, crowned, *or*, debruised by a Castle, *or*. We are informed that the more ancient arms, some centuries back, had the Castle without the Eagle, and supported by two *crocodiles*, or something similar.

At the west end is a powerful and fine toned organ, originally built by Smith, in 1715, and since repaired and improved. It has sixteen stops, and seven hundred pipes.

On the north side of the chancel, in a room over the vestry, is kept a *library*, which was bequeathed to the town about the year 1700, and originally kept in St. John's church; it consisted at first of about 1000

volumes, principally theological, amongst which is a fine Polyglott Bible. They are now in a neglected and decaying condition, one excuse for which is, that there is no endowment for a librarian. The attention of the inhabitants has lately been once or twice called to this subject in the *Gentleman's Magazine*.

The tower contains a good ring of eight bells, the tenor weighing twenty-eight cwt., and a set of musical chimes, put up in 1754; also an excellent clock with four faces, each twenty-four feet in circumference, which was erected in 1812, and cost 400*l*. The spire is 180 feet high.—This Church is a Vicarage, in the gift of Lord Carteret. The present rector is the Rev. J. Donne, M. A.

BEDFORD has been supposed by some to have been a Roman town—the *Lactodurum* of Antoninus. This, however, rests on a very slender foundation, and there are two capital reasons against it:—the first, that it stands on no Roman road; and the second, that no Roman remains have been ever found in it, or its immediate vicinity.

It was, however, undoubtedly a considerable town at a very early period. A *British* name has been also given it, *Lettuy-dur*, nearly answering to the word *Bedford*, signifying *beds* or inns on a *ford*. This has again been supposed to be only a modern forgery. To leave these, however, its *Saxon* name is undoubted; and no one has ever ventured to dispute the identity. It was called *Bedicanford* and *Bedanford*, which signify “the *Fortress* on the *Ford*,” or river, an expressive and appropriate appellation. The first authentic mention of it in History, occurs in the *Saxon Chronicle*, at the year 571, as follows:—

“This year Cuthwulph fought against the Britons at Bedicanford, and took four towns, Lygeanburg* and Egelesburg†, and Bennington‡ and Egonesham§. And in the very same year he died.”

Matthew of Westminster places this in 580, merely through a mistake,

* Mr. Ingram calls this *Lenbury*, but it has always been hitherto considered to be *Leighton Buzzard*.

† Aylesbury.

‡ Bensington, Oxfordshire.

§ Ensham, Oxfordshire.

according to Mr. Ingram, of the last Roman numeral—he calls it “*Bedi-canford Castellum, quod hodie Bedford nuncupatur.*”

This date gives a highly respectable antiquity to this town, not exceeded by many. The Saxons were at this time beginning to extend their conquests over Britain; six kingdoms being now founded, the last Mercia, comprehending this county, was established about twenty years after.—Maurice, according to the Saxon Chronicle, presided over the declining Empire of Rome, which had lately had its Italian part ravaged by the Huns. Chilperic was King of France; the whole of the north of Europe lay in the heavy night of ignorance and barbarity. Christianity, after its *second* introduction, was making a slow and gradual progress in this country. And it was a few years before this period, that *King Arthur*, of romantic and legendary fame, flourished in Britain.

No further mention occurs for 200 years. About the year 753, a battle was fought between Cuthred, King of the East Angles, and Ethelbald, King of Mercia, which by one chronicler of note, Brompton, is placed at Bedford. But Ingulphus, Abbot of Croyland, who lived much earlier, (1109, Brompton, 1330), and the Saxon Chronicle, and other authorities, place it at Beorgford, now Burford, in Oxfordshire; and this is the generally received reading. The account of this battle is given in very good Latin, and with much appearance of good feeling, on the part of the author.

Offa, the celebrated King of Mercia, had, from whatever cause, a great predilection for Bedford. He designed for the Monastery there, several gifts in reversion, which it should seem, they never received; as appears by an extract from the proceedings of a council, taken from Sir Henry Spelman’s “*Concilia*,” vol. 1, p. 379.

II. Provincial Council,
of Clovesho.

Eirene Augustus, Emperor of Rome, Leo. iii. Pope.

Cuthred, King of Kent, Athelard, Archbishop.

“At a Council held at Clovesho, by Cenulf, King of Mercia, Athelard, Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Bishops, Commanders, Abbots, of the same province. Enquiry was made concerning the monastery of Cotham, which Offa had taken from Cenulf, but which ought now to be

restored to the metropolitan church of St. Saviour's. 'But then it pleased me, Athelard, by the grace of God, Archbishop; and the Abbess Cynedritha, who at that time presided over the afore-named monastery, and the elders from *either side* of Kent, viz:—those who were assembled there, from *Bedford*, inasmuch as Cynedritha herself should give to me in the county of Kent, for the exchange of the before-mentioned monastery; *the land of one hundred and ten mansions, sixty cassatorum* (complete—DU CANGE), in the place which is called *Fleot*, and *thirty* in the place which is called *Tenaham*, but in the third place which is called *Creges Æmelina*, *twenty*; namely, all the lands which King Offa caused to be assigned to her during her life, and to her heirs after her; and after the course of their lives ordered to be assigned to the Church, which is situated at *Bedford*.' "

This Clovesho is said to be Abingdon, in Berkshire, a place then of great note, and where several councils, general and provincial, were held. It is difficult to explain the circumstance of the elders from Bedford being in Kent, and then coming to Clovesho; unless we could read it "*and those,*" &c. "*Cantia,*" can hardly mean the province of Canterbury.

Another instance of Offa's regard for Bedford, is his desiring to be buried there, even in preference to his newly erected Abbey of St. Albans. His death took place in 784, at Offley, Herts., and he was interred here accordingly. His sepulture is thus related by Matthew Paris.

"Whose body being carried to the town of Bedford, in a certain Chapel (because the exigency of the times at that juncture required it), is said to have been buried, situated out of the town, on the bank of the Use. But even to this day, the assertion of almost all the inhabitants relates, that the aforesaid chapel being delapidated by long use, and the violence of that river, was drowned (submersa), and by its rapacity, with the sepulchre of the king itself, was reduced to nothing; or (as many report), in the middle channel of the river, the above mentioned body being inclosed in a strong sarcophagus, is ruinously and irretrievably precipitated. From whence, that very sepulchre is, by the inhabitants, bathing in the summer time, seen, as swallowed up in the depth of the water. And although it be diligently sought after, like a thing of fate, or enchantment (*res fatalis*), is not found."

The author then breaks forth into a passionate exclamation against those monks of St. Albans, who were cotemporary with this event, for

not seizing the opportunity of rescuing and interring the remains of so distinguished a character, and their own founder and benefactor.

Stow's relation is nearly similar. "He was buried in a chappelle which then stode on the bank of the river Ouse, without the towne of Bedford, which chappelle, with the sepulchre of the king, the said river hath swallowed up; whose tombe of lead (as it were some phantasticalle thing) appeareth often to them that seek it not, but to them that seek it (saith Rowse) it is inuisible."

Leland speaks of the monastery of Bedford having been the burying place of *St. Ethelbert*, but as there is no confirmation of this, Tanner supposes it is a mistake for Offa.

The story of the appearance of the tomb in the water, seems very fanciful. The same thing has often been related of ancient cities and buildings, and amongst others, of those in the Asphaltic Lake, or Dead Sea. With respect to the tomb or shrine being of *lead*, this was not uncommon about that time. Whole buildings were cased externally with lead. The churches of Glastonbury and Lindisfarn were so covered about the year 700. "Paulinum asserit Patrum traditio, ecclesiam contextam dudum, ut diximus, virgis, ligno tabulato induisse, et *plumbo a summo usque ad deorsum*, cooperuisse."—William of Malmsbury.—Milner.

In the year 919, according to the Saxon Chronicle (or 916, Florence of Worcester), King Edward, son of Alfred, visited Bedford.—

SAX. CHRON. 919.

"This year came king Edward with his army to Bedanford, before Martin-mass, and received that city in surrender; and to him returned nearly all the Burgesses who had before obeyed him; and having staid there four weeks, he ordered a fortification to be erected on the south side the river, before he departed thence."

Ingram translates it—"He repaired the town on the south side the river;" both these may be reconciled easily. The part on the south side the river, (on some other authority) was called *Mikesgate*. Other authors vary;—Brompton says, king Edward built a castle at Bedford, in the *fifth* year of his reign. Simon of Durham and Hoveden—king Edward ordered a *city* to be built on the south bank of the Ouse. The king had in some measure been invited to Bedford the year before. "And the Earl

Thurcytel sought him for his lord, also all the commanders of the soldiers, and almost all the more noble who belonged to *Bedanford*, also many of those who belonged to (North) Hamtun.”—Sax. C. 918.

SAX. CHRON. 921.

“ At the same time the Pagans from Huntandune and the East Angles, having gone out, built that fortification at *Temesford*, which they inhabited and strengthened; for they had left the other at Huntingdon, thinking that *from this* (inde) by battle and contest they should hereafter recover a greater part of this land. They advanced, after that, till they came to Bedanford; but the men who were within came out to meet them, and having fought with them, put them to flight, and killed a *good great* part of them:—

“ After these things, in the same summer, a great people was collected together from the power of king Eadwerd, from certain cities that were most near, and they reached *Temesford* and blockaded and attacked that city, until they had subdued it. For they killed the king (of the Pagans) and earl Toglos (*Togleas*—Florence, now *Douglas*—Ingram), with earl Mannan, his son, and his brother, and all who were within striving to defend the city; the rest they took, and whatever was within.”

The next mention of Bedford, is an allusion to the *Monastery* there, in the Saxon Chronicle, at the year 970.—“ This year died the archbishop Oskytel, who, at first, had been consecrated diocesan bishop of Dorkeceastre :* and afterwards, by the consent of king Eadwerd and his nobles (*Council*—Ingram), he was consecrated archbishop at Eouerwic.† He was xxii. years (*Winters*—Ingram) bishop, and died on the night of All Hallowmas, x nights before Martin-mas, at Tame. And the abbot Thurkytel, his relation, conveyed the bishop’s body to Bedanford, because he himself was the *Abbot* there at that time.”

About the beginning of the eleventh century, in the unhappy reign of Ethelred, this part of the country suffered severely from the Danes. In the year 1007, according to the Sax. Chron., was paid to the enemy a tribute of 30,000*l.* In the next year, ships were ordered to be built at the expense of all parts of the kingdom—every 310 hydes, that is, 37,200

* Dorchester, in Oxfordshire, from whence the see was transferred to Lincoln, in the year 1070, by St. Remigius of Fischamp.

† York.

acres, was to find a three-oared galley, and every 8—960, a helmet, and coat of mail.* The next year, they were all finished, “in number more than had been in the days of any king of England, as history tells us.” Eighty, however, of these ships were scattered by a tempest, and burnt by the rebellious Wulfnoth, and the rest, with the inglorious king, shamefully fled; so that this fine Armament came to nothing.

In consequence of the ill conduct of affairs, the Danes were making frequent and fatal inroads into the very heart of the kingdom. In the year 1010, “they burned Theodford (Thetford), and Grantabrycge (Cambridge); afterwards they advanced south to the Thames, and the horsemen went to meet the ships; and, afterwards, having gone out to the west, they went to Oxnafordshire, and Bucingamsire, and thence along the Use, until they came to *Bedanford*, and from thence to *Temesanford*, burning whatever places they came to.”

This incursion is spoken of also by other writers, who relate the vile excesses which the Danes committed, not only murdering the inhabitants, but wantonly destroying the cattle, and setting fire to the houses and buildings. The state of affairs in England at this time, was truly lamentable; happily, it did not continue long after, and is never likely to recur at a future time,

“If England to itself do prove but true.”

Every opportunity that offered itself of gaining an advantage over the enemy, was lost by bad management, and civil dissensions. “When our forces ought to have prevented their return, they had departed home; when the Pagans were in the east, our men were detained in the west; and when they were in the south quarter, our men were in the north. All the nobles were called to the king to council, to determine how this land should be defended. But whatever was decreed there, did not, even for one month, continue unbroken. Lastly, there was no General who was willing to assemble forces, but every one fled as soon as he could: nor was any Province willing to assist another.” Another expedition was made by *Canute*, through Buckinghamshire into Bedfordshire, and thence to Huntingdon and Lincoln, &c., in the year 1016.

In the Domesday survey, the town of Bedford is taxed as half a hundred, both for soldiers and shipping. William Rufus gave the barony

* At this rate, this county would furnish about eight ships, and 300 suits of armour.

of Bedford, consisting of several manors in Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire, to Paganus, or Pain, de Beau Champ. He erected the *castle*, which makes such a figure in the history of England itself, in the spot where the Keep may be traced at this day. The character of this monarch is severely lashed in the Saxon Chronicle:—"whatever was hateful to God and odious to men, entirely prevailed in this land in his days; therefore, he was hated by almost all his nation, and an abomination to God, as his end shewed;" which was considered as a judgment.

The first siege that this castle sustained, was in the year 1137, 3 Stephen. "Historians differ much in their account, both as to the event of the siege, and who were the defenders. Dugdale, quoting ancient authorities, says (Baronage), that Milo de Beauchamp, and his brother, hearing that the King had bestowed their sister in marriage, together with the whole Barony of Bedford, which had belonged to Simon de Beau Champ, their father, unto Hugh Pauper, brother to the Earl of Leicester, garrisoned the Castle of Bedford, then a fort of great strength, environed with a mighty rampier of earth, and a high wall, within which was an impregnable tower: so that the King not being able to get it by assault, brought his army before it, and after a long and hard siege, obtained it by surrender, through the mediation of his brother, Henry de Blois, Bishop of Winchester: Milo de Beauchamp, and his brothers, marching out upon honourable terms. Holinshed informs us that during the war between Stephen, and David King of Scotland, Bedford, which had been given to David's son Henry, as appertaining to the Earldom of Huntingdon, was garrisoned by the Scots; and that after being besieged for thirty days together by Stephen, who every day gave an assault or alarm, it was at length won by him, by mere force and strength. The circumstance of Bedford having been then for a time annexed to the Earldom of Huntingdon, is confirmed by a record of Parliament, by which it appears, that the Abbess of Elstow, in 1327, preferred a petition, claiming the third penny in the Town of Bedford, under a grant of Malcolm, King of Scotland, and Earl of Huntingdon. The Burgesses of Bedford in reply affirm, that Malcolm never had the lordship of the town."—*Lysons*.

By other writers the circumstances which led to the siege are not so minutely related, but much stress is laid on the circumstance of Stephen having attacked the Castle on Christmas-eve, and continued the assault all the next day; which was then a new and unheard-of enormity, and his

irreverence is strongly censured. He himself asserted, "that no occasion was to be omitted with respect to the enemy."

In 1190, Simon de Beauchamp gave 100*l.* for the office of Governor of the Castle of Bedford.

But it was in the beginning of the thirteenth century that this Castle was most particularly distinguished; and the town derives a consequence from it, in history, which is little known but to those who have particularly turned their attention to the subject. In the year 1216, William de Beauchamp being possessed of the Barony of Bedford, was required to surrender the castle by the insurgent Barons, then in arms against the King. He came over to their side, and received them as friends into the castle. The King sent his favourite, Fawkes de Brent, to summon the castle; whereupon the Barons made an agreement with him, that if relief did not come within seven days, they would surrender it; and they accordingly did. The castle was granted to Fawkes de Brent, or, more properly, *Breauté*, as a reward for his services. The King appears to have been there in person the same year. It was at this time that Falcs is said to have pulled down the Collegiate church of St. Paul, to enlarge and fortify the castle. He is in some measure exonerated, by the assertion, that he did this by order of the King, as a charter of 1 Henry III. grants the church of Tindene to the Monks of Newenham, as a compensation for his father having ordered St. Paul's Church to be pulled down to fortify the castle*. But there is little doubt that Fawkes, who was a brutal and rapacious character, would add, on the occasion, a few volunteer acts of oppression and cruelty of his own. Presuming on the supposed impregnable strength of the castle, Falcs now set all law at defiance, and began to seize the possessions, and take away the goods of his weak neighbours, without moderation or mercy. In consequence of some of these acts of violence, he was fined by the King's Justiciaries Itinerant†, at Dunstable, in the sum of 3000*l.*; in answer to which he

* The King had not met with, nor was likely to have profited by it if he had, the wise saying of a certain Eastern monarch, when some of his sycophants urged him to seize by force some trifle that he wished to obtain from one of his humbler subjects, who was unwilling to give it up. "If," said he, "a king were to pluck an apple out of a poor man's orchard, his courtiers would immediately cut down the tree."

† "When the Pleas brought into the Curia Regis became very numerous, it was (as one may guess) found necessary, as well for the ease of the people, as likewise in aid of the Curia Regis, to appoint certain Justiciaries to go through the realm to determine Pleas, or Causes within the

took the very summary means of sending a party of soldiers, who seized Henry de Braibrock, the principal Judge, and brought him prisoner to the castle of Bedford, where he was kept a close prisoner, with great severity. The events which followed are best represented in the original language (literally translated), of the two high authorities from which they are taken.

CHRONICLE OF DUNSTAPLE.

“ In the same year, in the octave of Pentecost, while the King with the Clergy and the Barons of the Kingdom, at Northampton, treated of the conquest of Scotland, William de Breaute, with the consent of his brother Faukes, took Henry de Braibroc, at that time a Justice of the King's Bench, and detained him in prison, in the Castle of Bedford; which the King taking ill, suspended his Scotch invasion, and besieged Bedford: to whose assistance came the Archbishop of Canterbury, with the Bishops and Abbots, his Suffragans, and granted him moreover, a *caruage**, namely, half a mark of each carrucate of their domain lands, and two shillings from each carrucate of their tenants, and two labourers from each hyde†, to work the engines. But, lest this should be wrested at another time into a Service, the King gave them charters for the immunity of the future. In the mean time, however, Faukes withdrew himself, tarrying in the land of the Earl of Chester. But the same Earl and the Bishop of Winchester, and the Earl of Aubermarle, and William de Cantilupe, and Brien of the Isle, and Peter de Malo-lacu, with their followers, falsely followed the King's army, but in word and deed rendered themselves suspected by all. At length, when the Bishop of Win-

several counties, saving the subjects their resort to the Curia Regis. These Justices Itinerant were vested with great power and authority: they determined pleas of the Crown, and Common Pleas, in like manner as did the Justices of the Curia Regis. And probably they had the greater credit among the people, because the same persons who were Justices in the Curia Regis, were also (amongst others) wont to be Justices Itinerant.” They appear also to have tried Criminal Causes, or those which would now be considered such; whether the same always tried both, or there were sometimes different sets, seems uncertain. At first, there were only four or six divisions of the kingdom, but sometimes many more; one set of Judges (there were generally three together) only taking three or four counties.—*Maddox's History of the Exchequer.*

* In the year 1220, a Caruage was granted to the King, but the Clergy was excepted, with liberty, however, to give it of their own free will.

† A Hyde was from 100 to 120 acres of land.

chester and the Earl of Chester saw themselves excluded from the King's more secret counsels, seeking an occasion from a friend, they turned away to their own concerns. In the mean time, however, the ruin of the Castle impending, and the King's Messenger (or *Nuncio*) interceding, the Earl returned to the King's Court, and Falcs even to Northampton; who, the same being under the Conduct (*sub conductu*) of the King, and Martin de Pateshull, Archdeacon of Bedford, treating for Peace between the King and him, the Castle was taken after this manner:—On the East side, was one Petraria and two Mangonella, which daily attacked the tower; and on the West side, two Mangonella, which battered the old tower; and one Mangonell on the South side, and one on the North, which made two breaches in the walls nearest to them. Besides these there were there two wooden machines, erected by workmanly art, above the height of the tower and the castle, to assist (*ad opus*) the slingers and scouts. Besides these, there were many machines in which both the Balistarii and Fundibularii lay in ambush. There was also there a machine called Cattas, under which the subterraneous diggers, which are called Miners, had ingress and egress, whilst they undermine the Castle walls. The Castle was taken at four attacks.—In the first, was taken the Barbican, where four or five foreigners were killed; in the second was taken the outer Ballia, in which more were killed. In which our men (of Dunstaple) gained Horses with Harness (*Ernasis*), Helmets and Ballistæ, Oxen and Baconers (*Bacones*), and live Hogs, and many other things of which there is no reckoning. But they burnt the houses with the corn (*bladum*) and hay that was within. In the third attack, the wall near the old Tower fell, by means of the miners, when our men entered by the ruin, and with great danger took the inner Bail, in the occupation of which many of our men perished. And ten of ours desiring to enter the tower, were shut in and detained by the enemy. But at the fourth assault, on the eve of the Assumption, about evening, fire was put under the tower, by the miners, so that smoke burst out from the habitable part of the tower, where the enemies were, and the tower was split, so that broad chinks appeared. And then the enemy despairing of their safety, permitted the wife of Falcs and all the women with her, to go safe and unhurt to Hubert, the King's justiciary, with all the soldiers whom they had

just shut up, and submitted themselves to the King's command, placing the King's Flag '*in summitate regis,*' in a principal situation; and so under the King's ward they remained that night in the tower. On the following Morning, being brought before the King's Tribunal, and absolved by the Bishops from excommunication, at the Command of the King and his justiciary, more than eighty were hanged on gallowses. *But the Towers, at the supplication of the principal men, the King granted to the Templars, that they might fight in the Holy Land, for their Lord, in their proper Habit, (habitu suo).* The Chaplain of the Castle was delivered to the Archbishop, to be judged by the Ecclesiastical Court. How much treasure, and what a multiplicity of arms and victual was found in the Tower, it is not easy to relate. And so whatever things Falcs had in England, whether moveable or immoveable, were dispersed abroad.

"These things being performed, Falcs was led to Bedford with a few accompanying him; but his men were pardoned: himself remaining under sentence, until he had restored to the King the Castle of Plumpton, and the Castle of Stokes Curci, and the vessels of Gold and Silver, and the money which he had possessed; and so he was taken to London.

"But in the mean time, it was ordered the Sheriff (*vice comes*), to demolish the tower and outer Bail; the interior Bail, the outworks, or Barbican (*propugnantia*) being removed, remained for the habitation of William de Beauchamp. The stones were given to the Canons of Newenham, and of Chaldewelle, and the Church of Saint Paul, Bedford. Falcs, after he was pardoned at London, and because he was marked with the Cross, ('*Crucesignatus*') was permitted to depart to Rome, and passing the sea, and applying (for a Passport) at Fiscamp, was detained by the bailiffs of the King of France. At length, the following Easter, being liberated from prison, he went to Rome, and sent very pitiful letters to the King, for the recovery of his Wife and his lands, whereupon the King with his Barons, wrote word to our Lord the Pope of his treachery, and so having suffered a repulse, he departed to Troyes, and there tarrying a year, he was licensed (*licentiatus*), from the Kingdom of France, because he would not pay homage to the King. At length, returning to Rome, with much pressing he implored his wife, with his patrimony to be restored to him; and so returning from the City, loaded with many debts, at Saint Ciriac he closed his Life."

MATTHEW PARIS.

“ Two Testudines, which the French call *Brutesches*, were destroyed by the Royal Forces. These things having been so performed, when those enclosed saw that they could no longer resist, on the night of the Assumption of St. Mary, certain of them going out of the Castle, implored the King's mercy; all of whom the King ordered be bound with strong fetters, until he had subdued the rest. But on the next day, when all had come out wounded with deadly wounds, and were brought before the presence of the King, all were condemned to be hanged. There were hanged among the soldiers and servants, twenty-four, who on account of their obstinate resistance at the end of the siege, could not obtain pardon. Henri de Braiboc, coming to the King safe and unhurt, gave him many thanks. Falcs, seduced by a false hope, had thought that his men could hold the Castle a whole year, till, at length, when by certain relation, he knew that his Brother and all the rest were hanged; under the conduct of Alexander, Bishop of Coventry, he came to Bedford to the King, and falling prostrate before him, begged, that for his obedience and expensive labours performed for him and his Father, in the time of hostility, he might obtain pardon. Then the King, by counsel, delivered him, despoiled of his Castle, his lands, and all his goods, to the keeping of Eustace, Bishop of London, until it might be judicially determined what should be done with him. Then was displayed the vengeance of St. Paul: for Falcs, that bloody traitor, had destroyed the Church of St. Paul, for the building and fortifying of his Castle, who was now kept in a dungeon in the Custody of St. Paul (London), whence the Abbess of Helenstow hearing that Falcs had raged against St. Paul's Church, and was yet unpunished, ordered the sword to be taken out of the hand of the statue of St. Paul, and, after this vengeance, to be restored. And so Falcs, as in a moment, from a very rich man, made most poor, may be an example to many, and especially to the guilty: concerning his reverse of fortune, some one says thus:—

Perdidit in mense Falco tam fervidus ense
Omne sub sævo quicquid quæssivit ab œvo.

“ The wife of Falcs, Margaret de Ripariis, presenting herself to the King and the Archbishop, said, she had never consented to be married to him, and that since she had been taken away in war time and married by compulsion, she sought a divorce. The Archbishop appointed her a day, that

in the mean time they might deliberate. But the King granted her all her tenures and possessions throughout all England, and placed her under the guardianship of Wailliam Earl Warenne."

Matthew Paris says further of Falcs de Breaute, that he was of *Nieuuster*, illegitimate; that he had risen from a low origin to be a dependant on the King, and that among other acts of violence, he had deprived of their possessions thirty-two freemen then at Luiton, for which he was condemned by Henri de Braibock, &c., &c., &c. The Castle was summoned three successive days, and then the Bishops and Abbots excommunicated Falcs and his followers, and ordered himself to be outlawed. William Mantel de Breutè, and many English and Norman nobles, who presided over the Castle, were hanged; amongst the King's soldiers who perished by the Archers, the principal was one Geoffrey, whom he calls a very *elegant* Soldier."

The siege is also described in the following most rude and barbarous lines, written by a *cotemporary*, Robert of Glo'ster, and one of the first, (we believe), who wrote in English. It is rather a matter of congratulation that the others wrote in Latin, as the worst Latin of the middle ages, is far preferable to this, and is, moreover, much the easier of the two to interpret.—

Faukes de Breute, that in Engeland was long,
 Mid¹ King Ion and adde of him Bedvorde avonge²;
 He astorede³ the Castell thulk yer well thoru all thinge,
 And sett their volk enou to hold him aye⁴ the King;
 The King and heie men of the Londe mid strength and mid ginne⁵,
 And bilaye⁶ the Castell long ar⁷ hii⁸ him myte wyne,
 Hi nome⁹ him tho' mid strength therevore as riht was,
 Fourscore gode Knytes hii an¹⁰ henge alas!
 And Sir Faukes' Brother, Sir William de Breaute,
 In gibet hii were an honge as to more¹¹ vilte,
 A Seinte Maire¹² day in hervest that renthe¹³ it was to se,
 And so hii¹⁴ michte learn Traitour to be;
 Sr. Faukes that fleu aboute wide gan to fle,
 At last he was ifounde in the Church. of Coventre;
 The church savede his life, as viliche¹⁵ inou,
 He vorsok the Kinges lond, and to is owe¹⁶ contrei drou"¹⁷.

¹ With; ² received; ³ stored; ⁴ against; ⁵ military engines; ⁶ belay, or blockade; ⁷ ere; ⁸ they;
⁹ take; ¹⁰ have hanged; ¹¹ for greater disgrace; ¹² August 15; ¹³ frightful sight; ¹⁴ they might
 learn the punishment of a traitor; ¹⁵ vilely enough, sufficiently disgraced; ¹⁶ own country;
¹⁷ drew, betook himself.

Holinshed says, that all found within the Castle, to the number of eight, were hanged, but that three were pardoned on condition of going to the Holy Land, to fight among the Templars. This explains a former sentence. Faukes' wife and his son Thomas, not consenting to the father's treachery, were acquitted, and he himself having afterwards obtained pardon at Rome, was *poisoned*, he does not say whether accidentally or not, on his way home. Faukes' brother, Culmo, was pardoned; twenty-four Knights were executed in the Castle. Faukes' reverse of fortune seems to have been considered a striking and exemplary instance of retributive justice. Thomas of Walsingham remarks, that Faukes de Breute, after having exceeded all the nobles of England in wealth and splendour, was in the course of one year obliged to beg his bread in France, and had not a resting place (*'reclinatorium'*) for his head.

With respect to the engines used in this siege, which is usually quoted in the best authorities as an exemplification of the kind prevalent in that day: the full nature and operation of the larger missile ones, seems to be but imperfectly understood by the most learned and laborious inquirers into the subject; the substance of what has been discovered by Grose, Strutt, and Meyrick, is as follows. The work of Meyrick on ancient armour, &c., is certainly, in point of pictorial illustration, one of the finest in the world.—

MANGONELIA, *Μανγωνα*, was a modern Greek appellation for any kind of engine; Mangonella is the diminutive; they may either be missile engines or battering rams, for it seems utterly uncertain. The nature of the battering ram is too generally known to need any attempt at explanation.

PETRARIA—was an engine for throwing stones, as its name from *Πετρα* denotes. These were used both by land and on the deck of ships; some of them projected six or seven large stones at a time; these were placed generally in a kind of large bucket. The way in which these were worked is not very easy to be ascertained, nor are the plates very intelligible. *One* appears to be a lever balanced between two upright posts, with the stone at the long end, and a very heavy weight at the short one, which, suddenly falling to the ground, raised the other end with great velocity, and projected the stone. There was also the *Trebuchet*, which acted by means of a powerful and elastic *spring*; this has been

illustrated by Sir Walter Scott (*Tales of the Crusaders*). But the force of these must have been very inferior to cannon. At the siege of Constantinople, a stone of *six hundred pounds* weight was shot from a piece of ordnance of immense size, the terrifying effect of the explosion of which was such, that they were obliged to make a proclamation when it was to be fired.

BALISTA.—This is also a general term for any shooting engines, from *βαλλειν*, some of them were engines which, turning round, projected a stone or dart from a leathern thong, somewhat in the same manner as the hand-sling. *Ballistarii*, is also a term for the hand-slingers. There were “*Balistæ a Pectoribus*,” the hand cross-bow. “*Balistæ ad unum Pedem* ;” “*Balistæ de Cornu ad duos pedes* ;” “*Balistæ lignæ ad duos Pedes*.”

CATTUS—Cat, or Cat-house. There is a representation of this in *Meyrick*, vol. i., p. 170, pl. xxvi. This was a covered shed, strongly protected by timber fencing on three sides, and went on wheels ; it derived its name from the circumstance of the soldiers lying in ambush within, like a *cat* for its prey. This seems a puerile etymology, but it is the actual one. Some of them had crenelles, or chinks, for the archers to shoot through : these were called *Castellated Cats*. They were also used for the miners, as above. Sometimes under its cover, the besiegers worked a small battering ram.

The **WOODEN TOWER.**—This, which was used with great success at the siege of Jerusalem, is thus fully described by Tasso :

“ He undertook to build, not *vines* alone,
Balistæ, *rams*, and *catapults* of power,
 To batter down defended walls of stone,
 And on high bulwarks rain an arrowy shower,
 But, planked with pine and fir, a wondrous TOWER,
 The master-piece of art, and to provide
 Against the adhesive flames that might devour
 The timbers else, he lined it well outside
 With fire-proof skins of sheep and quilts of tough bull-hide

“ The separate beams and timbers, morticed tight,
 Are joined, completed is the pile ; below
 Swings the vast ram, which with its horned might,
 Threats at each stroke the city to o’erthrow ;
 Its waist lets down a bridge which falling slow,

Worked by a windlass, joins the opposing wall,
 And forms an instant passage to the foe ;
 Whilst from the top a second tower less tall,
 Inly concealed, at need, shoots up, o'er gazing all.

“ With little work of toil, the enormous mass,
 Upon its hundred wheels, volubil rolled,
 Though bearing, armed in brigandine of brass,
 A little army in its spacious hold.”

C. xviii., s. xliii. xlv. *Wiffen's Translation.*

Of his individual want of success in illustrating the nature of these engines, Strutt says thus:—“ How lamentable a thing it is, that not only the forms of these curious instruments, but even the method of using them, is entirely lost. After all the strict researches I have made, the names (and scarcely more) is all I could collect.”

BALLIUM, or BAIL, was the Castle-Yard.—The old tower here mentioned, appears to have been the principal entrance to it. The Great Tower set on fire, was the one on the Keep.—*Strutt and Meyrick.*

BARBICAN.—This was a Breast-work before the outer Castle-yard, which secured its principal entrance, and stood on the same side of the ditch.

THE borough granted to the King on the occasion of the siege, an aid of 10*l.*; and afterwards, the burgesses were fined 20*l.*, for some of them having been found in the castle, against the King (Maddox). The situation of the town during the siege must have been rather singular.

The barony of Bedford was restored to William de Beauchamp, who had part of the castle left for him as was mentioned above. In the year 1361, the site of the castle belonged, with the fishery in the Ouse, to Elizabeth, widow of John Lord Mowbray, of Axholme. In the year 1398, it belonged to John de Mowbray, Earl of Nottingham; and in 1400, to Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk and Earl Marshal (1407), who claimed the barony by the service of Lord Almoner, on the coronation-day, of which more hereafter; the site of the castle afterwards descended by a co-heir of the Mowbrays, to John Lord Berkley, who gave it to Sir Reginald Bray, in the reign of Henry VII. Camden speaks of the ruins impending grandly over the river in his time. There have been no vestiges of the

walls for upwards of a century ; but the banks may be traced at the back of the Swan Inn, and the Keep is very perfect, which is now a bowling-green.

To go back to the twelfth century, the monastery of Newnham was founded about the year 1165, for Black or Regular Canons. There are no remains now of this building, by which even any idea of it can be formed, except part of a wall, with a flat brick archway, having crenelled battlements. But in Buck's view of it, taken in 1730, great part of it appears entire, and cloisters had the usual open mullioned Arches, and were rather handsome. In the Priory Church were interred, one of the wives of Lord Latimer, and near her, one Edward Clynton, Esq., who married a Duchess of Norfolk. The following notices are collected from the Chronicle of Dunstaple :

“ Newenham, or Newham.

“ Priors of ——— E ——— ob. 1225.

“ His place supplied by Hervey, Prior of Oseney.

“ Hervey, ob. 1247, and the Patron being beyond the seas, Walter de Chauverton, Canon of the same, was elected three weeks afterwards ; but in the mean time, Phillip de Cou, Seneschall of Lord William de Beauchamp, much harassed and afflicted the Canons, by attacking their persons, and destroying their property, all which he did, as was said, at the instigation of Michael de Quinden and Lady Ida de Beauchamp, which Michael died about that time.”

“ Walter de Chauverton died suddenly, 1254, and Stephen, Canon of the same house, was elected in his place, who, when he was installed by the ordinary of the place, on the Bishop's mandate, William de Beauchamp, patron of the same place, and Lady Hyda, his wife, coming upon them, being vehemently angry at what had been done, by threats and terror compelled the Prior to come out of the gate, and to seek installation from them, which being done, the Lord William took him by the hand and led him into the choir, and again, by his own authority as patron, installed him, in contempt of the Bishop of Lincoln. William de Ros, Prior, ob. 1272, and Michael, a Canon, succeeded him. Ob. 1283, and was succeeded by John de Bedeforde, Canon of the same.”

In the year 1291, when all the monasteries in England were ordered to be taxed by order of Pope Nicholas IV., the valuation of Newenham

was as follows, (the outgoings are not mentioned, as they are in the final valuation of Henry VIII.)

| | £. | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|-----------|
| Parish of Saint John de Walebrock, London | - | - | 1 9 4 |
| Pension from Tithes of All Saint's Church, Bedford | - | - | 0 12 0 |
| Pension in Houghton | - | - | 0 6 8 |
| in Stotefold | - | - | 0 6 8 |
| in Wrastlingworth | - | - | 0 3 0 |
| in Hathele | - | - | 2 13 4 |
| From the Church of Sutho, Hunts | - | - | 2 13 4 |
| Gynesbury, do. | - | - | 0 13 4 |
| Rent in Lenthelad, Bucks. | - | - | 0 10 0 |
| Saleho—lands, rents, &c. | - | - | 7 1 0 |
| Fruet, gret et dial | - | - | 1 12 3 |
| Wardon—rent | - | - | 0 13 8 |
| Rockesdon—rent | - | - | 0 5 0 |
| Stacheden—lands and rent | - | - | 3 0 0 |
| " <i>Fruct. greg. et aial.</i> " | - | - | 1 0 0 |
| Blunham—rent | - | - | 0 7 11 |
| Sharnbrook—lands, meadows, rents, fisheries, &c. | - | - | 4 11 4 |
| Fruits, flocks, and herds | - | - | 1 10 0 |
| Furnge rent | - | - | 0 6 0 |
| Goldington—lands, rents, mills and meadows | - | - | 3 13 4 |
| Fruits, flocks, and herds | - | - | 2 16 0 |
| Conpol and Wylton—lands, rents, and meadows | - | - | 1 1 10 |
| Fruits, flocks, and herds | - | - | 0 13 4 |
| Cotes, Fenlak, Kerdyngton and Harweden—lands and meadows | - | - | 1 15 4 |
| Fruits, flocks, and herds | - | - | 1 6 0 |
| Biddenhm—lands, rents and meadows | - | - | 3 0 0 |
| Fruits, flocks, and herds | - | - | 1 6 8 |
| Wotton—lands, rents, and meadows | - | - | 2 4 3 |
| Bedeford—lands, rents, meadows and mills | - | - | 28 5 4½ |
| Henkesworth, Herts.—lands and rent | - | - | 1 10 0 |
| Huntingdon—rent | - | - | 0 7 6 |
| Stodfold—lands, rents and meadows | - | - | 6 19 0 |
| Fruits, flocks, and herds | - | - | 1 9 2 |
| Edeworth and Sugmell—lands, rents, and meadows | - | - | 3 1 9 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | | | £89 11 8½ |

In the reign of Edward III., the Prior of Newenham was summoned to shew by what warrant he held view of Franc-pledge, and other liberties and feudal powers in Southell, Renhold, Cardenytton, Wotton, Goldington, Sharnbrook, Ravensden, and Bedford. The Prior answered, that he

held them by Charter from King Henry I., confirmed by Edward I., and dated at Leicester, in the eleventh year of his reign, by which the regular Canons of St. Paul, Bedford, or Newenham, held the same and others similar to the Burgesses of Bedford, and that they should never be disturbed beyond the forfeiture of 10*l.* The view of Franc-pledge he had not claimed at the last visitation, but now offered one mark fine for the liberty of doing so, which was accepted and granted; he was then asked whether he had, as he ought, a Pillory and a Tumbrel, (a turning Pillory—*Strutt*), in every place, for the punishment of offenders against the Assize of Bread and *Beer* (a salutary regulation), and other offences. He answered, that he had them only in one place, Sharnbrook, and that he had otherwise punished offenders by fines; being asked how much he had so received in his time, he answered *Ten Shillings*. For his neglect in not properly punishing offenders, his liberties were declared forfeited. He offered a fine of 20*s.*, which was accepted, and they were restored.”—*Placita de quo Warranto*.

How much it is to be regretted that the compounders of bad and deleterious Beer, are not *now* sometimes exercised in this turning machine, by which they might practically learn the effects of their own mixture on the stomachs of their unfortunate customers!

In the year 1164, Philip de Broc, Canon of the old foundation of St. Paul's, occasioned a serious dispute between the King (Henry II.), and some of the Clergy. He had committed homicide, and on the trial some considerable dispute took place as to the conflicting jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical and Lay Courts. He behaved very ill throughout, and was deprived of his preferment and banished for five years, (Radulph de Diceto, *Imagines Historiarum*). It was this quarrel which occasioned the fatal dispute between Henry and Thomas Becket. (*Lambard's Topographical Dictionary*).

According to Abbot Benedict, Gerald de Bedford was master and mariscal of the Temple (probably the English Templars), at the siege of Acre. He soon after met with an honourable death in that sacred and chivalrous land; being slain, with twenty-two companions, in some unfortunate expedition or skirmish of the Christian army, which occurred soon after the siege of Acre.

Chaldwell, or Cawdwell Priory, was founded about the year 1200,

by Simon Barescot, or Basket, Alderman of Bedford. Robert of Houghton gave the site. It was founded for brethren of the Holy Sepulchre, and dedicated to St. Mary. But this order falling into decay soon after, it was occupied by Austin Canons. It is thus noticed in the Chronicle of Dunstaple.—

| | | |
|--|---|------|
| Alexander, Sub-Prior of Dunstaple, elected | - | 1212 |
| Obiit | - | 1229 |
| Succeeded by William | - | |
| Obiit | - | 1244 |

“Succeeded by Eudo, who in the year 1249, at the Bishop’s visitation at Caudwell, being accused of many crimes by the brethren and others, and fearing the Bishop’s judgment, by the advice of the Priors of Dunstaple, Newenham, Huntingdon, and Bushmead, voluntarily resigned, and took the Cistercian Order at Merivale. The Convent, with one voice, on the same day, elected Walter de Cadendon, Sub-Prior of Dunstaple, and their choice was confirmed by the Bishop. He resigned the situation in 1272, and Matthew was elected. Walter died eight days after, and was honorably buried by his successor.”

“He resigned in 1287, and was succeeded by John de Dylun, Canon. The election was hastened the same day, to hinder some apprehended corrupt *sale* of the Presentation.”

And it is valued in Pope Nicholas’s Taxation (1291) thus:—

CALDEWELL.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|----|-------|
| Church of Beddingham | - | 0 | 10 0 |
| Northall—lands, rents, fruits, and herds | - | 3 | 8 5 |
| Craule (or Crawley, Bucks) rent | - | 0 | 2 8 |
| Rokesden—land, meadows, and rent | - | 6 | 11 10 |
| Hulcolt—rent | - | 0 | 2 0 |
| Ronhale, mills | - | 0 | 13 4 |
| Fulmsham—rent | - | 0 | 5 4 |
| Blunham—lands, meadows, ‘ <i>vinar</i> ’ (cider orchards) | - | 2 | 14 9½ |
| Fruits, flocks, and herds | - | 1 | 6 8 |
| Sharnbrook—rent | - | 0 | 4 0 |
| Cowham—land and rent | - | 2 | 2 6 |
| Bedford—land and rent | - | 10 | 0 0 |
| Fruits, flocks, and herds | - | 2 | 17 0 |
| Schelton, Kimeston, and Bidh’m—land and rent | - | 6 | 10 4½ |

| | £. | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|-------------------|
| Gritforde, Sledge, Potton, Sugmele, Stanford, Halewell—land, rents, and meadows | - | - | 3 11 10 |
| Pension in Earnseby, Leicestershire | - | - | 2 0 0 |
| In the Archdeaconry of Leicester | - | - | 3 10 0 |
| In the Deanery of Gostcote, Ditto | - | - | 3 0 0 |
| ————— Gudlakston, Ditto | - | - | 0 10 2 |
| ————— | - | - | 2 17 0 |
| | | | <u>£52 17 10½</u> |

In the year 1256, a great flood happened at Bedford, which is fully described by Matthew Paris; who says, that about the day of Saint Ciriac, there happened a terrible storm of rain, lightning, and thunder. The mill-wheels were torn off their axles, and dashed with such force against the houses that were near, as to break them to pieces; and the wind performed precisely the same kind office for the sails of the wind-mills;—the piles of the bridges, the hay-ricks, and the fishermen's cottages, with their nets and punts, and even the children in the cradles were carried away; "so that Deucalion's deluge seemed restored." "And (not to speak of other places) Bedford, which the river called Use washes (as had happened a few years *before*), underwent irreparable damage. For, in one place, six houses together (*'continuo'*) were carried away by the rapid floods, their inhabitants being scarcely rescued; and other places near the same river underwent like disasters." Another flood happened in the year 1570, which is the last remarkable one on record.

The Hospital of John the Baptist is said to have been founded by Robert Parys, in 980. This date has been considered erroneous, as it appears much too old. Lysons gives 1280. In the Register at Lincoln, it is written thus—A.D. Mill^o. Nono-Centesimo LXXX^o.; of the error of this there can be no very considerable doubt, as, reduced to figures, it will stand thus—1980. But it may be intended for M. Centesimo LXXX. nono 1189. It was founded and endowed for a Master, two Priests or Brethren who were to pray for the souls of the founder and three or four of the St. John family; and also for the reception and support of poor freemen of Bedford. Some considerable time before the Reformation, the hospital and the (then parish) church were consolidated, and they have continued so since. It is the presentation of the Corporation. Several claims have been made on the lands, under

supposed grants from the Crown, but always unsuccessfully. Some light is thrown on the history of the hospital by a MS. in the British Museum, of the time of Elizabeth. It would seem that some attempt had been made to deprive it of the character of an hospital, as the scope of the argument is, to prove it to have been always an hospital, and not originally or properly a parish church. It declares it to have been founded in the year 980; that many donations and legacies had been made prior to Edward I.; that the masters had been regularly appointed for 400 years; that it was always styled a hospital, and the church called the Hospital Church; (it might have been applied by courtesy to the general use, and by degrees come to be considered parochial); that it had a common seal with the figure of St. John the Baptist, which seal no parish church had; that it was omitted in Pope Nicholas IV.'s taxation, wherein all parish churches were included; the presentation is said *not* to belong of *ancient* right to the Corporation. An ancient manuscript is mentioned, containing rules for the order and government of the House in which the 'Coo-frieres' and alms-men are ordered to be of the order of St. Augustine, and to wear *Red Crosses*, with some other particulars.

A grand Tournament was held at Bedford in the year 1285.

The hospital of St. Leonard was founded about the year 1300, by some townsmen of Bedford; it had six friars, chaplains. The patronage of the Hospital was given by the town to Sir Reginald Bray, in the reign of Henry VII., for his good offices in getting the fee-farm rent reduced.

The convent of the Franciscans, Grey friars, Friars preachers, and Friars minors, (for they are all the same), was also founded about this time by Mabel Pateshull, Lady of Bletneshe, or Bletsoe. The Priory church seems to have been a grand structure. The foundress was buried under an arched tomb on the south side of the high altar. There were also buried "*one Quene Elenor*," "with her image of plaine plate of brasse encrownid," (who can be meant here?), one of the Lords Latimer, Richard Hastings, Esquire, and Sir Ralph Irencester, who is said to have built the body of the church.* These two establishments do not occur in Pope Nicholas's taxation.

* Alianor, second wife of Almaric de St. Amand, ordered her body to be buried near her husband "in the Quier of the Friars Prechers in Bedford," 1467.

There are considerable remains of the Grey friars, which is now a farm house, with flat-topped Gothic windows; the cloister arches may be traced along the lower story; they are now bricked up. A large barn near the house, with buttresses, and Gothic windows blocked up, is said to have been the Refectory.

In an ancient map of England, Scotland, and Wales, part of Ireland, and the Isles, on vellum, in the possession of the late Mr. Gough, in which the large churches and *spires*, which were then uncommon, are particularly distinguished, Bedford appears as a considerable town, with a large church and a *spire*. This map is proved to be older than the year 1290, and may be fifty years older than that date. The only other places mentioned in Bedfordshire are Shefford, Woborn Chapel, and Dunstable.

In the year 1340, in the reign of Edward III., when a *ninth* of all possessions was granted to the King, then invading France, viz. the *ninth* lamb, the *ninth* fleece, and the *ninth* sheaf, and of cities or boroughs, a *ninth* part of their goods and chattels, 8*l.* only was returned by the corporation for the borough of Bedford. This being, doubtless justly, thought much too little, a fresh set of commissioners were appointed on oath, but it appears they had done nothing at the date of the report.—*Nonarum Inquisitiones, in the British Museum.*

In the reign of Edward III., the mayor and commonalty were summoned to shew by what right they held all their privileges and their guild of merchants, so that none who were not free of this could exercise any merchandize among them. The mayor and corporation answered by their attorney, Ambrose de Chauveston, that they held them from time immemorial, and that King Richard I. had confirmed all the donations of King Henry, his father, viz. freedom from *toll*, *pontage*, *stallage*, *lestage*, from burthens (*sartis*), and all other things in England and Normandy, by sea and land, and on the sea-shore, *Biland* and *Bistrahund*. That they had also *Sac. Sol. Thol. Theam*, and *Infangenethef*; and, generally, the same privileges as the burgesses of Oxford; so that when they were in doubt, they sent to Oxford for advice, and were determined by their opinion. They offered to the King a fine of eight marks. It appeared that the mayor and the two coroners had rashly exercised the right of capital punishment, by hanging, or “infangenethef,” which was considered a leasing of the King’s crown and dignity, and the coronership seems to have been taken away,

because it was said that the office of coroner respected only the King's crown and sovereignty, and that no one could be appointed to it without his consent, and that they had unadvisedly used their authority; at least, such appears, as far as it can be understood, to be the tenor of the argument.—Placita de quo Warranto, in *Brit. Mus.*

In the year 1471, out of the fee-farm rent payable from the town, 46*l.* or 42*l.* per annum, 20*l.* was granted, for his life, to the Duke of Clarence, (Shakspeare's) payable in equal payments, at Easter and Michaelmas, by the hands of the men of the town themselves, by the sheriff of Beds. and Bucks., or by any of the accustomed receivers of the town.—*Rymer's Fœdera.*

The greatest number of parish churches that there has ever been in Bedford is not precisely known; in Leland's time, about and previous to the year 1500, there were *seven*; one of them was St. Peter's, *Dunstable*, opposite to St. Mary's, and another, *All Saints*. The present St. Peter's is called St. Peter's *Martin*: there may perhaps have been a church of St. Martin connected with it. There was also St. *Lloyd's*, or rather St. *Loy's*; whether this was a chapel or church, or what, is not known. A *chantry* in the *chapel* of St. Mary is spoken of in old records (of Ed. I.); there were also the chantries of Trinity, Corpus Christi, and St. Cuthbert's, whether in the churches, or not, is not known. And there was the chapel of St. Thomas *ad Pontem*, or, *at the Bridge*. Trinity chantry was valued in 1535 at 7*l.* per annum, and Corpus Christi at 8*l.* The churches of St. Peter Dunstable, All Saints, St. Mary's, and St. Cuthbert's, belonged to the Priory of Dunstable.

In the 19th of Henry VII., 1504, the inhabitants petitioned to be freed from the payment of 22*l.* of the 42*l.*, or, as it was sometimes considered, 46*l.* fee-farm rent. They represented that they should be unable any longer to raise it, without injury and extortion to the inhabitants, and the destruction of two bailiffs, who ought to be annually elected. That the said town, without the help of the King, would be utterly destroyed; and that the greater part of the inhabitants had disposed themselves to retire from the town unless the fine was remitted; that the mayor, &c., had no certain means of raising the above, more than 25*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*, which proceeded from certain tenements, specified in a certain "heygale" of Edward III., and of which tenements contained in the same, 100 mes-

suages were utterly destroyed, so that nothing remained except the site, and no part of 14*l.* 9*s.* 6½*d.*, proceeding from the same, could be collected. And that 180 other messuages contained in the same estimate were not inhabited, so that the customs and tolls of the said town were only valued on an average at 20*s.* 4*d.* The cause of all this, they say, was the building of the new bridge at Bereford (Barford), which *drew the water of the Ouse higher*; and by this means the town was not only deprived of the benefit of the passage and accommodation of travellers, who now went through Barford instead, to the neighbouring market towns, but also of all the tolls and customs of cattle, waifs, and strays, &c. &c.; so that, upon the whole, the inhabitants were unable to pay more than 20*l.* of the above 42*l.* without their utter ruin; whereupon, the King granted them the remission they requested, for sixty years: and two years afterwards, upon their representing that they dreaded the idea of the possibility of a return of the whole demand on their descendants, even at that remote period, and that their minds would be much quieted by a total removal, he kindly granted them a charter, binding his successors to remit it for ever.

This 20*l.* was at some subsequent period reduced to 16*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*, which is still payable to those who, it is supposed, purchased it of the Crown, (Lord Carteret and another). Lord Carteret's share, 12*l.*, is said, by Mr. Lysons, to be given in augmentation of the rectory of St. Paul's Church.

In the year 1535, a short time prior to the general dissolution, a valuation was taken of the annual receipts, with the outgoings, of all monasteries, priories, hospitals, chantries, and livings throughout the kingdom. Those in Bedford were valued as follows:—

NEWENHAM.—*Spirituals.*

| | | | | | £ | s. | d. |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Rectory of Cardington | - | - | - | - | 24 | 0 | 0 |
| Stachden | - | - | - | - | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| St. Paul's, Bedford | - | - | - | - | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Goldington | - | - | - | - | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Southiell | - | - | - | - | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| Berford | - | - | - | - | 24 | 0 | 0 |
| Wotton | - | - | - | - | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Willyngton | - | - | - | - | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Ronehal | - | - | - | - | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Ravensden | - | - | - | - | 6 | 13 | 4 |
| Salphord | - | - | - | - | 6 | 0 | 0 |

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|------|----|----|
| Small tithes, parish of St. Paul, Bedford - - - | 3 | 13 | 4 |
| From tithes of the Abbey of Warden, in different places - - | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| Of Priory of Huntingdon, for portion of tithes - - - | 2 | 13 | 4 |
| Of Rectory of Hatly Port - - - | 2 | 13 | 4 |
| Of Priory and Convent of Merton - - - | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Of Rectory of Shudlington - - - | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| ----- Evshott - - - | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| Of Abbess of Denney, for porc' of tithes in Beddenham - - | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Of Abbot of Pypwell, for tithes in Berford - - - | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| Of Prior of St. Neot's, for porc' of tithes in Eynesbury - - | 0 | 14 | 4 |
| Of Rector of Gravenhurst - - - | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Of Abbot of Bermusey, for tithes of Mills in Bedford .. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Of Rector of Holcott - - - | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| ----- Wrestlingworth - - - | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| ----- St. Peter's Dunstable, in Bedford - - - | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| For porc' of tithes in Haughton Conquest - - - | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| For tithes in Milton Hermytage - - - | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| For "personalibus" tithes of parish of St. Paul, within the Town of Bedford - - - | 11 | 11 | 8 |
| For tithes in Wetherwell, in Parish of Cardington - - - | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| | £187 | 13 | 8 |

Temporalibus.

| | | | |
|--|------|----|-----------------|
| Rent and farms in Stolfold - - - | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Salphobury - - - | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Flavels - - - | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| Ronehall, Salpho, and Ravensden - - - | 12 | 2 | 5 |
| Bydenh'm - - - | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Rent and farms in the same - - - | 2 | 8 | 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Sharnebroke - - - | 8 | 15 | 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Staunbrige - - - | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Cardyngton, Fenlake, Harrowden, and Cotton - - - | 12 | 11 | 3 |
| Wotton, Stodles, and Canons - - - | 15 | 7 | 3 |
| Bedford - - - | 26 | 12 | 11 |
| Southiell - - - | 1 | 19 | 2 |
| Goldyngton - - - | 4 | 10 | 7 |
| Edworth and Hynxworth - - - | 2 | 2 | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Roxton and Chauston - - - | 0 | 6 | 3 |
| Cogepoll - - - | | | |
| Totyngton - - - | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Hastleport - - - | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Domain of the Priory - - - | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| | £149 | 6 | 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

WOOD.

Wood and Underwood, (' in sylvis seduis') copse wood.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--------------------|---|----|----------|
| Stachden, 31 acres | - | - | 1 11 0 |
| Sharnebroke, 15 | - | - | 0 15 0 |
| Salpho, 16 | - | - | 0 16 0 |
| Wotton, 8 | - | - | 0 8 0 |
| Cardyngton, 18 | - | - | 0 18 0 |
| Ronehall, 4 | - | - | 0 4 0 |
| | | | £ 4 12 0 |

Perfcuis Cur'.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|-------|
| Fines, ameracements, and other casualties—average | - | - | 2 0 0 |
|---|---|---|-------|

TOTAL - - £ 333 11 8½

Tithes, &c. payable.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|----------|
| Bailiff of Bedford, for the heygale | - | - | 3 11 11 |
| Vic' of Bedford, for certain land in Wotton, Carington, and Goldyngton | - | - | 0 8 1 |
| Abbees of Elstow, for porc' in Bedford | - | - | 1 0 0 |
| Same Abbees, for free rent in Bedford | - | - | 1 0 0 |
| Lord Latymer, for Barony of Bedford | - | - | 0 1 0 |
| Same Lord, for free rent in Ronehal, Wotton, and Stachden | - | - | 0 2 0 |
| Lord Edmund Bray, for Barony of Bedford | - | - | 0 1 0 |
| Same, for free rent of land in Stotfold | - | - | 2 0 0 |
| William Gascoigne, Kt. for Barony of Bedford | - | - | 0 1 0 |
| Lord of Baknowe, for free rent of the same | - | - | 0 1 2 |
| Thomas Goldeston, for free rent in Stacheden | - | - | 0 1 2 |
| Lord St. Amand, for free rent in Cotton | - | - | 0 3 1 |
| Master of St. Leonard's, for free rent in Wotton and Bedford | - | - | 0 7 0 |
| Prior of Cawdwell, for free rent in Bedford | - | - | 0 5 0 |
| Churchwardens of Cardington, for one lamp, to be provided for ever | - | - | 0 1 6 |
| | | | £ 9 3 11 |

Penc' et Porc'.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--------|
| Bishop of Lincoln, for indemnity of All Saints' Church, Bedford | - | - | 0 3 4 |
| Archdeacon of Bedford, for procurations and synodals | - | - | 3 19 8 |
| Vicar of St. Paul's Church, for pension | - | - | 10 0 0 |
| Vicar of Berford | - | - | 2 0 0 |
| ----- Stacheden | - | - | 2 0 0 |
| ----- Salphord | - | - | 2 0 0 |

BEDFORD.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|-----------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|
| Vicar of Willyngton - - - - - | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| — Goldyngton - - - - - | 2 | 13 | 4 |
| Hospital of St. Julian - - - - - | 2 | 13 | 4 |
| Chantry of Edlesborough - - - - - | 3 | 11 | 11 |
| | <u>£30</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>7</u> |

Feod' et Vad'.

| | | | |
|--|-------------|----------|------------|
| Fee of William Gascoigne, Kt. Capital Seneschal - - | 2 | 13 | 4 |
| Robert Stewkly, receiver - - - - - | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Henry Combes, auditor - - - - - | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| Nicholas Cokks, bailiff of Stacheden - - - - - | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| John Risley, bailiff of Toft - - - - - | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| William Kent, bailiff of Wotton - - - - - | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| John Stamford, bailiff of Salpho - - - - - | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Fee of the Vicar, 13s. 4d., and escheats, 6s. 8d. (disallowed) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | <u>£13</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> |
| | 333 | 11 | 8½ |
| | 52 | 8 | 10 |
| Summa Clara - | <u>£281</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>10½</u> |

CAWDWELL.—*Spirituals.**P'fcuis rectoriar' impropriated to the said Priory.*

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|
| Ockley and Clopham - - - - - | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| Roxston - - - - - | 24 | 0 | 0 |
| Bromham - - - - - | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Mesworth - - - - - | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Ernesby - - - - - | 14 | 6 | 8 |
| Tolsunt Major - - - - - | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Portion of Tithes in Bidnam - - - - - | 0 | 16 | 8 |
| | <u>£86</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> |

Temporals.

| | | | |
|---|----|----|----|
| Rent and farms 'infra,' Town of Bedford - - - | 11 | 15 | 6 |
| Kemston - - - - - | 1 | 18 | 4 |
| Elnestowe - - - - - | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Willstede - - - - - | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Girtford - - - - - | 2 | 18 | 0 |
| Ockley and Clopham - - - - - | 1 | 12 | 4 |
| Bednahm - - - - - | 2 | 9 | 2 |
| Milton with Lega - - - - - | 1 | 17 | 10 |
| Bromham - - - - - | 0 | 15 | 11 |

BEDFORD.

41

| | £ | s. | d. |
|----------------------------|----------|----|----|
| Potton | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Roxton and Collesden | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Shelton and Wotton | 9 | 10 | 3 |
| Carleton | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| Holwell | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Willyngton | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Cardyngton | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Northhall with Edysborough | 3 | 6 | 8 |
| Thurmeston | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| Lapworth | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Sothiell | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Barkford | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Shernebroke | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Bolnhurst | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Ev'shold | 0 | 9 | 8 |
| Segnehoo | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Mogeranger | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Letlington | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Houghton | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Flitwik | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| Wylden | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Newenton | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Domain land of the Priory | 12 | 6 | 8 |
| | £70 16 2 | | |

Bosc' (Wood).

| | | | |
|---|------|----|---|
| 'Seduis,' copse, woods, wood and underwood, to the number of 70 acres, at <i>twelve pence</i> the acre per annum | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| ' <i>P'ficuis cur.</i> ' fines and ameracements, and other casualties, average | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | £161 | 9 | 6 |

'Mis' and 'Repris'—'Pens' and 'Porc.'

| | | | |
|---|---|----|---|
| "Pens solut." Bishop of Lincoln, for church of Ernesby | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| Archdeacon of Leicester, for the said church | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| Dean and Chapter of Lincoln, for the said church | 0 | 6 | 8 |
| Vicar of the said church | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| Archdeacon of Bedford, for procurations and synodals of churches within the Deanery of Bedford | 1 | 12 | 6 |
| Choristers of Lincoln, for annual pension, proceeding from church of Ockley | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| Archdeacon of Buckingham, for church of Misworth | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Monastery of Oseney, for portion of tithes proceeding from churches of Clopham and Misworth | 8 | 13 | 4 |
| Chapel (or chaplain) of Hawnes | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| Vicar of Bromham | 2 | 0 | 0 |

BEDFORD.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|-------|----|----|
| Chapel (or chaplain) of Clopham - - - - | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Pension, for the anniversary of Henry Ruding - - | 0 | 4 | 8 |
| Visitation of Bishop of Lincoln, for said priory and churches of Masworth, Roxton, Ockley, and Bromham, at 3 <i>l.</i> 19 <i>s.</i> 10 <i>d.</i> each third year,—each year - - - - | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| Churches of Kempston and Peter Dunstable in Bedford, and tithes of grain in the same parishes - - - - | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Vestments of the convent, from the donation of Hugh de Beau- champ, proceeding from the church of Roxdon (<i>not allowed</i>) | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | £26 | 16 | 8 |

' *Resol. Redd'*.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Of temporals to several persons, as appears by book of parti- culars remaining - - - - - | 5 | 4 | 2 |
|---|---|---|---|

Fees.

| | | | |
|--|---|----|---|
| William Gascoigne, Kt. Seneschal of Bedford and Shelton - | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| Nicholas Luke, Kt. Seneschal of Roxton and Collesden - | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| John Johnson, of Ockley and Bromham - - - - | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| Henry Combes, auditor of the same - - - - | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| John Fisher, bailiff and receiver of the same - - - - | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Vicar, 13 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> , and escheats, 6 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i> (<i>not allowed</i>) - | 1 | 0 | 0 |

£161 9 6

39 7 6

Summa Clara £122 2 0

FRIARS MINORS.

| | | | |
|--|-------|---|---|
| One pasture, containing 3 acres, per annum - - - - | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Another pasture, 7 acres - - - - - | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Another pasture, 7 acres - - - - - | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Another pasture, at the end of the said close, per annum - | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | £5 | 0 | 0 |

' *Resolut.*'

| | | | |
|---|-------|---|----|
| Reserved rent Master of the Prebend of Bedf. for 2 Closes - | 1 | 3 | 10 |
| Prior of Cawdwell for another Close - - - - - | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | £1 | 6 | 10 |

5 0 0

1 6 10

Summa Clara £3 13 2

John St. John, Knight, Founder.

BEDFORD.

43

ST. JOHN'S.

£ s. d.

John String, Rector of the Hospital of St. John, Bedford,
has, in rent and other things pertaining to the said
Hospital—average - - - - - 26 9 0½

Payable from thence.

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|----|----------------|
| Bailiffs of Bedford for heygale | - | - | - | - | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Lord the King, for free rent | - | - | - | - | 0 | 11 | 10 |
| Chamberlains of Bedford | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Prior of Cawdwell | - | - | - | - | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| —— Newenham | - | - | - | - | 0 | 4 | 8 |
| Abbess of Elnestowe | - | - | - | - | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Prioress of Sapwell | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0 | 8½ |
| Prior of Chiksand | - | - | - | - | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Synodals and procurations, Archdeacon of Bedford | - | - | - | - | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Fee of the Seneschal | - | - | - | - | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| —— Bailiff | - | - | - | - | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| Alms every year | - | - | - | - | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| | | | | | | | <u>£5 8 4½</u> |

£ 26 9 0½
5 8 4½

S. C. £21 0 8

ST. LEONARD'S.

John Pells, Master of the Hospital of St. Leonard, Bedford, has, in rent
and farms belonging to the said hospital,—yearly average 20 6 4½

Payable thence.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----------------|
| Bailiffs of Bedford, <i>ad certum</i> the lord the King | - | - | - | - | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| Lord Mordaunt, free rent | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| William Gascoigne, Kt. <i>pro cons'</i> | - | - | - | - | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Michael Fisher, Kt. ditto | - | - | - | - | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Thomas Rotheran, Kt. ditto | - | - | - | - | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Lord Bray, ditto | - | - | - | - | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Abbot of Wardon, ditto | - | - | - | - | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| Prior of Newenham, ditto | - | - | - | - | 0 | 10 | 8 |
| Prioress of Sapwell, ditto | - | - | - | - | 0 | 8 | 0½ |
| Bailiff of the Hospital, for collecting rent | - | - | - | - | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| | | | | | | | <u>£3 19 8½</u> |

S. C. £16 6 8½

These Inquisitions were taken by virtue of a Commission directed, amongst others, to—

Walter Luke, Knight, one of the Justiciaries of the King's Bench.

William Gascoigne, Knight.

Michael Fisher, Knight.

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Francis Pygott, | } Auditors. |
| Robert Bulkley, | |
| Nicholas Luke, | |
| William Fitzhugh, | |

Incumbents at that time.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|------------------|
| Newenham Priory | - | - | - | - | John Asshewell. |
| Cawdwell | - | - | - | - | _____ |
| Grey Friars | - | - | - | - | _____ |
| St. Paul's | - | - | - | - | John Bird. |
| St. Mary's | - | - | - | - | Richard Mason. |
| St. Peter's Martin | - | - | - | - | Robert Porter. |
| St. Cuthbert's | - | - | - | - | Nicholas Dynsey. |
| St. John's Hospital and Church | - | - | - | - | John String. |
| Chanter of Trinity | - | - | - | - | Thomas Pye. |
| _____ Corpus Christi | - | - | - | - | Thomas Negos. |
| Master of St. Leonard's Hospital | - | - | - | - | John Pitts. |

In the year 1537, Bedford was in some sense a bishoprick, having a *suffragan* bishop. These were not uncommon at that time, to assist the diocesan bishops in their public functions; they had, we believe, no diocesan power over the clergy. The notice, as follows, is taken from Rymer's *Fœdera*.

“ Dec. 3, 1537. *Anno 29 H. VIII.*”

“ The King to Thomas Archbishop of Canterbury, &c., recites, that John Bishop of London had signified to him, that his Diocese was without, and much stood in need of, the comfort of a Suffragan Bishop; and, therefore, he presented to the King two discreet men, John Hodgkyn and Robert Struddell, Doctors of Divinity, in Priest's orders, and lawfully married, and of legal age—men well versed in spiritual and temporal affairs, against whom there was no canonical objection—humbly praying the King to

nominate one of them to some see of a Suffragan Bishop within the province of Canterbury; to which the King graciously assented, and nominated one of them, John Hodgkyn, to be Suffragan Bishop of the see of *Bedford*, requiring the Archbishop to consecrate him to the same."

In Speed's Maps of England and Wales, 1610, there is a very perspicuous plan of Bedford, with references; the aspect of which is as follows:

The arms of the town the same: the ruins of the castle appear of considerable extent. The churches are the same in number and appearance. *Allhallows Street* is that between St. Peter's church and the jail now; there is some remains of the church: and nearly behind the present jail is a large detached tower, without any description. Where the Market House is now, was the "Moute Hall;" and nearly where the Sessions House is, the "Poultry Market." St. John's Hospital looks like a small church, and has a tower gateway next the street. The Grey Friars has three sides perfect, with a tower and small spire. Cawdwell is much larger, with a tower and spire also—a wall, with a tower gateway in front; and an avenue of trees, with a wall and portal, next the road from Cawdwell street. Newenham is not seen. Near the present Harpur Place is a building, looking something like a Convent, with a spire, which is also walled in from the street, and may possibly be the jail. The town appears on the whole quite as large, or larger than it is at present. Down the river, on the south side, is a large mill, called Duck Mill. There appear to be one or two erections, like Obelisks or May Poles, in the *middle* of the High Street, near the bridge, which can scarcely be sign-posts. Several names occur of streets and lanes, which have been extinct for some time. It is possible that this plan might have been taken fifty years, or more, before it was published.

From an old record of the time of Edward III., we learn that a part of the town was then called "Aldermanbury," principally belonging to the Abbots of Elstow; but the name does not occur in the present plan.

IN the time of the civil wars, Bedford was the scene of some military operations; but the accounts of them are extremely slight. The King had very few friends in Bedfordshire. "In October, 1643, the King sent

Prince Rupert, with a strong party of horse and foot, into Bedfordshire, who took the town of Bedford, which was occupied as a strong quarter by the enemy (*Query*: how fortified?) This expedition was probably designed to countenance Sir Lewis Dyves, of Bromham, whilst he *fortified* Newport-Pagnell, at which place he hoped to fix a garrison. Heath says, it was Sir Lewis Dyves himself that commanded this expedition; and that, being sent into Bedfordshire with 2000 or 3000 horse, he came first to Ampthill, then to Bedford, which town he entered, and took Sir John Norris and other parliamentary officers prisoners. From thence he went to the house of Sir Samuel Luke (Butler's *Hudibras*), "and served *that* as his *own* house at Bromham had been served by the sequestrators." "Soon after this, Col. Montague, with some of the parliamentary forces, entered Bedford by a feint, under a pretence of their being the royal army, under Sir Lewis Dyves, and took away some money and horses intended for the King's use." It is a very singular coincidence, that nearly about this time the royalist forces executed an exactly similar manœuvre, and with the same success, at Luton. This is all that occurs respecting Bedford at this period.

In the year 1672, this town was visited by an extraordinary hurricane and tempest, of which the following curious account is taken from a pamphlet in the British Museum:

STORM AT BEDFORD, 1672.

"On Monday last, 19th of this instant August, hap'ned, in our town of Bedford, an horrible and unheard of tempest, with much terrible thunder, rain, and lightning, to the general amazement and horror of all the inhabitants, beginning about one o'clock in the afternoon and continuing for about half an hour; in which time it threw the Swan Inn gates off the hinges into the street; and after it had whirled them there up and down like a foot ball, it broke them to pieces. It drove a coach in the same yard, from the back gates up almost to the cellar door, which is several poles from thence. *It carried a great tree from beyond the river over our Paul's steeple, as if it had been a bundle of feathers.*

"* * * In Offel Lane, the violence was such that it bore down two houses in an instant, to the dreadful amazement of the spectators, that, blessed be God, escaped maiming. * * * In one of our gardens, it

rent up onion and radish beds by the roots with an incredible violence, carrying them almost two miles. It plucked up a large apricock tree by the roots, and rent it from the walls to which it was nailed, and carried it over houses and hedges almost a quarter of a mile.

“ * * * It brought a large tree from some place unknown, and set it upright in a field belonging to the Swan Inn, striking the roots of it nigh a foot into the ground; and thence plucked it up again, and carried it some certain paces further. It tore also many arms from the trees, and carried them over the river.

“ The Rose Inn gates it threw off the hinges into the middle of the street. The Maiden-head Inn gates it served in like manner, and brake them to pieces.

“ * * * Mr. Christy, our lawyer, hath also received much hurt by this strange tempest, which also came to John Rushe's shop, driving his sieves, pales, and other wooden ware up and down the streets, making a heavy clattering, scarce to be credited. The head hostler at the Ram Inn and his man were constrained to fix themselves to a post, otherwise they had been carried away by the violence.

“ At Mr. Beverley's there were trees of twenty inches square rent to pieces. The church called Saint Peter is much damnified also. The church called Saint John hath met with share in this tempest.

“ * * * Wooburne also, as we are informed, felt something of this terrible tempest, some houses in that town being levelled with the ground by it. It is reported by passengers upon the road, that they see a great combustion in the air—the clouds as it were fighting one against another, insomuch that they thought, at a distance, the town of Bedford was on a light fire.” * * * *

POSTSCRIPT.

“ It is very remarkable, that all this did not much harm upon any one, save in the terror of it, sufficiently great, one man excepted, that was hurt with a piece of timber. * * * Near *Justice Barber's* grounds was a stone wall blown down, and such breaches made that two carts abreast might go thorow. Twenty of the said Justice's stoutest elms were torn up by the roots; and the violence was so great that it cleared his orchard of most of his fruit trees, much of the fruit blown into meadows on the

other side the river Owse. A tanner's man coming over the bridge was taken up from the ground, and hardly escaped blowing over the bridge, insomuch that he fell on his belly, and crawled away upon his hands and knees. It blew down several houses at the farther end of the town, and removed one house two yards out of its place, and set the threshold where the middle of the house was before. It blew also many, several stacks of hay, which are not yet to be found. A woman sitting by her fire had her chimney blown away, and she removed in the middle of the house, without any other apparent hurt save the amazement. A fisherman had a great pile of flags carried away, which, after two days' search, was found in Putney Pastors, two miles distant from the said fisherman's house. * * *

“ These worthy and credible testimonies, with thousands more, were eye witness, that might be inserted : take as followeth :—

“ Mr. ANTHONY METHNAL, *Maior.*
 JOHN GARDENER, *Recorder.*
 FRANCIS BECKET, *Alderman.*
 THOMAS CHRISTY, *Attorney.*
 GEORGE MARGETS.
 JOHN CRAWLEY.
 JOHN RUSH, *Bedford Waggoner.*”

Whether the veracious testimonies will bear out the high colouring of this marvellous account, the reader must judge for himself: he is certainly at liberty to take it *cum grano salis*; and if the extraordinary performances in tumbling and dancing, of those articles which have been usually considered (unjustly it appears) destitute of action and vivacity, excite a smile, it will be a very innocent one.

This is nearly the last incident in the history of the town. “ In the year 1802, seventy-two houses, being for the most part very mean cottages, on the north side of the town, were destroyed by fire on the 25th of May. The fire was occasioned by a piece of a red-hot horse shoe, from a blacksmith's forge, falling on the thatch of a house. The damage amounted to about 2000*l.* The sufferers being mostly of the poorer sort, a very liberal subscription was made for them in the town and county, amounting nearly to the whole of their loss. Neat cottages have been built on the site of those which were destroyed by the fire.”—*Lysons.*

EARLS AND DUKES.

Earls.—The first Earl of Bedford was Ingram de Couci, otherwise called *Ingelram de Courcy*, Earl of Soissons and Constable of France. He was created an English Earl by this title in the year 1366, 40 Edward III.

The Earldom became extinct after his death, till the year 1549, when it was revived in the person of John Lord Russell, of an ancient Norman family, which came in with William the Conqueror, and was settled in Dorsetshire; it continued in this family till the year 1694; when the Earl of Bedford was created Duke of the same, and the Earldom finally ceased.

Dukes.—John Plantagenet, third son of Henry IV., Brother of Henry V., and Uncle of Henry VI., was the first Duke of Bedford. He was created Earl of Kendal and Duke of Bedford for life, in 1414, 2 Henry V.; and these dignities were confirmed to him and his heirs male for ever, in 1433, 11 Henry VI. The life and actions of this great man, have occupied no inconsiderable place in history. In the 6th Henry IV., 1404, he was made Constable of England, Governor of Berwick, Warder of the East Marshes, with a grant in fee of the lands of the attainted Henry Earl Percy of Northumberland, and the use of the New Tower at the entrance of Westminster Hall, for himself and his Council. On the restoration of Earl Percy, he obtained a grant of 3,000 marks per annum, as an equivalent. He was Governor of Guernsey, Jersey, Alderney, and Sark. In 1416, 4 Henry V., he was made Admiral of England, Ireland, and Aquitaine, Protector and Lord Lieutenant during the King's absence; with lands in *Beds.* and *Bucks.* In the same year he gained a victory over the French fleet off Southampton; and he raised the siege of Roxburgh in the following year. In the year 1420, he was with Henry V. at the surrender of Melun. In the year 1422, he was Godfather to Henry VI.; in the first year of whose reign, the same year, he was created Regent of France. In 1424, he gained the victory of Verneuil, and took the Duke of Alençon prisoner. In 1425, he was created Earl of Richmond. He was opposed by the celebrated Joan of Arc; but it is foreign from our purpose to enter into the history of the times. These events are said to be recorded very correctly, and certainly in a very interesting manner, in Shakspeare's Henry the Sixth. The Duke crowned King

Henry VI. in Paris, on the 7th of December, 1431. He died, in Paris, September 14, 1435, and was buried in Rouen Cathedral, where his monument is still to be seen. When Charles VIII. visited this tomb, some little-minded noblemen who accompanied him, solicited him to give orders for the destruction of the monument of the ancient foe of France, but the monarch answered with a better spirit, "*Let him rest in peace, now he is dead; it was when he was alive, and in the field, that France dreaded him.*"

His first wife was Anne, daughter of John Duke of Burgundy, who died November 14, 1432, and is buried in the Celestines Church at Paris, where her monument is still to be seen, if uninjured in the wreck of every thing sacred and venerable by the inhuman and execrable excesses of the Revolution. The name is spelt *Betford*, and *Bethford*. The Duke had a very magnificent palace in Paris, in the quarter of *Tournelles*, on the spot where that vicious modern establishment, the Palais Royal, now stands. His second wife was Jaquetta, daughter of Peter of Luxembourg, Earl, or *County* of St. Paul. She was only seventeen years old at the time of her marriage, and surviving the Duke, married Sir Richard Widville, Knight, afterwards Earl Rivers, and Lord Treasurer; and became the mother of Elizabeth Widville, Lady Grey, who married Edward IV., and of Anthony Earl Rivers, who was beheaded by the tyrant, Richard III.

There appears to be no stain on this great man's character, either with respect to valour, wisdom, integrity, or humanity. The treatment of Joan of Arc—if he was the principal in it—was the fault of an age which believed in witchcraft. There are in existence, magnificent *portraits* of this Duke and Duchess in a celebrated illuminated Missal, or Book of Offices, well known to Antiquaries, as GOUGH'S BEDFORD MISSAL. It was executed as a present from the Duke and Duchess to the young King Henry VI., at the time of his Coronation. It abounds with illustrations and miniatures; and the execution and colouring is so transcendently beautiful, that it cannot be conceived without being seen, even by those most accustomed to such works.—The violet and rose-coloured tints are particularly fine, and far exceed all performances of the present day. The Duke is represented kneeling, in a yellow-flowered robe, his countenance is a perfect English one, with a very honest and open appearance,

and rather a mild expression. Before him stands St. George, a commanding figure, dressed in the violet and ermined mantle of the order of the Garter, and with a Red Cross on his breast. Behind him is his armour-bearer, with a shield and a Red-Cross banner. The Duchess is kneeling in like manner before St. Anne, with the Virgin, her daughter, and the infant Jesus;—the Duchess's face and figure are elegant, and the group has a soft and sweet expression. In both these paintings there are several other figures, and much architectural scenery; the portrait of the Duke of Bedford is pronounced by the illustrator of the missal, to be the finest work of art, of the same date, in Europe.

George Plantagenet, youngest son of Edward IV., had the title of Duke of Bedford, but died in his infancy, and escaped a more violent death, from the sanguinary Richard III.

George Nevil, second surviving son of John Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, was created Duke of Bedford in 1471, 10 Edward IV. In the year 1478, he was deprived of his title by authority of Parliament, under the pretence that his income was not sufficient to support it, and that needy noblemen are burthensome, or oppressive to their neighbours. But the true reason was, that his Father had sided with the House of Lancaster, and the King, through the Parliament, took this vengeance on the son—happy perhaps in having escaped with no worse infliction.

Jasper Tudor, of Hatfield, was the next Duke, who was also Earl of Pembroke. He was Uncle to Henry VII., and at the battle of Bosworth Field, he is said to have rescued the King from some great personal danger, into which his noble ardour had led him. As a mark of gratitude and affection, he was in the same year created Duke of Bedford. It is certainly an honour to the town and county, that the title was generally chosen to reward noble actions.

The Princess Mary, afterwards Queen Mary, of sanguinary memory, was, in the year 1537, the twenty-second year of her age, created *Countess* of Bedford, by her Father, Henry VIII. This is certainly no other honour to the town, than that she was of the highest rank.

William Russell, Earl of Bedford, Father of the celebrated Lord William Russell, was in the year 1694, 6 William III., created Duke of Bedford and Marquis of Tavistock. In his family it continues to the present day. To enter into a history of this noble family, would far

exceed the compass of this publication. An extended account is now preparing by a Gentlemen of high poetical talent. The present Duke, John Russell, succeeded to the title in 1802. The present Duchess is Georgiana, daughter of the Duke of Gordon.

BARONY.

The Barony of Bedford belonged, for about 150 years, to the family of Bello Campo or Beauchamp*; of whom, Hugh de Beauchamp is described in Domesday Book, as possessing 20 manors; a younger branch of the family had a castle at Eaton Socon. The Barony of Bedford was given to Paim de Beauchamp, by King William Rufus. They had, at one period, 43 lordships in Bedfordshire.—Simon de Beauchamp had 42½ Knight's fees, 36½ of the old Feoffment, and eight of the new. In the end of the 13th century, their large property was divided amongst female heirs, and by this means the Barony was split into severalties. It would be very difficult, and perhaps impossible, to discover all the manors, &c., &c., of which this Barony consisted; the following, however, occur in old records:—Turvey, Milton-Ernest, Biddenham, Roxden, Goldington, Cardington, Bletsoe, Ronhale, Pabenham, Chelyngton, Hynewyke, Stacheden, Chillington, Haughton Conquest (advowson), Wroxhill, Yelden, Holcote, Battlesden, Salpho, *Dilewike* and *Briggemile*. This Barony was held of the king *in capite*, by the service of almoner, on his coronation-day, from a very early period, probably as early as the twelfth century. The fees claimed, were the silver alms' dish, or basin, in which the alms were deposited, a napkin and towel of fine linen for the same, and a tun of good wine; and also, the distribution of the purple cloth spread on the ground from the King's throne or chamber, in Westminster Hall, to the west door of the Abbey,—and also, wherever else the King and Queen should walk in procession on that day;—this cloth they were required to distribute to the poor at their discretion. The cloth from the Cathedral door to the pulpit, was the perquisite of the church.

By this tenure, the Barony has been, and still is, claimed at Coronations, by those who represent the descendants of the original possessors, or those to whom it has passed by purchase. As these respective parties are persons of rank, it is, of course, claimed rather as an honour, than an emolument.

The two principal families who possessed portions of this Barony, were the Mowbrays and the Latimers. At the coronation of Henry IV., "Thomas de Mowbray, as one of the co-heirs, by the marriage of his ancestor with Maud de Beauchamp, and John Lord Latimer, as inheriting a part of the Barony, which had passed in marriage with Maud, Daughter of Beatrix de Beauchamp, to the Boteforts, claimed this office with its privileges. The claim of Lord Latimer was allowed, and Sir Thomas Grey was appointed to represent Thomas de Mowbray, whose lands were in the King's hands."—*Lyzons*. The rolls of claims at Coronations have not been preserved with any certainty or regularity, before the accession of James I.—The following particulars of Claims at subsequent Coronations (which have never before been made public), have been extracted from the Coronation Rolls at the Roll's Chapel, by the kind permission of John Kipling, Esq., the keeper of the records there.

* Names of persons and places thus rendered, both in Latin and French, were common at that period, and the epithet *fair* was a very favourite one.—Bello Monte, Beau-mont or Bel-mont, Bello Castello, Beau-fort, Bello Loco, Beau-lieu, Bello Prato, Beau-pré, Bellâ-fide, Bella-foy, or Beau-foy, Bellâ Insulâ, Belle-Isle, Bello Marisco, Beau-maris, &c., &c., &c.

James I.

Thomas Lord Burleigh*, &c. &c., claimed in right of his wife Dorothy, to be seised in his demesne as of fee in the Barony of Bedford, and in actual possession of it.

Sir Thomas Snagg, Knight, claimed to be seised in his demesne of the Barony and Castle of Bedford, and also claimed the said office; which office, he said, that Sir John Neville, Lord Latimer, and Edmund Lord Bray, and John Lord Bray, formerly had.

William Gostwick, Esq., of Willington, claimed to be seised in his demesne as of fee in the Barony of Bedford.

Adjudication.—Because the said Barony was composed of divers manors, and was afterwards divided, first, by copartnership, and, second, by purchase, and was now in several tenures of divers persons; and because it was considered by the commissioners, that the said service ought to be performed by a person of honour and dignity: they considered that the aforesaid Lord Burleigh ought to perform the aforesaid service, and the fees to be referred to the office of the wardrobe.

Charles I.

Rolls never made up: owing, it is supposed, to the busy and unsettled state of the times.

Charles II.

John Cecil, Earl of Exeter, Lord Burleigh, claimed to hold the said Barony by grand serjeantry, to perform the said office—being absent, claimed to be admitted by deputy, and claimed the fees, viz. the silver alms' dish or basin ("esquiel," Nor. Fr.), the towel and napkin of pure linen, a tun of good wine, and the distribution of the purple cloth.

The King appointed George Carteret, Knight, Vice-Chamberlain of his household, as deputy.

And a short time after the coronation, the Earl, by his counsel, shewed that the Barony was of right held as aforesaid, and proved his title; whereupon it was determined, that the execution, by the aforesaid George Carteret, should not be held in prejudice of the Earl's title at future coronations.

James II.

The Earl of Exeter, George Blundell, Knt., and Thomas Snaggs, Esq., claimed (as in James I.), whereupon it was determined that it lay in the power of the King to appoint whichever he pleased.

The King appointed the Earl for this turn, but with a saving right to the two others.

William and Mary.

George Blundell, Esq., represented that he was seised in fee in his demesne as of the Barony of Bedford, and in present possession of it, and claimed, by grand serjeantry, to execute the office of almoner, and to receive all the accustomed perquisites, &c. &c., and prayed to be admitted by himself or deputy.

Thomas Snagg, Esq., claimed the aforesaid office and perquisites, by reason that he is seised in his demesne as and of the Barony of Bedford and the Castle, which office and perquisites, John Neville, Knt. Lord Latimer and Edmund Bray Lord Bray, and John Lord Bray, and all others whose estate in the Barony and Castle the said petitioners now have, had exercised the office, as appears by divers precedents and records.

* This nobleman and his brother, sons of the celebrated statesman, were created Earls of Salisbury and Exeter in the same day; but the younger having been created one or two hours before his elder brother, had precedence of him for the rest of his life.

Which being read and considered, as it appears to the commissioners, that the Barony was held by the aforesaid tenure, and that both the supplicants claimed severally to be possessed of it; it is in the power of the King to nominate which he pleased to perform the office and service. But as to the fees, because it appeared that at former coronations nothing had been assigned except the silver dish ("discus," Lat.), therefore only that should now be given. And with respect to the purple cloth, which covered the ground on which the King and Queen were to walk from the throne in Westminster Hall, to the west gate of St. Peter's Church, that should be assigned to whichever the King appointed as almoner; to be given, according to custom, to the poor.

Whereupon the King appointed Francis Blundell, Baronet, uncle of the aforesaid George, for this time, but with a saving right to the said Thomas Snagg.

Anne.

John Earl of Exeter, Lord Burleigh, son and heir of the same, prayed to be admitted by himself or deputy, with the whole of the original fees.

George Blundell, Esq., made the same claim.

Adjudication.—Of the title and fees, precisely the same as the last.

The Queen appointed John Earl of Exeter, for this turn, with a saving right to George Blundell, Esq.

George I.

John Earl of Exeter, Lord Burleigh, claimed the same office.

Also, George Blundell, Esq., an infant, claimed by his grand-mother and nearest of kin, Lady Elizabeth Blundell.

Judgment as above. The King appointed Montague Blundell, Baronet, in right of the aforesaid George Blundell, but with a saving right to the Earl of Exeter.

George II.

Brownlow Cecil, Earl of Exeter, claimed the office with all the original fees. Also George Blundell, Esq.

Judgment the same. The King appointed the Earl of Exeter, but with a saving right to the other.

George III.

Coronation roll not made up.

George IV.

Brownlow, Marquis and Earl of Exeter, Son and heir, &c., &c., claimed to be one of the Lords of the Barony of Bedford, and to hold the same of the King in chief, by the service of Almoner, and claimed the fees, viz., to take from off the table, before the King, the silver alms basin to the Almonry—to have the distribution of all the alms, and one fine linen towel prepared to put them in, and also a tun of good wine; all other perquisites belonging to the same office—and also to have the distribution of the purple cloth covering the ground, wherever his Majesty and his train should walk on that day.

William Henry Whitbread, of Southill, Esq., son and heir, &c., claimed to be rightfully possessed as of fee, of and in one third part of the Barony of Bedford, which Baronage he holds &c., &c.; of which third part, William Naylor Blundell, being in possession, executed the said office at the Coronation of King George III., and which third part passed by purchase to the Petitioner's Grandfather, and he prays to be admitted to the said office with the fees.

John Russell, Duke of Bedford, &c., claimed to be possessed as of fee in the Barony of Bed-

ford, and of the site of the castle, formerly belonging to Thomas Snagg, Esq., and also of the Manor and Lordship of Willington, and divers others manors, lands, and advowsons of churches, and in right of which, John Mowbray Earl of Nottingham, Thomas Mowbray Earl of Nottingham and Marshal of England, Thomas Lord Bray, William Gostwick, Esq., and others, did perform the same office at the Coronation of King Richard II., King Henry IV., King Henry V., King Edward VI., and others; and the Petitioner prayed to be admitted to the said office and fees.

Judgment, the same as in all the preceding. The King appointed the Marquis of Exeter, for this turn.

CORPORATION.

Bedford is esteemed a Corporation by prescription, and the inhabitants claim as such prior to any of their charters;—from time immemorial—“*de tempore quo non exstat memoria.*” There have been fourteen charters, from the 11th of Henry II., 1165, to the 16th of Charles II., 1666. The privileges have been mentioned above. There was formerly held a Court of Pleas for the town, where debts were recovered: this has fallen into disuse, the last was held in 1789. The style of the Corporation varies in different charters, as follows:—11 Henry III., *Burgus de Bedeford*, and *Villa de Bedeford*; 18 Edward II., *Homines de Bedeford*; 3 Edward III., *Major et Ballivi Villæ de Bedeford*; 5 Edward III., *Burgenses de Bedford*; 18 Edward III., *Homines Bedford*; 11 and 13 Richard II., 8 Henry IV., and 16 Henry VI., *Homines Bedfordiæ*.

In 5 Edward III., they were called on to pay 40*s.* for the restitution of the Mayoralty, which had been seised in the King's hands. 18 Edward III., they were summoned to pay 126*l.*, 42*l.* farm-rent for the present year, and 84*l.* arrears. In 5 Edward VI., after it had been reduced, they were again in arrears, as their liberties were seised (a customary practice at that time), for non-payment. The liberty of the town was then said to be within the Honour of Amptill.

The Corporate body consists of a Mayor, two Bailiffs, an indefinite number of Aldermen, thirteen Common Council-men, a Recorder, deputy Recorder, Town-Clerk, two Chamberlains, and three Serjeants at Mace. The present Recorder is his Grace the Duke of Bedford. The number of Aldermen is however by custom *twelve*. Before a Burgess becomes Alderman, he must have served the offices of Bailiff, Chamberlain, and Mayor; and at the expiration of his Mayoralty, he becomes an Alderman. The Mayor, Bailiffs, and Chamberlains, are elected on the 1st of September; and the Common-council, from the Burgesses, on the Wednesday before St. Matthew's day. The Bailiffs are Sheriffs of the Borough, and Lords

of the Manor. The Aldermen wear scarlet furred gowns, the Bailiffs purple furred, and the Common-council purple.

Bedford is also a Borough by prescription.—It sent two members to Parliament, as early as 1295, 56 Edward I.—and perhaps earlier. In the year 1290, 2 William III., the right of election was determined to be in the Burgesses, Freemen, and inhabitant house-holders, not receiving alms. There have since been generally many honorary freemen, and particularly of late years. The number of voters is very great, and not known. The present members are—Lord G. W. Russell, second son of the Duke of Bedford, and W. H. Whitbread, Esq.

BEDFORD is now a highly respectable county town, and in proportion to the size of the county, it exceeds in rank those of some of the adjoining ones. In Camden's time it was considered to be more eligible for the pleasantness of its situation, than for any architectural beauty or neatness. Opinion on this subject seems rather to have undergone a reverse, as the town is now very respectable in point of buildings and neatness, but the situation is certainly not generally considered particularly attractive; it has no pretensions whatever to beauty of scenery, the country being very flat on all sides. It is, however, considered healthy, and the country is generally fertile, and cultivated by a flourishing body of agriculturists and peasantry, which is perhaps, after all, the best vicinity for an English town :—

—hinc tibi copia
 Manabit ad plenum, benigno,
 Ruris honorum opulenta, cornu. *Hor.*

—To thee shall plenty flow,
 And all her riches shew,
 To raise the honour of the quiet plain. *Creech.*

The town has increased in houses and population in a very considerable degree since the commencement of the present century: this has generally been the case with all places; but there has certainly been an additional reason for the removal of persons from other places to Bedford, in the extended and extensive benefits derived from the institutions founded by Sir William Harpur. The number of houses in 1801 was 783, of inhabitants 3,968; in the following proportions :—

| | Houses. | Inhab. |
|----------------|---------|--------|
| St. Cuthbert's | 82 | 351 |
| St. John's | 54 | 254 |
| St. Mary's | 116 | 616 |
| St. Paul's | 444 | 2150 |
| St. Peter's | 87 | 577 |

1811 :

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|--------|
| St. Cuthbert's | - | - | - | - | } 4651 |
| St. John's | - | - | - | - | |
| St. Mary's | - | - | - | - | |
| St. Paul's | - | - | - | - | |
| St. Peter's | - | - | - | - | |

And at the last census, in 1821, the number of houses was no less than 1,104, and of inhabitants 5,466, as follows :—

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|-----|---|------|
| St. Cuthbert's | - | - | 131 | - | 578 |
| St. John's | - | - | 64 | - | 352 |
| St. Mary's | - | - | 143 | - | 808 |
| St. Paul's | - | - | 621 | - | 3075 |
| St. Peter's | - | - | 145 | - | 653 |

The Population is supposed now to exceed 6000.

On entering the town from the London road, the first object that presents itself is the church of St. JOHN. This building consists of a long nave and chancel, and a neat tower at the west end ; the length, from east to west, is 117 feet. The interior is remarkably neat, but contains nothing requiring particular notice. From the style of architecture, it can scarcely be thought to have been the original church of the Hospital, and has perhaps been rebuilt ; but as it has been partly modernized, this cannot easily be ascertained. The names of twenty-eight of the masters and rectors are contained in the parish register, copied from some other authority. The first named is Richard Buckingham, 1316 ; twenty-six follow in regular succession, to the present venerable and highly respected rector and master, the Rev. J. Parker, M. A., of Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

A little farther down the High Street, is the church of St. MARY, at which point there are two opposite streets, called Cawdwell and Potter's Street ; the first deriving its name from the monastery, the etymology of the other

is uncertain. In both these are some neat private houses. St. Mary's consists of a nave, north aisle, and chancel, a small north chancel and south transept, or vestry. The tower stands on arches between the nave and chancel; the nave is separated from the aisle by four pointed arches, resting on piers; the two western are plain, with segments of arches, the two eastern have handsome flat arches, with clustered pilasters. There are several monuments: one on the south side of the chancel commemorates Dr. Giles Thorne, Rector of this church and St. Peter's, Archdeacon of Buckingham, and Chaplain to Charles II.; opposite which is a neat tablet, with a well-deserved encomium on the late rector, the Rev. William Cummings. In the north aisle is the monument of John Beaumont, a physician, who died in 1698. A long Latin inscription sets forth his integrity and benevolence, and that "for his many virtues, he was dear both to God and man," and concludes with the following couplet, the only point of which, if any, lies in the first two words:—

*Ægrotat medicina; et qui renovare salutem
Invalidis poterat cogitur ipse mori.*

On the floor of the nave is the brass effigy, in his robes, of Robert Hawse, alderman, and thrice mayor of this corporation, who died in 1627.

The interior of this church has a neat and cheerful appearance. On the south side of the nave are three modern Gothic windows, of a good design, and another at the east end; at the west end is a small neat finger Organ, erected by subscription about twenty years ago. The tower contains six small musical bells, and a clock with chimes. The register of St. Mary's, with St. Peter's Dunstaple, begins in 1558; several entries are said to have been taken from one still older. It was collated by the late rector, Dr. Abbot; in it are notices of the interment of three nuns of Elstow, "Dame Ann Preston, Dame Elizabeth Fox, and Dame Elizabeth Napier," who survived the dissolution. This church belonged to the priory of Dunstaple, but the presentation was more than once contested with the Bishop of Lincoln, with different success. It appears, however, to have been settled amicably, the party which presented making some compensation to the other. It is now a rectory, in the gift of the Bishop of Lincoln; the present possessor the Rev. T. Bowens, M. A.

Opposite to St. Mary's, where is now a vacant space, stood the church

of St. Peter Dunstaple ; this, as its name imports, belonged to that priory. Before the year 1400, it was a separate parish ; it was afterwards consolidated with St. Mary's, the service being performed at each on alternate weeks, and the books and ornaments removed from one to the other. In 1545, the parishioners were permitted by Sir Edward North, Chancellor of the Augmentations, to pull down St. Peter's Church, on condition of applying the materials for the repair of St. Mary's (to which they had lately added a new aisle), in repairing the bridge, and mending the streets.

From thence, at a short distance up the High Street, we come to the Bridge. The old bridge was built in the beginning of the 13th century, on the same spot, it is supposed, as a more ancient one. It is said to have been built with the stones of the demolished castle, either given to the town, or purchased from some of those to whom they were given, as above. It consisted of five arches, rather circular than pointed ; the piers were perpendicular and flat ; the general appearance was not very handsome, although, in the dearth of handsome structures of this kind, it was formerly highly esteemed. In the 'Peregrination' of Dr. Boarde (physician to Henry VIII.) 1526, it is set down as one of the "fayre stone bridges" of England. It was 330 feet long, and only $13\frac{1}{2}$ wide, and had a parapet $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, which was rebuilt with the materials of St. Peter's Dunstaple. On each side of the centre arch was a tower gateway, but by no means handsome ; that on the north side projected on the west over the river on an arch, and had stairs descending to the water. This was used as the town gaol. The south gatehouse was used as a magazine and storehouse for the arms of the county militia, and any troops that happened to be quartered in the town. These gatehouses were pulled down in 1765.

On one side of this bridge, and adjoining it, was the free chapel of St. Thomas. This was founded by the townsmen, in the beginning of the 14th century, for a priest, who united in his person the offices of Chaplain and Bridge-Ward, and enjoying the endowment, with probably other offerings and perquisites, he was to repair the bridge at his own expense. By an old record, 1343, it appears that it was endowed with "2 messuages, 17 shops, (*shopæ*), 3 acres of land, and 7*s.* rent, in Bedford." At that time the appointment of the warden was disputed between the Corporation and the Crown. This chapel is supposed to have ceased to exist before the Reformation.

The new bridge was built in the year 1814; the architect, Mr. John Wing. It is built with stone, from Bramley Fell, in Yorkshire, but faced and balustraded with Portland; the contrast of the different hues is pleasing, and the whole structure is handsome, and creditable to the town. The length is 306 feet, the breadth 30, the chord or span of the centre arch, 45. The cost was 15,137*l.*, towards which, liberal donations were made, particularly by the Duke of Bedford and Mr. Whitbread, which were especially to be applied to the removal of liability to toll from the inhabitants of the town.

The river Ouse enters this county near Harold; and in its course through the county, of eighteen miles by land, describes one of forty-five;—like a classical river of antiquity,—

——— *tardis, ingens ubi, flexibus errat*
Mincius, et tenera prætexit arundine ripas.

This course was formerly supposed to be much greater; Fuller says, seventy or eighty, and that “from its pleasantness it is loth to leave this county.” There are nine bridges over it; the average depth is about ten feet, in some places much more. The fish are pike, perch, bream, chub, bleak, cray fish, eels, dace, roach, and gudgeon; it is considered a good river for trolling. At Bedford, the Ouse first becomes navigable, and flows through St. Neots, Huntingdon, St. Ives, Ely, Littleport, and Downham, till it falls into the sea at Lynn Wash. From Bedford to Lynn, the distance by land is about seventy-five miles; the water-course is said to be only eighty-five: the river, therefore, after it has left its “best beloved,” seems utterly to disdain the beauties of all other counties, and to have made a magnanimous resolution to pass through them all without looking to the right hand or to the left.

The Swan Inn, on the other side of the river, is a handsome stone building, erected, in a great measure, with the materials (*piget meminisse*) of Houghton-House, by the late Duke of Bedford. In front is a very neat small portico, of the Ionic order.

The High Street continues from thence in a direct line to St. Peter's Green; it contains some good houses, but it is rather irregularly built. It is excellently paved with flags, and tolerably lighted. St. Paul's Square contains the Sessions House, which was rebuilt in 1753, and is a respectable and

tolerably convenient building, of stone, but very plain, and no ornament to the town. It contains in the Hall a portrait of the late Mr. Whitbread. Beyond the Grammar School is the Hospital, a neat building, formerly a private house, with a room for the use of the trustees, and a very convenient yard and garden. Beyond this is the Preparatory, or English School, a capacious and very neat brick building, with a lantern on the top. In Harpur Place are several handsome new houses, and near this the Almshouses. The County Gaol is a strong and handsome building, of the usual appearance; it was rebuilt in 1801. In point of classification, discipline, and moral and religious instruction, this and the other prisons are in a very excellent state. Here is also the Town Gaol, and a very neat modern Penitentiary, or House of Correction, said, for the honour of the county, to have been the first county-establishment of the kind.

Returning to the High Street, we come to St. PETER'S Church. This is a very pleasing and interesting object, and is very generally admired by strangers visiting the town. The effect results not so much from its architecture, as from the neat and tasteful condition in which it has been put by the attention and assiduity of the present Rector, the Rev. Dr. Hunt. The church-yard is planted with flowering shrubs, and kept in some measure like a garden. The church consists of a nave and chancel, and a large tower in the centre, the lower part of which is used as part of the church. The upper part of this tower, which had only a parapet, has been very much improved lately by Dr. Hunt, who has erected Saxon battlements, of the proper form, with a billet moulding, and beneath a row of corbelled or bracket arches. This has been done in unison with the south door-way, which is a fine specimen of the Saxon arch. Whether it belonged to a former church, or from wherever it was removed, it appears, no one knows. There is a tradition, that it was brought from St. Peter's Dunstaple. It has four mouldings, double billet, double zigzag, plain and twisted cable; it has also the ornament of a wedge. The pillars have the usual Saxon capitals, and are spiral and twisted: the interior is very neat. The windows are tastefully ornamented with stained glass. Several ancient pieces, collected in Bedford, are placed in a lancette* window, on the north side of the chancel, and in

* Commonly, but it appears mistakenly, called *lancet*. They did not take their name from any supposed similarity to the surgical instrument, but from their being used in castellated buildings, as narrow and safe apertures, through which to shoot *lances* or small darts. *Lancette*, in French, means a small lance or dart.—*Hawkins*—(From *Olaus Magnus*, and *Du Fresne*).

the east window. Amongst them are—St. Paul; H. R. with the Crown; a Portcullis; an Eagle and Child; a Falcon; the Arms of the Isle of Man; and other arms. In the east window is an ancient figure of a Chalice with the Host, brought from the ruins of Radwell Hall. In this window is also a small modern copy of our Saviour with the Crown of Thorns, from *Guido*, commonly called, the *Ecce Homo*.

The octagonal font in this church has very handsome tracery of roses of two sorts, and again united, which has been thought to allude to the two Houses of York and Lancaster. There are also roses in lozenges, quatre-foils, and the arms of the Hazeldine's of Goldington, a Cross fleury. The font at St. Mary's has very neat tracery, but not equal to this. The tower contains five small bells and a clock; on one is inscribed, "Hoc signum Petri pulsatur nomine Christi," on another, "Tu intonas de Cœlis vox Campanæ* Michaelis." This church is now a rectory in the gift of the Crown.

In the churchyard is the tomb of Nicholas Aspinall, a former rector, with the following elegant inscription:—

Sub hoc tumulo
Depositæ sunt mortales exuvie
Reverendi viri, Nicolai Aspinall, A.M.
Apud Standon, in agro Lancastrensi nati,
In Scholâ Gram: de Clithero in eodem, educati,
Collegii Immanuelis apud Cantabrigienses alumni,
Quod 100 libris per testamentum, gratitudinis ergo donavit.
Clarissimi viri Edmundi Castelli olim Amanuensis,
Quippe linguarum Orientalium periti, cetera docti;
Ludi literarii qui est in hoc oppido non ita pridem Archididascoli;
Eidem à Collegio Novo sive Sanctæ Mariæ apud Oxon præpositi:
Cui Collegio etiam 100 libris per testamentum dono dedit;
Hujus Ecclesiæ nuper Rectoris fidelissimi,
In tuendis ejus juribus, strenuissimi
Erga Deum pii,
Sibi duri,
Amicis percari,
Omnibus facilis ac benevoli,
Morum gravitate venerandi,

* Bells were called *Campana* and *Nola*, from Paulinus, Bishop of Nola, in Campania, who first applied them to their present purpose about the year 400. *Nola*, or *Skilla*, was a small bell rung in the quire, *Signum*, a bell in the tower, and *Campana*, a bell in the steeple, the highest of all. This may be thought to explain "de Cœlis."

Veri et æqui, siquis alius, amantissimi,
 Humilis, modesti, et injuriarum patientissimi,
 Contemptoris mundi valdè, et celestia anhelantis;
 Ecclesiæ, Patriæ, Monarchiæque Anglicanæ cultoris inflexibilis.

Viro optimo
 Meliora merito
 Hoc monumentum erexit
 Mærens Soror, D^{na} Priscilla Whalley,
 Septuaginta annos nato,
 Nonis Octobris denato,
 Sexti idûs sepulto,
 Anno Salutis Humanæ,
 1727.

It appears by the register, that there was an awful visitation of the plague in this town, in the year 1575, as the names of thirty persons, in this small parish, are recorded, who died from it between the 6th of May, 1575, and the 25th of July, 1576. Amongst them are two appalling and pathetic instances, of *five* out of one family.

St. Peter's Green is planted with trees, and is a very refreshing appendage to the town. In this part are many neat houses; St. Cuthbert's Church stands back from the street on the right hand. This is a small and mean structure, having a low nave and chancel under one roof, tiled, and a wooden turret in the centre, with a clock and bell. The interior is also extremely humble, and contains nothing requiring notice, except some remains of a Saxon font. There was also an old Saxon font in St. Paul's, which has been removed. A chantry of St. Cuthbert's is mentioned in old records, whether connected with the present church or not, is not known. This is a rectory in the gift of the Crown; the present rector, the Rev. H. Tattam, M. A.

In the town is also a neat Moravian Chapel, which contains an Organ, and has what is called The Single Sister's House adjoining, and also a cemetery. There are also four respectable Meeting-Houses of the Dissenters, and a Jew's Synagogue.

There is no market-house, only some neat shambles; a market-house is spoken of to be erected, with a town-hall. The principal market is held

on Saturday and is very fully attended, principally by corn dealers, but almost all commodities are sold at it. A small market is held on Mondays in St. Mary's. A market was formerly held there on Tuesdays, granted or confirmed by charter, with two fairs, in 1553. There are six fairs—the 1st Tuesday in Lent, April 21, Old Midsummer day, August 21, October 12, and December 19. There is also a fair at St. Leonard's Farm, November 17; and an annual wool fair is held on St. Peter's Green.

The society in Bedford is very respectable, and there are the usual amusements and employments of a large town. The assizes and sessions are always held here, and all other county meetings, with those of the many charitable and useful institutions which do honour to this county.

The Bedford House of Industry is a very large and neat brick building, on the north of the town, begun in 1794 and finished in 1796; the exterior is plain. It is fitted up with every attention to the health and comfort of the inhabitants, and receives in common the poor of all the five parishes, and there is a chapel for their use. It is managed by a committee, who also, by act of parliament (34 Geo. III.) manage the expenditure of the poor rates for the whole town. This seems likely to be for the advantage of the poor, as their just claims cannot fail to meet with full attention.

The County Lunatic Asylum, on the south side of the town, is said to have been the first of the kind erected in England, under late acts for that purpose. It is a large brick building, with a very handsome front, having stone quoins, facings and architraves; the wall which incloses it has also a handsome arched portal of stone. The architect was Mr. Wing, and the cost 9,584*l.* This establishment is regularly visited by the magistrates, and every care is taken to render the situation of the inmates as tolerable as their pitiable condition will admit; the allowance for pauper patients, paid by the parishes, is nine shillings a week.

The County Infirmary is situated near the last. This was erected by subscription in 1803, aided by a munificent bequest from the father of the late Mr. Whitbread, who gave towards its erection and endowment 10,000*l.* Lord Hampden also gave 1,000*l.*, and many others considerable sums. The present Duke of Bedford and the Marquis of Tavistock have been most liberal benefactors to it; the former giving 100*l.* annually; and the latter presented it with 2000*l.* in lieu of entertainments to freeholders at the last

election*. Many other liberal donations have been bestowed on it; as also annual subscriptions. It was originally built to accommodate 40 patients, at an expense of 6,150*l.*; a considerable addition has been made to it, just finished, to accommodate 30 more, at an expense of 4,000*l.*, which has been raised by subscription. The front is of brick, neatly faced and ornamented with stone; over the door is this *very* appropriate quotation:—

I WAS A STRANGER, AND YE TOOK ME IN, NAKED AND YE
CLOTHED ME, SICK AND IN PRISON, AND YE VISITED ME.

As an interested motive cannot be suspected in flattering a whole county, the author of these humble pages is happy to record, for the information and example of other districts, that this little county has in proportion to its size distributed more munificent charity, in the foundation and maintenance of public institutions, than any other part of the kingdom.

“ Here shall soft Charity repair,
And break the bonds of Grief;
Down the harrowed couch of Care,
Man to man must bring relief.”

The number of persons cured or relieved by this establishment since the year 1803 is, in-patients 3,530; out-patients 6,103; total, 9,633. The number in the last year was 225, and 1,109; on the books 49 and 250.

The receipts and expenditure in 1826, were as follows: receipts, funded property, 636*l.*; from some small sources, 77*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*; collected at St. Paul's Church, 105*l.* 19*s.* 0*d.*; annual subscriptions from individuals, 1,054*l.* 16*s.*; ditto from eighty-seven parishes in the county, 239*l.* 8*s.* 0*d.*; total, 2,115*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* Expenditure, 1,811*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* At different periods, when the institution has been in arrears, it has been assisted by collections

* Among others, are the Duchess of Bedford, Lord Grantham, lord lieutenant, Lord Holland, the Marquis of Bute, Lord Carteret, J. Higgins, Esq., &c. &c.

in the churches throughout the county. It has been also more than once aided by the sale of fancy work from the ladies of the county, never deficient in acts of this kind. An annual sermon is preached at St. Paul's Church, at which about 100*l.* is usually collected. Several clergymen gratuitously visit the House, and with the exception of the house surgeon, the physician and surgeons attend gratuitously.



Painted by C. G. W. Mendenhall.

THE GREAT HOSPITAL BUILDING, BOSTON, MASS., 1854.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C.

AMPTHILL.

AMPTHILL HOUSE.

AMPTHILL HOUSE, now the seat of the Right Hon. Lord Holland, is a plain but very neat edifice, built of good stone. It was erected by the first Lord Ashburnham, then the possessor of the estate in 1694. It is situated rather below the summit of a hill, which rises at some little distance behind, and much less elevated than the site of the old castle, but has still a commanding situation in front, and is sufficiently elevated to possess a great share of the fine view over the vale of Bedford. It is also well sheltered by trees, though the passing traveller would have no idea of the magnificent lime alley, which is concealed behind it. The House has a long front, abundantly furnished with windows, and has two deep and projecting wings. In the centre is a plain angular pediment, bearing the late Lord Ossory's arms, and over the door is a small circular one, pierced for an antique bust, and supported by two three-quarter Ionic pillars. In this House is a small collection of Paintings, &c., principally portraits, which are distributed throughout the apartments as follows:—

Hall (which is ascended by a grand Flight of Steps), 23 feet by 26, 15 high.

Marble Bust of the Duke of Wellington, by *Nollekens*.
 Antique marble female Bust.
 Copy, marble, of Venus of Medicis.
 Marble Head of Homer, from the Antique.
 Head of Meleager, Antique, in fine Parian marble.
 Antique marble Head of Mercury, very fine and curious.
 Bust of Julius Cæsar, in marble, from the Antique.
 Small Bust of Annius Verus, Son of Marcus Aurelius, from the Antique, and placed
 on an antique marble candelabra.
 Another marble Head from the Antique.
 Marble Bust of Garrick, by *Roubillac*.
 Antique Vase.
 Antique Sarcophagus, with *alto relievo* Group, in marble.
 Groups of Horses, in bronze-coloured stucco, over the doors, by *Garnaret*.

Drawing Room—30½ feet by 24, 15 high.

Over Chimney-piece, Lord Ossory; copy from Sir J. Reynolds.
 A Doge of Venice.
 Portrait of Lord Holland, by *Sir Joshua Reynolds*.
 Portrait of Caroline, Lady Holland, by *Sir Joshua*.
 Portrait of a Nobleman, by *Vandyke*.
 Landscape, by *Poussin*.
 Landscape.
 Susannah and Elders.
 Lady Holland, whole length, *Romney*.
 Archbishop Laud, *Vandyke*.
 Italian Landscape, by *Boquet*.
 Ditto, by *Moir*.
 View of a Castle.
 Military View.

Breakfast Room.

View of Constantinople (4½ feet by 8), with Galata and Scutari, and the Mysian
 Olympus in the distance.
 Cascade.
 Ruins from different situations, grouped, *Canaletti*.
 Storm at Sea.
 Moonlight View.
 Duke of York (brother of George III.), Lord Ossory, Lord Palmerston, Mr. Beau-
 cleric, &c., *Bach*, Florence.
 Sea Piece.

North Room, adjoining.

Edward VI.
 Cecil Lord Burleigh.
 Madonna and Child; St. John.
 Lord Macartney, by *Philips*.
 John, second Marquis of Lansdown, *Fabriz*, Florence, 1795.
 Francis, fourth Earl of Bedford, from *Vandyke*.
 Lady Holland, Mother of Lord Holland, by *Gainsborough*.
 Hunting Piece.
 Madonna.
 Turkish Officers.

Canopy Bed Room.

Venus bathing, *Titian*.
 Copy of Sir J. Reynolds' Portrait of Himself, in Crayons, *Lady Anne Fitzpatrick*.
 Child, by *Sir J. Reynolds*.
 Ditto. do.
 Four female Portraits, in Crayons, very beautiful and delicate in contour and colouring, *Rosalba*.
 One female Portrait, on Copper.

Dining Room, 29 feet square.

John Duke of Bedford, copied from *Gainsborough* by *Sir J. R.*
 Evelyn Lady Ossory, Lord Ossory's Mother, by *Knapton*.
 First Earl of Ossory, her Husband, by *Ramsay*.
 Late Earl of Ossory, by *Philips*.
 Lady Ossory, copied from *Sir Joshua*.
 Mary Lady Holland, by *Battoni*.
 Richard Lord Gowran, Father of the first Lord Ossory.
 Gertrude Duchess of Bedford, by *Gainsborough*.
 Family Picture, Lord Ossory, his Children, and General Fitzpatrick, by *Knapton*.
 Sea Piece, bought at Bedford House sale.
 Ditto.
 Chimney-piece, Italian, red and Carrara marble.

In a long passage between the Dining room and the Library, and also partly in the Library, and an adjoining room, is a very fine collection of stuffed birds, British and Foreign. The British comprise nearly all the most curious varieties of the different species, and those most eminent for beauty of plumage. Among the Foreign is a splendid collection of Tropical Birds of the gayest colours, and also several large and valuable ones from different parts of the world. There are also a few animals. The total number is between 4 and 500; it would be impossible to give a full list and description of them; amongst the finest, however, are the

following:—A fine scarlet or crimson *Ibis*, the mythological bird of ancient Egypt; Bird of Paradise; the *Hoopo*, (*Upupa Opos*) a bird used in Hieroglyphics, and to be seen on ancient Zodiacs; several Toucans; very large Argus Pheasant; Paroquets, of various colours; Black-throated Diver; *Ossifragus* Falcon; *Menura Superba*; *Garrula Coracias* (Roller); Cayenne Chatterer; Ultra-marine Thrush; Yellow-bellied Shrike; Penantian Parrot, White-bellied Parrot, &c.; Red-throated Diver; Sedge Warbler; Yellow Oriole, or Thrush; *Columbia Stellatus*; Speckled Duck; Groups of Humming Birds, &c., &c., &c.

To an admirer of Nature, these will be the most interesting objects about the House. The colours of some of them, may, without exaggeration, be pronounced equal to *gems*; and without any extraordinary flight of imagination, may remind the spectator, of the ruby, emerald, sapphire, or aqua-marine, (as why should they not, the same Master-hand made all).

Library—52 feet by 26.

Chimney piece, Carrara and Sienna marble, *Terra Cotta*, Bull on Thyrsus, Ionic pillars.

Over it, Virgin teaching the infant Jesus to read, by *Annibal Caracci*.

Douglas Bishop of Salisbury, by *Sir Joshua Reynolds*.

Swiss Scene, in oil, by *Bunbury* the Caricaturist.

Major Webster, by *Shee*.

Prints.

Six cases of Sulphurs from antique gems.

Room adjoining.

John Gay.

Pope.

Landscape.

Lady Gowran.

N. Buonaparte on Horseback, by *Vernet*.

Casts.

Lady Holland's Room.

Minature of N. Buonaparte.

Cabinet with curious Ivory Groupes.

Dressing Room.

Engravings of the Escorial, and others.

Charles I., &c., &c.

Staircase.

Several Landscapes, Prints, Costumes, &c.

At the foot of the Staircase is a large painting, formerly *in fresco* at Houghton House, which was taken off the wall, and put on canvas by an ingenious process of the late Mr. Salmon. It represents a game-keeper, or woodman, taking aim with a cross-bow, full front, with some curious perspective scenery, 6 feet by 9½ feet. We have heard a tradition, that it is some person of high rank in disguise; some say James I., who was once on a visit at Houghton. From the propensities of "gentle King Jamie," this is not unlikely.

The Pleasure Ground at the back of the house, commands a pleasing, extensive view; beyond this is the lime walk, which is certainly one of the finest in England.—It is upwards of a quarter of a mile in length, the trees, in some parts, finely arching; and may be pronounced, upon the whole, superior to any walk in Oxford or Cambridge.

The Park in which this house stands, is well known, from many descriptions, to be a singularly picturesque and pleasing one. It is, at the same time, a small one, but the dimensions are concealed by the numerous and beautiful groups of trees with which it is studded. The oaks are particularly celebrated for their great size and age, several of them are supposed to be upwards of 500 years old, and some do not hesitate to say 1,000 years; the girth of many of them is ten yards, or considerably more. A survey of this Park, by order of the Conventional Parliament, in 1653, pronounced 287 of these oaks as being hollow, and too much decayed for the use of the navy. The whole of these remain to this day, and may, perhaps, continue two or three centuries longer; some few of them have been scathed by lightning. The eye of an Englishman will be much pleased by the fine specimens here of that tree, which has always been considered the characteristic ornament, and at the same time, the emblem of his native land.

“ Rich is thy soil and merciful thy clime,
Thy streams unfailing in the summer's drought,
Unmatched thy guardian *Oaks*.”

Still more majestic shalt thou rise,
More dreadful from each foreign stroke;
As the loud blast which rends the skies,
Serves but to root thy native *Oak*.—*Thomson*.

Behind the house, near the entrance of the park from the turnpike-road, are some ponds, similar in appearance to those frequently seen adjoining ancient mansions; above these, at the edge of a precipice, was the front of the ancient CASTLE. This building is doubtless that erected by Lord Fanhope, at the beginning of the fifteenth century. It was used as a royal resort by Henry VIII., who was often here, and by Queen Catherine, who resided here some time previous, and during the time her divorce was in process at Dunstable. There are, in the possession of Lord Holland, two ground plans of this Castle, which, by the late Lord Ossory, were supposed to have been taken about the year 1616, at which time it was supposed the Castle was demolished. From these, the following particulars of this building are collected:—The area was a square of about 220 feet; in front was a large court, 115 feet by 120; behind this were two very small ones, each 45 feet square; and between these was an oblong court yard. Between the front and back courts, the building had two small lateral projections, like the transepts of a church. In front were two square projecting towers; and round the building, at irregular distances, were nine others, projecting, of different shapes, but principally five-sided segments of octagons—if this description be intelligible. It was, probably, from the general appearance of the plan, intended more as a residence for a nobleman or prince, than a fortress, although the situation was favourable for defence. The view in front is extremely beautiful for this part of the country.

Lord Ossory planted a grove of firs at the back of this spot, and erected, in 1773, in the centre, a monument, consisting of an octagonal shaft raised on four steps, surmounted by a Cross, bearing a shield with Queen Catherine's arms, of Castile and Arragon. This was designed by Mr. Essex, the improver of King's College Chapel, and is very neat, but of small dimensions. On a tablet inserted in the base of the Cross, is the following inscription, from the pen of Horace Walpole, Earl of Orford, which when read on the spot, excites some degree of interest.—

In days of yore, here Ampthill's towers were seen,
The mournful refuge of an injured Queen;
Here flowed her pure, but unavailing tears,
Here blinded zeal sustained her sinking years.

Yet Freedom hence her radiant banner wav'd,
 And Love avenged a realm by priests enslav'd ;
 From Catherine's wrongs a nation's bliss was spread,
 And Luther's light from lawless Henry's bed.

About half a mile from the House, is the town of Ampthill. This is only the seventh town in the county in point of population, but is considered to be the second in point of neatness, Woburn being the first. The number of houses in 1801, was 237; inhabitants, 1234. In 1811, the population was 1296; in 1821, there were 290 houses, and 1527 inhabitants. The town is surrounded by hills, and has four streets, not perfectly at right angles; many of the houses are very respectable. There is a decent market place, and an old building called the Moot Hall, on which is a clock and cupola. Leland says of Ampthill, just at the commencement of the 16th century.—“The Market Town of Antehil is praty, and well favoridly builed, part of it standith on hill, but the most and the best parte in a valley. There roneth a Broket (brook), as I remember, by the Est part of the Towne;—aboute the Castelle selfe, and the Towne of Antehil, is fair wood.” The Sessions, and it has been said the Assizes also, were held here in 1684, through the interest of the Earl of Aylesbury, who resided at Houghton House. At the entrance of the Town from Woburn, a promenade has been laid out for the use of the inhabitants, by Lord Holland, and planted with limes, after the *Alamedas* of Spain. Some complimentary verses have been addressed to him on the occasion, by Mr. Wiffen; who has also complimented the inhabitants of the Town, by predicting that it will be always the resort of liberal and amicable students, politicians, and admirers of nature, and of innocent and happy lovers, which latter, especially, we must be cynical, not to wish accomplished.

About a mile from the town is an Hospital or alm's-house, very liberally endowed by Mr. John Cross, in 1690. It is a very respectable brick building, with a cupola on the top; and maintains seven poor men and six women, who have now, from the improved condition of the estates, 20*l.* per annum each; and one of the men, who is the Reader, has 5*l.* extra. The Bishop of Lincoln, and the Vice Chancellor of Oxford, are Visitors.

The Parish Church of Ampthill, is a respectable edifice, of no great dimensions. The interior is tolerably neat, and has clustered columns.

The pulpit, of wainscot, hexagonal, stands on an arch over the aisle at the entrance to the chancel. At the west end is a plain tower with five bells. In the north aisle, were formerly the figures of Lord Fanhope, and his wife the Duchess of Norfolk, with their arms painted on a banner between; the figures were very well executed, and were supposed to have been brought from the chapel of the Castle. They have been, however, removed, and it is not known where. They are engraved in one of Sandford's Works. In the north aisle, on a slab, is the effigy, with arms, and a helmet on the wall above, of Peter Herve, Knight, who died on the feast of St. Oswald, 1532. On the north side of the chancel, is a pillar of yellow marble, with an Ionic capital and an Urn of white marble, erected to the memory of the late Earl of Ossory. And at the east end is the monument of Richard Nicholls, Esq., of Ampthill House; the cannon ball which occasioned his death, (said to be the same) is fixed in the pediment, and over it is inscribed, "Instrumentum Mortis, et Immortalitatis—the Instrument of Mortality, and Immortality;" we presume that it is so intended in the Latin, as a play upon the words.

M. S.

Optimis parentibus nunc tumulo conjunctus,

Pietate semper conjunctissimus,

Hic jacet

Richardus Nicolls, Francisci. Ictus. ex Margar. Bruce

Filius,

Il.limo *Jacobo Duci Ebor: a Cubiculis intimus;*

Anno 1643, relictis musarum castris,

Turmam equestrem contra rebelles duxit,

Juvenis strenuus, atq. impiger.

Anno 1664, ætate jam & scientiâ militari maturus,

In AMERICAM

Septentrionalem, cum imperio missus,

Longam Ïslam cæterasq. insulas,

Belgis expulsis, vero Domino restituit.

Provinciam arcesq. munitissimas

Heri sui titulis insignivit,

Et Triennio pro Preside rexit.

Academiâ Literis

Bello Virtute

Aulâ Candore Animi

Magistratu Prudentiâ

Celebris :

Ubiq. bonis carus, sibi & negotiis par.
 — 28^o Maii, 1672,
 Nave pretoriâ contra eosd: Belgas
 Fortiter dimicans,
 Ictu Globi majoris transfossus occubuit.
 Fratres habuit,
 Præter *Gulielmum* præcoci fato defunctum,
Edvardum, et *Franciscum*,
 Utrumq. copiarum pedestrium centurionem;
 Qui, fœdæ et servilis tyrannidis
 Quæ tunc *Angliam* oppresserat, impatientes,
 Exilio prælato (si modo regem extorrem sequi exil: sit)
 Alter *Parisiis*, alter *Hagd*, comites,
 Ad Cœlestem patriam migrârunt.

On the roof of the nave are some small old coats of arms, among which a Lion rampant, gules, in a field, argent, is predominant. Different charitable benefactions, to the amount of about 60*l.* per annum, are recorded. The living is a rectory, in the gift of Lord Holland; the present possessor, the Rev. — Knapp, M. A.

Adjoining the town and park on the west, is the romantic and beautiful village of Milbrook, the Church of which stands on a hill above the village, and commands a grand prospect. From the top of the tower, in one direction, the view is considered to extend to forty miles. The church is a neat building, with some old monuments, and has, in one of the upper windows, the arms of Lord Fanhope, Baron Milbrook. The situation of this village, particularly when seen from the high road, is really beautiful. The market at Ampthill is holden on Thursday, and is well attended; it was originally granted, in 1219, to Joan Aibini, married to Geoffrey Beauchamp; and confirmed, with a fair, on St. Mary Magdalen's-day eve and morrow, in 1242. There is only one fair now, on the 4th of May. In the year 1340, when the *ninth* was taken, four marks only was returned for Ampthill. The *garbel* was two marks. There was said to be no corn in the parish, except a little 'siligo' (fine or *manchet* wheat), of moderate value; because all the rest of the crops of grain belonging to the inhabitants, was rated in other parishes. And the ninth of fleeces and lambs, was only 1*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, because it is said the flocks belonging to the inhabitants, were folded in other parishes. Houghton parish was rated at *fourteen* marks.—*Nonarum Inquisitiones.*

The manor of Ampthill, at the time of the Norman Survey, belonged to the family of Albini, who were Barons of Caynho, at Clophill, and had twelve manors. From them it passed to the St. Amands, a family which had much property in this county in the 13th and 14th centuries, and distinguished themselves in the Crusades. From them it went to the Beauchamps, of whom William Beauchamp conveyed it to Sir John Cornwall. He was a distinguished character, and his connexion with Ampthill has raised it in history. He was born at sea; his mother was niece to the Duke of Britany. The epithet of *Green* Cornwall he is said to have had (*wittily*) from the colour of the sea, where he was born, by Pennant; but with due deference to him, this story seems almost too silly for belief, and induces a doubt. He might possibly have derived it from some plume or device he usually wore. At York, in a tournament, he vanquished, in the presence of Henry IV., two valiant Knights, one a *Frenchman*, and the other an *Italian*. By this he won the heart of the Princess Elizabeth, the King's sister, daughter to John Duke of Gaunt, and widow of John Duke of Exeter, whom he married. At the battle of Agincourt he had a post of honour, with the Duke of York, in the war. In this engagement he took prisoner, Louis de Bourbon, County of Vendome, and had his ransom, which probably helped to build his magnificent house or castle at Ampthill, which Leland says he built with the spoils he won in France. He was a Knight of the Garter, created Baron Fanhope in 1442, and Baron Milbrook in 1443, in which year he died. In the absence of Henry V., he was intrusted "with the defence of these parts." On his marriage, he obtained a grant from Henry Prince of Wales, of several manors and castles, and he afterwards obtained a grant of an annuity for his own and his wife's lives, of 400 marks out of the same. In this County he had the manors of Ampthill, Milbrook, Houghton, Tingrith, Flitwick, and *Pelyng*.

In 1453, Henry Duke of Exeter, his wife's son, entered into a bond of 6,000 marks, to abide by the arbitration of Sir Thomas Bouchier, respecting the Manor of Ampthill, and other estates. Reginald Grey Earl of Kent, was, by whatever means, possessed of the manor in 1524; and soon after, by exchange or otherwise, it came into the King's hands.

It is well known to all in the least acquainted with English History, that Queen Catherine resided in this Castle at the time her divorce was

pending, and also some time before. She came in 1531, and the Divorce was passed in 1533. Of the cause which led to this Divorce, it may be simply remarked, that Henry would never have found, or pretended, any scruples with respect to his former marriage, if he had not seen Anne Boleyn. His was not that excellent disposition of mind, which is ever fearful of offending against some duty; he had not a *tender* conscience; the general tenor of his life, proves this. It has been said, that Queen Catherine's habits and tastes were not sufficiently varied and gay to please the inclination of the Monarch, and this may be very true, but it is no excuse for his treatment of her; she was "the wife of his youth," and this he ought not to have forgotten. Should any one, however, from any reason, be inclined to palliate his conduct in this instance, let them only look to his behaviour towards the lovely victim of his despicable passion. After he had, from the most frivolous pretexts, succeeded in procuring her sentence of condemnation, he is said (on good authority), to have evinced such an utter want of all human feeling, towards her whom he once thought himself so passionately attached to—her to whom he had unjustly sacrificed a former faithful and patient consort, as to have rejoiced and exulted, when he saw the signal of her execution! No power of human eloquence could add effect to the detestation which all must feel at this simple fact.

Shakspeare, who, in a great measure seems a faithful chronicler, has glossed over the character of Henry VIII.; but it must never be forgotten that he lived in the reign of his *daughter*. There is no occasion whatever to attempt to palliate his conduct, as one of the most powerful promoters of the Reformation. That event was brought about from a chain of much more deeply rivetted causes, and a better influence, than the caprice of a despicable tyrant.

The account of the immediate proceedings of the Divorce might here be very fully given, from Holinshed, Grafton, Stow, Burnet, and others, but it is unnecessary, as it is given at length in the histories of England. The opinions of the Universities of Europe (however obtained) being procured, and an opposition to the Pope being determined on, Dunstable was selected (being then a place of considerable note) as the place for executing the proceedings of the Divorcé; a principal reason for which was, that there might be no delay in the citation and the answer thereto. The

Commissioners were, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishops of London, Winchester, Bath and Wells, and Lincoln, and many Divines and Canonists. The King and Queen were both summoned; the King appeared by proxy, but the Queen took no notice of the summons. She was cited by one Doctor Lee. She was "called peremptorie," fifteen days together, but not appearing, or intending to appear, she was declared contumacious, and the marriage declared *de facto*, and not *de jure*, and the sentence of divorce was pronounced on the 23d of May; and five days after, the King's marriage with the new Queen was publicly confirmed.

The Archbishop

Of Canterbury, accompanied with other
 Learned and reverend fathers of his order,
 Held a late court at Dunstable, six miles off
 From Amphill, where the Princess lay, to which
 She oft was cited by them, but appeared not;
 And, to be short, for non-appearance, and
 The King's late scruple, by the main assent
 Of all these learned men, she was divorced,
 And the late marriage made of none effect:
 Since which she has removed to Kimbolton,
 Where she remains now sick.—*Shak. Hen. VIII.*

Queen Catherine soon after removed to Kimbolton. The account of her death is exactly accordant with the description of Shakspeare, except, perhaps, the beautiful vision he has introduced. Her kind consideration of her faithful followers, and the last message she sent the King, are most correctly given. The ambassador's name was *Eustachius Capuchius*.

The Act for constituting Amphill an Honour, passed in the year 1542, 33 Hen. VIII., begins thus: "Consideringe that the Kinge's most excellent Majesty myndeth and intendeth, by the Grace of God, to erecte, buylde, and edifie upon his Grace's mannor of Amphill, in the Countie of Bedford, sumptuous, statelye, beautyfull, and princelye buyldings and edy-fices, and the same as his Highness hath alredeye, with goodlye and parklye parks, so hereafter with diverse and sundrie other like thing of pleasure and commoditie to beautifie, adorn, and decorite; mete, apt, and convenient for the longe conservacion of the King's most royal person, at suche tyme and tymes as his Majestie shall have accesse to the same." It seemed, therefore, that it should not only be abundantly supplied with

lands, &c. “ but also ought of all convenience in reason, to be ornated and sett forth with the name and title of an *honour*.” Wherefore it was enacted that all manors, parks, messuages, sites of monasteries, granges, lands, tenures, reversions, services, and all other hereditaments, liberties, and commodities lying or being in any of the annexed towns or parishes in which the King was seised of an estate of inheritance, or any of their appurtenances lying in any part of England, “ should, from henceforth, be perpetuallye knytt, annexed, and unyted to the saide Manor of Ampthill;” and that the same manor of Ampthill, with these additions, should be perpetually hereafter called an *Honour*. “ And that the same which heretofore have been taken for the Mannor of Ampthill, shall, from henceforth, be taken and adjudged the chiefe, principall, and capital parte and place of the whole Honour of Ampthill.” And all other possessions which, by purchase or forfeiture, &c. should come into the hands of the King hereafter, in the said places, should be annexed to the said Honour. The places in which the King is said to have property, are as follows: “ Ampthill, Milbroke, Fletewike, Malden, Stepingley, Westovinge, Houghton Congest, Wishamstede, Littlington, Husbondcrawley, Rigemond *cum* Sageno, Aspeley Geys, Cuphill, Caynoo, Shefforde, Cranefield, Polloxhill, Harlington, Todington, Barton, Shillington, Chalgrave, Mariston, Woorburne, Evershal, Milton Brian, Warden, Elvestowe, Caudewell, Donistable, Salforde, Holcoote, Bedford, Wotton, Kempston, and the Mannor of Colmworth, in the saide Countie of Bedf’, and Newport-pannel, Tikforth, Mulso, Great Lidforth, Litel Lidforth, Stewkely, Little Brickhill, Boobrickhill, Wavendon, North Crawley and Swanborne, in the Countie of Buckingham.”

THE Survey of Ampthill Park, made by order of Parliament, 1649, speaks of the Castle as being long ago totally demolished*. There was, however, what was called the Great Lodge, or Capital Mansion. King James I. gave the Honour of Ampthill to the Earl of Kelly. It soon reverted to the Crown. In 1612, Thomas, Lord Fenton, and Elizabeth his wife, resigned the office of High Steward of the Honour of Ampthill to the King. The following year the custody of the Great Park was granted to Lord Bruce, whose family became lessees of the Honour, which they kept till 1738. In the 17th century, the Nicholls's became lessees of the Great Park under the Bruces, who reserved the office of Master of the Game. The Nicholls's resided at the capital Mansion. After the Restoration, Ampthill Great Park was granted by Charles II. to Mr. John Ashburnham, as some reward for his distinguished services to his father and himself (*vide* Hist. Eng.). The first Lord Ashburnham built the present House, in 1694. In 1720 it was purchased of this family by Viscount Fitzwilliam, who sold it in 1736 to Lady Gowran, grandmother of the late Lord Ossory, who in 1800, became possessed of the lease of the Honour†, by exchange with the Duke of Bedford. His family name, an ancient one in Ireland, was Fitzpatrick; he was Earl of Upper Ossory in Ireland,

* In Peck's *Desiderata Curiosa*, is a list of salaries paid in Queen Elizabeth's time to the Keepers, &c. of all the Royal Palaces and Castles. At Ampthill they were as follows:—Keeper of the Manor House, 2*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, Great Park, 4*l.*, with herbage and pannage, 15*l.*; *Paler* of the park, 4*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*, herbage and pannage, 15*l.*

Mr. Peck was a *minute* antiquary, but a very worthy man. The above quotation is not more "beneath the dignity of history" than one of his insertions, which the unmerciful Warburton has quoted as an object of ridicule, *viz.* a will of one Roger Cecil, in which he bequeaths "to his lovyng wife, twentye kye and one bulle;" and to his daughter, Mary, "two compleat feather beds," which, however, were perhaps rare and valuable articles then.

† There is still a Coroner, who takes his title from this Honour.

and Baron of the same in England. He died in 1818, and was succeeded by Lord Holland, the present possessor, who has also a fine old Mansion at Kensington.

The present Lord Holland, Henry Richard Vassal Fox, Baron Holland of Holland Co. Lincoln, and Foxley Co. Wilts, Recorder of Nottingham, F. R. S. A.; was born November 23, 1773, succeeded to the title in 1774; married, 1797, Elizabeth, a daughter of Richard Vassal, Esq. His lordship has issue, Charles Stephen, born 1802; Mary Elizabeth, 1806; Henry Edward, —. Charles Stephen was born 1799, died 1800; and Georgiana Anne, born 1809, deceased 1819.

Stephen, his father, the second Lord, was born February 20, 1745; succeeded to the title on the death of his mother, 1774; married Mary Fitzpatrick, daughter of John, first Earl of Upper Ossory; had issue Caroline, Mary, and Amelia, (all of whom died young), and the present Lord.

His father, Henry Fox, the first Lord Holland, was younger brother of Stephen Fox, first Earl of Ilchester, and second and youngest son by the second marriage, of Sir Stephen Fox, Knight. He was appointed, 1737, Surveyor-General of the Board of Works; 1743, Commissioner of the Treasury; 1746, Secretary at War, and a Privy Councillor; 1755, Lord Justice during the King's intended absence in Germany; and November same year, Secretary of State; 1757, Paymaster-General of the Forces and Clerk of the Pells in Ireland. He married, 1744, Georgiana Caroline Lennox, eldest daughter of Charles, second Duke of Richmond (by Sarah, eldest daughter and co-heir of William Earl of Cadogan) by whom he had four sons: Stephen, second Lord; Henry, died an infant; Charles James Fox, the celebrated Statesman, Lord of the Admiralty and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, ob. 13 September 1806; Henry Edward, born 1755, Lieutenant-Governor of Gibraltar, a General, and Colonel of the 10th Foot, who married, 1786, Marianne, daughter of William Clayton, Esq., and sister of Catherine, Baroness Howard de Walden; ob. 1808; their children were, Louisa Amelia, married, 1807, to Major-General Sir Henry Edward Bunbury, K. C. B.; Stephen, born 1791; ob. 1811; Caroline, married in 1811, to Lieutenant-Colonel William Napier, C. B. 43d Foot, son of the Honourable George Napier, and grandson of Francis Lord Napier.

Lady Georgiana Fox was created Baroness Holland, of Holland, Co. Lincoln, 1762 ; to which title her son succeeded ; and Henry, her husband, was created Baron Holland, of Foxley Co. Wilts, 1763.

ARMS.

Argent, on a chevron azure, three Fox's heads, erased, proper.

SUPPORTERS.

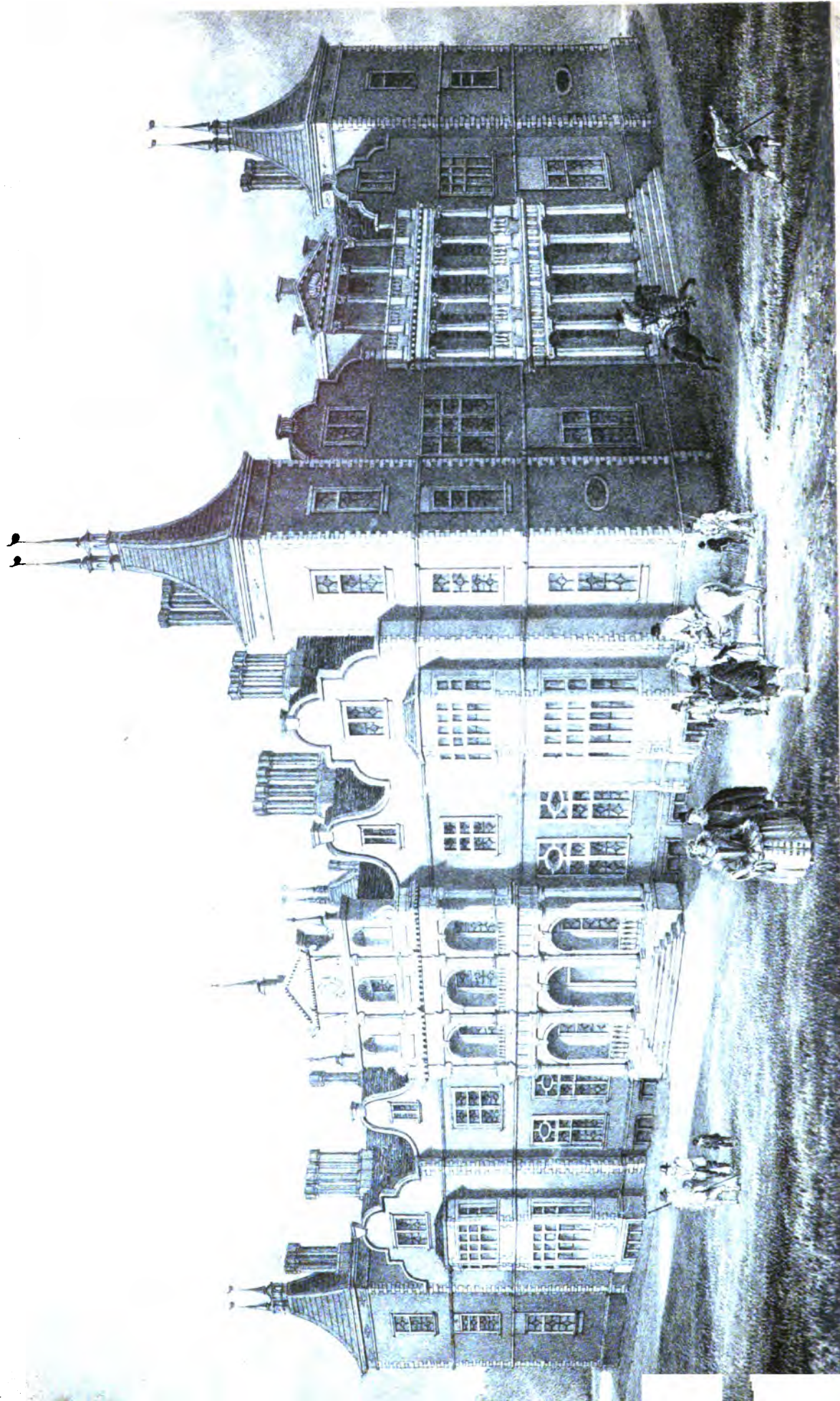
Two Foxes with collars and one chained or, argent and sable.

CREST.

A Fox sejant.

MOTTO.

ET VITAM IMPENDERE VERO.



Fortification, Constantinople.

View from the Sea.

1850. 1851. 1852. 1853. 1854. 1855. 1856. 1857. 1858. 1859. 1860. 1861. 1862. 1863. 1864. 1865. 1866. 1867. 1868. 1869. 1870. 1871. 1872. 1873. 1874. 1875. 1876. 1877. 1878. 1879. 1880. 1881. 1882. 1883. 1884. 1885. 1886. 1887. 1888. 1889. 1890. 1891. 1892. 1893. 1894. 1895. 1896. 1897. 1898. 1899. 1900.

HOUGHTON-CONQUEST.

THE Parish of Houghton, about two miles from Ampthill, takes its additional name from the ancient family of the Conquests, who possessed the Manor in the 13th, and perhaps in the 12th century. Sir John Conquest was one of the Bedfordshire Knights, serving in the army of Henry III. Their Mansion was called Houghton, or Conquest, Bury. There are now some small remains of it, of brick and timber, the eaves curiously carved. The male line of this family became extinct in Benedict Conquest, father of Lady Arundel, and the estate was purchased of them by Lord Ossory's father, in the year 1741.

Another Manor in this Parish, with a Park, belonged to the family of the St. Amands. In the year 1415, Eleanor de St. Amand, petitioned Parliament against Lord Grey de Ruthyn, for redress on account of several outrages he had committed in her park at Ampthill and elsewhere. From her it took the name of Dame Ellens-bury. It passed, with other estates of the St. Amands (including Milbrook and Harlington) to Lord Fanhope, and afterwards became the property of Sir William Gascoyne, who surrendered it to the King, in 1538.

It appears that there was both Ellensbury Manor and Ellensbury Park. They were united in the Bruce Family; and, in 1630, were granted

by charter to one Ditchfield, and others, who conveyed it to Sir Francis Clerke, whose heirs sold it to the Pigots, and they again to the Earl of Aylesbury, in 1675. In 1738, it was purchased of his family by the Duke of Bedford, and from thence passed, with Houghton Park, into the hands of the Earl of Ossory.

Houghton, or Dame Ellensbury Park, was, in the beginning of James I. reign, occupied by Sir Edmund Conquest, as Keeper. King James, in one of his "progresses," in 1605, honoured him with a visit, we presume at his house of Conquest-bury, Houghton House being not then erected. He staid here, and at Hawnes, about a week, his Queen being entertained at Sir Roger Newdigate's, at Hawnes. On the 28th, it being the Feast-day at Houghton, the King, with all his court, attended service at Houghton Church; viz. the Duke of Lennox; the Earls of Northampton, Suffolk, Salisbury, Devonshire, and Pembroke; Lords Knoller, Wootten, and Stanhope, and Bishop Watson, his Almoner. And, on the 30th, which was Sunday, they went to the Church of Hawnes.

It was soon after this period that the present House was built, by the celebrated Mary Sidney Herbert, Countess of Pembroke. For this fact, of its being erected by the Countess of Pembroke, we must repose confidence in the respectable testimony of Mr. Lysons. He declares, on the authority of some records in the possession of his Grace the Duke of Bedford, that in the year 1615, Sir Edmund Conquest, lessee under the Crown, of Houghton Park, made over his interest in it to the Lady Mary Sidney, then a widow, through her trustees, Matthew Lister and Leonard Welstead; and he positively asserts, that she erected the House—which she must have begun to do immediately, as she died in 1621. This fine building, which would now command respect, and which was then particularly distinguished as one of the first specimens of Grecian, or rather Roman architecture, introduced into England; is generally supposed to be the work of *Imigo Jones*, whose name is sufficient to confer on it a very high rank. This is highly probable, because he was much patronised by her son William, Earl of Pembroke, for whom he erected great part of his seat at Wilton; and it is also probable, because it bears distinguishing marks of his style, sufficient perhaps to gain the confidence of the most experienced architects. Some part of it closely approximates to Palladio's style. The centre of the north front is almost

exactly similar to part of the Convent *della Carita* at Venice, except that the latter is the *interior* of a square. This was built by Palladio, after the plan of a Palace in *ancient* Rome. This part, therefore, of Houghton House may boast of a very high and Classical origin.

The House is now dismantled and in ruins, but we are enabled to give a plan and description of it from some elevations, taken before it was demolished, in the possession of Lord Holland, and obligingly lent by him for that purpose. Great part of the Facade and minor parts of the fronts, particularly the west and the north, remaining, with the pillars and ornaments, in good condition, assist us very much in our notice. The House was built square, but with no interior area; three of the fronts were exposed and ornamented; the fourth looked towards the offices. The length of the north and south fronts, as measured by Mr. Pennant, is 122 feet; the west 76. At the corners were square towers, spire roofed, like those of Montague House, now the British Museum. The height of these towers to the apex, was about 65 feet; on the summit were two open pinnacles. The walls are of brick, but the mullions, facings, copings, fillets, &c. &c., of fine stone; and of course the columns and entablatures. The south front is the plainest of the three, it has no columns; in the centre is a tower elevation, which has the corners rounded off, and the upper story has Ionic pilasters; at the top is a balustrade with crowns. On each side, between this and the corner towers, is a large bay-window. The west front had three tiers of columns, of which the upper is now entirely gone. Below is a portico of six Doric columns, and pilasters: the frieze has triglyphs, and several devices of the Sidney and Dudley families, as metopes, between. Above this is a very handsome loggia of six Ionic columns, which has a balustrade, forming it into a gallery. Above this was a pediment, supported by four Corinthian or Composite columns (we can scarcely discern which); within it, is a scallop shell, beautifully carved. The centre of the north front is exceedingly perfect. Below are four Doric columns, with the frieze ornamented as the other; and between the pillars are three arches. The loggia above, is nearly similar, of the Ionic order. The third elevation has only two Ionic (three-quarter, as all these are) pillars, and three windows, the two side ones blank; the upper part of each of these has a large shell, most beautifully wrought; above is a coat of arms and a handsome pediment, with three spiral pinnacles. All the windows of these fronts

are in the style of Elizabeth, or James the First's reign, and some of them are handsome. The chimneys are curiously carved; the roofs are ridged, in the usual style of houses of this date. The whole may, perhaps, be termed by some a medley, but it has a very fine effect; a much more pleasing one to many, than the stiff, regular, and petty imitations of Grecian or Venetian architecture, with which England is now most plentifully studded.

The devices on these porticos, which consist of monograms, ciphers, bears, ragged staves, crowned lions, crowns on arrow, or lance heads, porcupines, &c. &c., refer to the Sidney and Dudley families, principally the former. The Countess of Pembroke's illustrious brother, Sir Philip Sidney, is said to have written his *Arcadia* in this Park; but it is not likely he should have had any particular connexion with it, as it did not come into his sister's possession till some time after his death. It is said, however, that the House was built after some plan or description in the *Arcadia*, which those who read it with attention, may perhaps be able to discover. The device of the *Porcupine* is on the frontispiece of the second edition. We may, therefore, claim Sir Philip Sidney's name as in some measure connected with Houghton House.

Of this eminent person much need not be said here, as his actions are fully emblazoned in the page of history. His character is said to have been, upon the whole, one of the most unexceptionable of his age. In his youth, he shewed some symptoms of a very ungovernable temper, which led him into one or two excesses of passion, which ought never to be palliated in any one. But where can we look for one who has, through all his life, maintained a regular and even course of tranquillity and virtue? And it being not difficult to find many who imitate him in this point, where shall we find those who have his redeeming and estimable virtues? His talents were eminently qualified to excel, both in the refinements of policy and the direction of state affairs, in the honourable career of military glory, in the elegant paths of literature, and in the less glaring, but not less steadily bright course of virtuous and beneficent services towards his fellow-creatures. And those powers of mind with which he was gifted, he did not suffer to rust by carelessness and apathy,—

Spirits are not finely touch'd,
But to fine issues.

By his various attainments, he rendered himself not only beloved by his sovereign and his fellow-subjects, but highly esteemed abroad. He gained, like the Chevalier Bayard, the fame of a "stainless Knight." It has been asserted that he was offered the Crown of Poland, but it is now thought to be an exaggeration, and cannot be proved. He was ambassador at the Court of Vienna when only twenty-two years old. Besides the *Arcadia*, he wrote a *Defence of Poetry*, one of the earliest pieces of criticism in English. In the year 1585, being in command, with the Earl of Leicester's expedition in Holland, he was mortally wounded, at the battle of Zutphen, Oct. 17th, and died in the most happy and Christian-like manner. The States of Zealand solicited the honour of interring his remains; but the Queen caused them to be conveyed to England, and interred with public state, in Westminster Abbey. The last act of his life has been often quoted, but yet must not be omitted. After being mortally wounded, as they were carrying him to the camp, some water was brought him, to allay his feverish thirst; but seeing a soldier lying in a dying state, and looking wistfully at the cup, he immediately put it away from his lips, and desired them to take it to the poor soldier, saying, 'Poor man! his necessity is greater than mine!' "An act," says Dr. Aikin, "which might alone place him amongst the noblest spirits on record."

Lady Mary Sidney, his sister, was married to the Earl of Pembroke, in 1576. She was a lady of the sweetest disposition, and the most elegant acquirements; and is said not only to have attained a high situation in literature herself, but to have been a most considerate and liberal patroness of it in others. All contemporary writers speak of her with the highest esteem and regard. She wrote several works. It is said that either herself or her brother, Sir Philip, translated the whole of the Psalms into English metre. Coxeter says it was her, assisted by her Lord's Chaplain, Dr. Gervase Babington, afterwards Bishop of Exeter; Wood (*Athen. Oxon.*) says it was Sir Philip, and that he had seen a copy. Some Psalms, versified by her, are said, however, to be contained in Harrington's *Nugæ Antiquæ*. The work by which she is known, is "the Tragedie of Antonie, done from the French," dated Ramsbury, Nov. 26, 1590, and printed in 1595, 4to and 18mo. No French author is named; and we are unable to say whether this is a fact, or whether it is a literary fiction. The Play commences with Antony's reflections, after the battle of Actium, introduces

Cleopatra, and Cæsar, Agrippa, &c., and concludes with a narration of Antony and Cleopatra's death. It is written, in some measure, on the Greek model, having no incidents introduced, only related; and it has a single Chorus. The style, perhaps, may in general, not be thought above mediocrity, but, from its early date, it is curious, and we therefore give these extracts as fair specimens of the dialogue and chorus. The book is, we believe, extremely rare, and almost generally unknown. The copy this is taken from is a small one, in the British Museum :—

* * * *

Since then, the baies so well thy forehead knewe,
To Venus' myrtles yielded have their place,
Trumpets to pipes, field-tents to courtly bowers,
Launces and pikes to daunces and to feastes.

* * * *

CHORUS.

We want that woeful song
Wherewith wood musique's queen,
Doth ease her woes among
Fresh Spring-time's bushes green;
On pleasant branch alone
Renewing ancient moan.

We want that meanful sound,
That prattling Progne makes,
On fields of Thracian ground,
On streams of Thracian lakes;
To empt her breast of pain,
For Itys by her slain.

* * *

NILE.

Wand'ring Prince of Ruler's thou,
Honour of the Cæthiop's land,
Of a Lord and Master now,
Thou a slave in awe must stand;
Now of Tiber which is spread,
Lesse in force and lesse in fame,
Reverence thou must the name.

* * *

One day, there will come a day,
Which shall quail thy fortune's flow'r,
And theè ruinede low shall lay
In some barbarous Prince's power.

When the pittie-wanting fire
 Shall, O Rome, thy beauties burn,
 And to humble ashes turne
 Thy proud wealth and rich attire,
 Those guilt roofs which turret wise,
 Justly making envy mourne,
 Threaten now to pearce the skies.

* * *

Who fearless and with courage bold,
 Can Acheron's black face behold,
 Which muddy water beareth ;
 And crossing over, in the way,
 Is not amazed at *Perruque gray*
 Olde rusty Charon weareth ;
 Who void of dread can look upon
 The dreadful shades that roam alone,
 On banks where sound no voices.
 Whom with her fire-brands and her snakes,
 No whit afraid Alecto makes,
 Nor triple barking noises ;
 Who freely can himself dispose,
 Of that last hour which all must close,
 And leave this life at pleasure ;
 This noble freedom more esteems,
 And in his heart more precious deems,
 Than crown and kingly treasure.

CÆSAR.—*Of Antony.*

—— All Asia's forces into one he drew,
 And forth he sett upon the azur'd waves
 A thousand and a thousand ships, which, filled
 With souldiors' pikes, with targets, arrows, darts,
 Made Neptune quake, and all the wat'ry troops
 Of Glauques, and Tritons lodg'd at Actium.

A G R.

But no one thing the gods can less abide
 In deedes of man, than arrogance and pride ;
 And still the proud which too much takes in hand,
 Shall foulest fall when best he thinks to stand.

CÆSAR.

Right—as some palace, or some stately tower,
 Which overlooks the neighbour-buildings round,
 In scorning wise, and to the skies upgrows,
 Which in short time his own weight overthrows.

* * *

N

CHORUS.

I hope the cause of jarre,
 And of this bloody warre,
 And deadly discord gone,
 By what we last have done.
 Our banks shall cherish now
 The branchy pale-hewed bow
 Of Olive—Pallas' praise,
 Instead of barren bays.

And that his temple door,
 Which bloody Mars before
 Held open—now at last
 Old Janus shall make fast.
 And rust the sword consume,
 And, spoil'd of waving plume,
 The useless morion shall
 On crooke hang by the wall.

Old memory doth there
 Painted on forehead wear
 Our Fathers' praise; thence torne
 Our triumph's bays have worne;
 Whereby our matchless Rome,
 Whilome of Shepherds come,
 Rais'd to this greatness stands,
 The Queene of foreign lands.

Which now e'en seems to face,
 The Heavens her glories place,
 Nought resting under skies,
 That dare affront her eyes;
 So that she needs but feare
 The weapons Jove doth bear,
 Who angry at one blow,
 May her quite overthrow.

The following verses were addressed to her by one *Daniel*, in the dedication of his *Cleopatra* :—

I who (contented with an humble song),
 Made music to myself, that plesed me best;
 And only told of *Delia* and her wrong,
 And praised her eyes, and 'plained my own unrest,
 A text from whence my Muse had not digressed,
 Madam, had not thy well-grac'd Antony
 (Who all alone having remained long),
 Required his *Cleopatra's* company.

This beloved and lamented lady died in 1621, and is buried, with her family, in Salisbury Cathedral. Her epitaph, by Ben Johnson, is well-known, but will not be injured by being quoted once more :—

Underneath this marble hearse,
Lies—the subject of all verse—
Sidney's sister, Pembroke's mother.
—Death—e'er thou hast slain another,
Fair and good, and learn'd as she,
Time shall throw a dart at Thee!

This is not the whole of the epitaph, but the remaining lines are very inferior.

In the year 1630, Houghton Park was granted in fee to Lord Bruce, whose descendants, the Earls of Elgin and Aylesbury, resided here for about a century. “ In the year 1615, the celebrated Christiana, Countess of Devonshire, spent three years in retirement, after the battle of Worcester, at her brother's, the Earl of Elgin's house ;” “ lightening,” as the author of her life observes, “ her griefs, and her expenses.” The following account is given of this Lady, by Pennant :—

“ Christiana, daughter to Edward Lord Bruce, of Kinloss, and wife to the second William, Earl of Devonshire. This lady, who is less talked of than others, was by far the most illustrious character of the age in which she lived. Her virtues, domestic and public, were of the most exalted kind. Hospitality, charity and piety, were in her pre-eminent. I speak not of her maternal cares; nature dictates that more or less, in all the sex : but her abilities in the management of the vast affairs of her family, perplexed with numberless litigations, gave her a distinguished character. She at least equalled her lord in loyalty, and was indefatigable in inciting the nobility, who had quitted the cause of Majesty, to expiate their error. After the battle of Worcester, she lived three years in privacy, at her brother's house at Ampthill, and had correspondence with several great personages, on the subject of restoring the exiled King. The reserved *Monk* had such an opinion of her prudence, as to communicate to her the signal by which she might know his intentions on that subject. She lived in high esteem, to a very advanced age; died in 1674, and was interred by her beloved lord, at Derby.”—*Pennant*.

“ In her youth, she was the Platonic mistress of William Earl of Pembroke, who, in accordance with the romantic gallantry of the times, wrote a volume of poems in her praise. * * * Her affability and sweet

address," says her Biographer, "so won the favour of the sages of the law, that King Charles said to her, 'Madam, you have all my Judges at your disposal.'"

Houghton House, while in the possession of the Duke of Bedford, was repaired, and the interior fitted up, by Sir W. Chambers, for the Marquis of Tavistock, father of the present Duke of Bedford. Lord Ossory afterwards resided in it for a short time. In 1794, it was dismantled, as above stated.

The Park, in which this Mansion stood, must have been a very beautiful one. The views from it are grand, and the numerous fine avenues of trees which remain, give some idea of its pleasantness in its perfect state; the old road, leading from the town, has an avenue of fine old *Chesnuts*, rather a rare circumstance. When King James was here, he passed much time in hunting, for which, and particularly for the stately style of pageantry with which it was formerly conducted, this Park afforded abundant scope.

Here, as of old 'twas sung, Diana stray'd,
Bath'd in the streams, or sought the cooling shade;
Here, arm'd with silver bows, at early dawn,
Her buskin'd virgins traced the dewy lawn.—*Windsor Forest.*

The situation of the House is charming, and the view very beautiful, over the vale of Bedford. About the House, are many venerable yews, firs, &c., which formerly stood in the pleasure grounds. And one or two avenues may be traced leading to opposite hills. Evidence is rather against the circumstance of Sir Philip Sidney having written the *Arcadia* here; it was probably composed at Penshurst, where the attractions are still greater, and where Waller also wrote some of his poems.

Houghton Church, is a large ancient structure; it contains the tomb and effigies of John Conquest, Esq., Lord of Houghton, and Richard his son and heir, and Isabella his wife; of whom, Richard died in 1400: and another, of Richard Conquest, and Elizabeth his wife, the former of whom died, July 28, 1500.—Arms: "per cross, a file of five points; Conquest—over one of the ladies, two swords in saltire, points in chief." Here is also, the effigies of Richard Archer, Rector of the Parish, and Chaplain to James I., a worthy and eminent Divine; and of Dr. Zachary Gray, Rector, the Editor of *Hudibras*, and a Commentator on Shakspeare, with an eulogistic inscription.

A Free School, and Almshouse, was founded at Houghton, by Sir Francis Clerke, the great benefactor to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.





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L U T O N .

LUTON is a considerable Town in Bedfordshire, in the Hundred of Manshead, and Deanery of Dunstable; distant from London thirty-one miles, from Bedford, eighteen; from Dunstable, five; and from Woburn, fourteen.

The parish is of very great extent, being thirty-four miles in circuit, and containing 17,000 acres, rather more than a *seventeenth* part of the whole county. It contains several hamlets; as Legrave, Limberry, Stopsley, East Hyde, West Hyde, &c. &c. The population has been, at different periods, as follows: 1801, the whole parish, 612 houses and 3,095 inhabitants; 1811, ditto 3,769; 1821, Luton town, 574 houses, 2,986 inhabitants; parish, 279—1,543; total, 853, houses and 4,529 inhabitants. The population is said to be now about 5,000.

The town is tolerably, but very irregularly built; the streets are wide, and one or two of them are partly paved. The Market-house is a very plain brick building, on wooden pillars. The only structure at all deserving of notice, or of which the inhabitants have any reason to be proud, is the Parish Church.

Luton Church is built in the form of a Latin Cross, with the tower at the west end, in place of the intersection, and consists of a nave and

chancel, the Wenlock chapel, and a vestry, on the north side of the chancel, two side aisles, and two transepts. The south transept has a small side aisle on the east, which, we believe, was formerly called Hoo Chapel. There are also two porches to the side aisles, with a room above each, in which the priests are said to have resided; or, at least, they were rooms for their occasional use. At the west end is a lofty and handsome square tower, of flint and stone, in chequer work. At each corner, at the top, is an hexagonal turret, supported and strengthened below by buttresses of seven stages, the lower tiers of which were adorned with niches and statues, now much mutilated, and apparently of very friable stone. The height of this tower, to the top of the turrets, is ninety feet; a small spire, leaded, and cross, rise about twenty feet higher. The south-east turret rises from the ground, and contains a staircase. The west side has a grand arched doorway, without pillars, adorned with carvings of roses and other flowers, above which is a handsome window, with interlacing arches. The exterior of the Church labours now under many disadvantages, having been in part repaired in a very bad style, with brick battlements; but it has, notwithstanding, upon the whole, a handsome appearance. The length of the interior, including the tower, from east to west, is 174 feet, the width of the nave and aisles 57, the length of the cross aisle, from north to south, 100. The nave and aisles are separated by five pointed arches on each side, the arch of the transept making a sixth; the two western arches have lateral arches, springing to the walls of the side aisles. At the west end is a lofty and grand arch, opening into the tower, having strong clustered columns, with foliated capitals, similar (on a *minute* scale) to those of York Minster, or (on the authority of Hakewell's View) those in the Cathedral of Milan. The nave, looking from the chancel, presents a fine arcade on each side. The effect is, however, much diminished by the very plain style of the pillars, which are partly octagonal and partly clustered. The whole of the architecture is Gothic*; the body is said to

* It is entirely foreign to the nature of this little publication, to enter into any disquisition on the origin of that architecture, which is now generally allowed was never used by the *Goths*. It is also rather a ticklish subject for a noviciary antiquarian to meddle with. It is, however, believed to have strong claims to an European origin. Much has been said on this subject by Hawkins, and Milner; the former of whom has quoted as a very perfect early specimen, the Abbey Church of *Clugny*, which was certainly built before the Crusades, and is still older than St. Cross, Winchester, quoted by Milner.

have been built about the middle of the fourteenth century. The chancel was rebuilt in the fifteenth century, by John Wheathamstead, Abbot of St. Alban's, to which Abbey the Church belonged.

This Abbot Wheathamstead, appears to have been a man of high character. His family name was Bostock; he took the name of Wheathamstead from the village of that name, near St. Alban's and Luton, which in Saxon, signifies *the place abounding with wheat*. He was a Monk of Tinmouth, and afterwards 23d Abbot of St. Alban's, "of great learning, godly life, and pleasant disposition." His motto, which is on these stalls, is "Valles abundabunt," with the last word repeated thus:

Val.les.ha.bun.da.bunt.Val.les.

He resigned the Abbacy, on the reverse which attended his patron, Humphrey Duke of Gloucester; but on the death of his successor, being intreated to resume it by the brethren, who respected and loved him, he consented, and held it till his death. He has a magnificent monument in the Abbey Church, inscribed with the following lines, the third of which alludes to the device of ears of wheat:

Quis jacet hic?—Pater ille Johannes nomina magna,
Cui WHETHAMSTEDII parvula villa dedit,
Triticæ in tumulo signant quoque nomen aristæ,
Vitam, Res claræ, non monumenta notant.

Who lieth here? that Father John to whom,
From lowly Whethamstead a name did come.
Those sculptured wheaten ears denote his name;
But noble Acts, not tombs, his Life proclaim.

On the south side are four stone stalls, on the right of the altar, very richly carved, with cinquefoil ogee arches, and pinnacles between; above is a cornice of flowers, as in Wenlock chapel. On the spandrils are eight shields, bearing coats of arms, as follows:—

I. A chevron, between three bunches of ears of wheat, three in each.—
John de Wheathamstead.

II. A chevron voided, between 3 Roses—*W. Wickham, Bishop of Winchester.*

III. Three Crowns—*Mercia*.

IV. A cross saltire.—*King Offa, or St. Alban's Abbey*.

V. Wickham's, repeated.

VI. Wheathamstead's, repeated.

VII. Four Lions rampant, per pale, argent, and or.—*Unknown*.

VIII. A cross fleury, or, between 4 martlets, and one beneath, argent.—*Edward the Confessor*.

On the same side of the chancel, west of the last, is a very handsome arched recess, having its roof very delicately groined, almost like lace-work, which has been strangely omitted by Lysons; on the front of the pediment, at the top, are *Bears*, carved in stone. Pennant speaks of a recess, doubtless the same, containing the figure of an Abbot (of St. Alban's, as he supposes, to which the church belonged), with a crosier; this is now entirely gone, and the recess is occupied by a handsome modern pyramidal monument to Miss Harriet Gutteridge. Above this is a neat tablet, commemorative of William Stuart, Archbishop of Armagh, "for 17 years, the active, zealous, and conscientious Vicar of this Parish." On the north wall is an affectionate tribute to Theodosia, wife of Samuel Crawley, Esq. of Stockwood. The east window of the Church is a very tasteless modern one. The Vestry, which is 18½ feet by 17½, has a groined roof, resting on a single pillar in the centre. On the north side of the chancel, is the *Wenlock Chapel*, well known to antiquaries by that title. This is said to have been founded about the year 1450, by Sir John Wenlock, afterwards Lord Wenlock; but it has been also said, that it was founded in this, or a former Church, by one of his ancestors, and only rebuilt by him. There is an inscription in the British Museum, quoted by Mr. Lysons, to the following purport:

Jesu Christ, most of might,
Have mercy on John le Wenlock, Knight,
And on his wife Elizabeth,
Who out of this world is passed by death;
Which founded this Chapel here;
Help them with your hearty prayer,
That they may come unto that place
Where ever is joy and solace.

This inscription, with his portrait, was formerly in the east window, but has been destroyed or removed. Wenlock Chapel is separated from the

chancel by two beautiful pointed arches, of a very novel appearance, being in fact, one large obtuse arch, divided into two, by a clustered column, or rather, a slight pier, with clustered pilasters; the spandril is filled with open mullions; the whole of the interior of these arches, and also this side wall of the chapel is covered with handsome tracery. Above, is Wenlock's arms; argent, a chevron, between three Blackamoor's heads; the crest, a plume of feathers; and also others, and his arms repeated, within the garter. From their extreme lightness, these arches are tied together with iron rods, as in Westminster Abbey.

The corbels were carved grotesque and grim,
And the pillars, with cluster'd shafts so trim,
With base and with capital flourish'd around,
Seem'd bundles of lances which garlands had bound.

Lay of the Last Minstrel.

Under this arch is an altar tomb, said to be that of William Wenlock, prebendary of Brownswood in St. Paul's Cathedral, and Master of the Hospital of Farleigh, at Luton, who died in 1392. He was great uncle to Lord Wenlock, and it is therefore supposed, that the tomb must have been removed when the chapel was built; but if it was only rebuilt, that would not have been necessary. The arms are not the same, but are supposed either to be those of Farleigh, or Santingfield, to which it belonged. The figure of Wenlock is in a strait plaited robe and mantle, these were originally painted red, and black velvet; crown shaven at top; lying on a cushion, borne up by two angels; at his feet, a headless beast, with claws; his arms are crossed, and bear two labels, inscribed thus, "Salve Regina mater misericordie."—"Jhu fili Dei miserere mei." On the sides are the following inscriptions:

(W) illelmus sic tumulatus,
De Wenlok natus,
In ordine presbiteratus.
Alter hujus ville
Dominus meus fuit ille
Hic licet indignus
Anime Deus esto benignus!

In Wenlok brād I,
In this town lordships hād I.
Here am I now fady
Christes Moder—help me Lady!
Under these stones
For a time shall I rest my bones,
Dey mot I ned ones—(Qy?)
Myghtful God, grant me thy wones! (mercy)

It is extraordinary, that le Neve should have asserted this to be the tomb of John Lord Wenlock himself (of whom more hereafter), who was

slain at the battle of Tewksbury. One glance at the first inscription, proves the contrary. Wenlock Chapel is $25\frac{1}{2}$ feet, by 35. The windows have been ornamented with bright stained glass; there are considerable remains, principally architectural, in the upper part of the two northern ones, and the east has been nearly filled with it: here still remains a figure of St. George, on foot, with a red cross on his breast; he is in the act of attacking the dragon. Beneath are five men and a woman, in blue furred gowns, in an attitude of prayer. On the north side, are some arched altar tombs, in the wall, divested of their figures and inscriptions; these belonged to the ancient family of Rotheram. In this chapel are also interred, Anthony Lord Grey; Sir Francis Crawley, one of the Justices of the Common Pleas, in the time of Charles I., who having given offence to the Parliament, by supporting the King's claim of ship-money, was removed from his situation; ob. 1649; also his son, Francis Crawley, a Baron of the Exchequer; ob. 1682. In the middle of the chapel, is an altar tomb, called by Pennant, shell marble, and said on the spot, to be granite; which has round it eight shields in lozenges, deprived of their arms, and on it the brass figure of a veiled lady, under a Gothic canopy of three arches, without any inscription. On the east side of the chapel, is another vestry, or school-room, over the lower one, ascended by a staircase; and at the north-east angle, a small tower or turret. The chapel opens into the north transept, by two plain arches, with clustered pillars; under which, is a very ancient carved wooden screen.

In the south transept, is the celebrated BAPTISTERY, which, if not unique, is the finest specimen of its kind in England. It has more than once changed its situation, having been placed at the west end, and under one of the south arches. It has six pointed arches, octagonal, the upper part filled with open tracery of quatrefoils; on their summit is a rich ornament, or pinnacle, of foliage; the sides are also bordered with the same; between each arch is a buttress and pinnacle. The extreme height, from the ground, is about 20 feet. The diagonal line, in the interior, is $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet; it will conveniently hold ten persons. The sides are filled up, between the buttresses, to the height of about six feet, and have in each two indented arches. The interior is ascended by two or three steps, and has in the centre a small font, on five pillars. The top is now covered, and has on it an oval marble basin, presented by some gentlemen of the town. The

consecrated water was, in ancient times, kept on the top, and let down through a pipe. In the interior roof is carved, a vine, representing the Church, guarded by a Lamb, from the Evil Spirit, under the form of a Dragon. This Baptistery is built of fine stone, and is now of a pure white. It was formerly painted and gilt, in a splendid, but not very appropriate style; an instance of more liberality than taste, in the Archbishop of Armagh, who also ceiled the chancel, and made a new east window. This Baptistery is said, by the tradition of the place, to have been given to the church by *Anne Boleyn*, when Queen; (whom it also asserts to have been born here: she was certainly connected with the place;) we have no means of ascertaining this fact. Another tradition, of perhaps much less authority, asserts that the tomb in Wenlock chapel, was erected as a monumental sarcophagus to her memory, by the inhabitants of the town.

There are some very ancient tombs in Luton Church, and there have been many more than are discernible now. A few portions of old Brasses are in the Parish chest, but not intelligible. The inhabitants are severely censured by Gough, for having, in the last century, melted down some old brasses to make a chandelier; and, with a true antiquarian feeling, he calls it a "*cruel thing*." There is certainly no want of liberality *now* in keeping the church internally in a proper state.

In the north aisle was the tomb of John Hay, Steward to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who repaired the church, and otherwise benefited the Town: on it, amongst others were the following lines. (*Gough*).

Hâc sunt in fossâ, John Hay venerabilis ossa,
 Anno milleno C quater L quoque deno.
 Uxores duxit vivens Annam et Isabellam.
 Fertilis Anna fuit: sobolis expers Isabella.
 Præsulis Anglorum primi fuerat senescallus,
 Largus, honestus, erat: hanc Ecclesiam reparavit,
 O qui transitis precibus mediare velitis!

* * * *

There was also the tomb of "John Penthelyn, Utriusque Iuris Bac: Vic huj. Eccles: ob. 1444." "Christi passio sit mihi salus sempiterna, et protector." And also a tomb of John Barbar and Agnes his wife, ob. 1415.

The following are still perfectly discernible.—In the south Aisle, at the west end, in an arched recess, an Altar-tomb, bearing the figure of an Ecclesiastic, with his hands clasped—a finely executed figure—said to have been an Abbot of St. Alban's, and that there was formerly a crosier, (no inscription).

Several memorials of the Bettsworths, an ancient family, which had formerly possessions in this Parish.

South Transept and Wenlock Chapel—several memorials of the Napiers, who formerly possessed Luton Hoo; a few pieces of old Armour, which, with Banners, &c., formerly were fixed up in the Chancel.

In the north Transept.—

“ Praye for the souls of John Ackworth, Squier, and Alys and Amy his wyfes, whiche John decessed the xvii day of Marche, in the yer. of our Lord MDXIII. on whose soules Jhu have mcy !”

Round the slab is the following curious mixture of English and Latin.—

(O Man ! whoe'r) thou be, *timor mortis* should trouble thee, for when thou least wenyest *veniet te mors superare*, and so grave grevys *ergo mortis memor eris*.—
Ihu—mercy—Lady—help—

On the floor of the Chancel—

“ Hic jacet Hugo atte Shetylt, et Alicia uxor ejus, cum Dno Johne filio suo primogenito—quorum animabus propicietur Deus.—Amen.—

“ Offe yor charite pray for the sowllis of John Sylam, Elizabeth and Jone his wyvis :— the whych John decessyd the x day of — in the yeir off owre Lord MD and xiii, on whos sowllis Ihu have mcy.—Ame.

“ Hic jacet Edvardus Sheffield utriusque iuris* Doctor, Canonicus Eccleie cathedralis Leichfeld, et vicarius istius Eccleie, et Recto Eccleie pachiis (parochialis) Camborne in Com: Cornub': et Yatt in Com: Glocestri: qui obiit—die Mess—Anno Dni. M.D† (1500) cuj aie picietur Deus.

The Marquis of Bute's pew consists of a covered Gallery, filling up the Chancel Arch, of carved wainscot, or Norway oak, built almost precisely after the pattern of the Doctor's gallery, in St. Mary's Cambridge, well known to many, by one or two less dignified appellations. The Rood

* Both Canon and Civil Law—such degrees are said to have been conferred before the Reformation.

† D, without C above it, formerly signified 5 only.

Loft was formerly here, At the back of this gallery, hangs a very large painting by *Fuseli*; presented by the Marquis of Bute. It represents a sacrifice offered by Noah and his family after the deluge. The figures and grouping are fine and bold, but the colouring is in the strangely dark and wild style of this artist, in which he resembled Sir John Vanbrugh, in Architecture. The rainbow itself, which at all times, and here especially, as the beautiful type of mercy and happiness, ought to be depicted in the brightest and gayest colours that imagination and art can achieve, looks full as dingy as the rest, and might be supposed to be struggling through a Fog. The pulpit stands on the south side of the cross aisle, and is plain, of wainscot, hexagonal, with a canopy, and, with the reading desk, is slightly furnished with purple velvet and gold. The sacrilegious chandelier, at which the worthy Gough looked so askew (*torvis oculis*), has, by no means, a look of triumphant guilt, but rather a modest appearance.

There are some handsome modern tablets in the church. In the south aisle is a long list of benefactions, principally of small value. The nave and transepts, which are about 40 feet high, are neatly roofed with oak, in excellent preservation. It is, perhaps, Irish oak, which has the valuable property of repelling insects and vermin. Over the side aisles are three small neat galleries. At the west end is a modern gallery of wainscot, of a Gothic pattern, the front well and deeply carved. On this stands a neat Organ, built by Lincoln, purchased for 300 guineas, and erected by subscription in 1823. Four hundred pounds was, at the same time, expended in improving this end of the church, and removing the Baptistery into the south transept. The Tower formerly contained five bells; of which the treble, called St. Gabriel's, was given by Sir Henry Hoo and his wife, in the time of Henry VI.; and the tenor, called Trinity, was of grand size, weighing 5,000 pounds. These have been re-cast, and made into eight, with a ninth, a small alarum-bell, at the top of the south-east turret. The Church is a vicarage, in the gift of Lord Bute, endowed with the small tithes of the whole parish, estimated annual value 950*l.*; which, for such an immense parish, seems a moderate estimate. The lately deceased Vicar, was the Rev. Dr. Hall, Dean of Christ Church, and afterwards of Durham. The present Vicar, we understand, is the Rev. — Macdouel.—

In the year 1502, Adrian de Castello, or Castell, an Italian, Vicar of Luton, was made Bishop of Hereford; in the year 1503, he was advanced to the Cardinal's purple; and in the year 1505, translated to Bath and Wells. His life may be found among those of the Bishops of the latter place.

There are now no vestiges of any chapels of ease, but there formerly were several; as in a record of the year 1209, the Vicar is said to have the tithes of *all* the Chapels belonging to the Church of Luton. A private Chapel of Hyde (east or west) belonging to Alan de Hyde, is mentioned in the Chronicle of Dunstable.

There was a Fraternity, or Guild, in this church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity.—The annual value at the Dissolution, was * * * *.

Pomfret the poet, is said to have been born at Luton, of which his Father was Curate, and is said to have been afterwards Vicar; but his name does not occur in the list in the Bibliotheca Topographica, (No. viii). He himself was presented to the living of Maldon, in this county. His death was caused by the effects of a wilfully false and malicious slander, (*vide*, Johnson's lives). His poetry was much admired in his day, and is now as much neglected; whether justly or not, we will not undertake to determine.

To describe all the Manors that are, and have been, in the parish of Luton, with the different families that have possessed these, would fill a small volume; and it must, of necessity, be omitted here. The principal families have been the Wenlocks, Rotherams, Napiers, and Crawleys. There are three seats now in the parish, besides the Marquis of Bute's: Stockwood, belonging to Samuel Crawley, Esq., a neat old house, lately much improved; East Hyde, J. Hibbert, Esq.; and Copt Hall, late the Rev. Mr. Hale.

The ancient road called Ikniel, or Icening-street, passes through part of this parish, including Leagrave-marsh, in its course from Dunstable to Baldock. This is supposed to have been a track-way of the Britons, before the conquest of Britain by the Romans. Where it crosses the Turnpike-road from Luton to Bedford, a branch seems to turn off to the British town of Magiovinium, or Maiden Bower.

King Offa gave part of the Town of Luton to the Abbey of St. Alban's; the charter is dated at Beranford (*Qy.* *Bedanford*, Bedford). At the time of the Norman Survey it belonged to the King, and was given to Geoffrey,

Earl of Perch. The tolls of the market were valued at 100 shillings per annum, a very considerable sum then. It paid 30*l.* per annum, besides certain services to the King; for small dues to the same, 70*s.*, and "pro consuetudine canum," (Qy. for the King's *hounds*), 6*s.* 10*d.* To the Queen, four ounces of gold; 8*l.* "ad pensum, cumento quod misit Jo. Tallebosc;" forty shillings of white silver and one ounce of gold, to the sheriff. There were six mills, together of the annual value of 100 shillings; and there was pasturage, or *pannage*, for 2,000 hogs. (These are usual items in Doomsday Book).

"By a subsequent grant, it became the property of Robert Earl of Gloucester, and having again reverted to the Crown, was granted, by King Stephen, to Richard Wandari, and afterwards to Baldwin de Belur, Earl of Albemarle. William Mareshall, Earl of Pembroke, who married the Earl of Albemarle's daughter and heiress, gave it to the famous Fulke de Brent, who, in 1216, obtained a confirmation, from King John, of the *Honour* of Luton. It is probable that the castle, built at Luton in 1221, which is represented in the Chronicle of Dunstaple as having been very prejudicial to the neighbouring town, was one of the fortresses of this haughty and oppressive baron."—*Lysons*.

The principal Manor and Lordship of Luton, was afterwards in the possession of the Countess of Derby; in 1282, of William Earl of Somerset; in 1406, it was granted to John Duke of Bedford, Regent of France; in 1450, in the possession of John Lord Wenlock, a character of some importance. In the reign of Edward VI. he was made Constable of Bamburg Castle, and Chamberlain to the Queen. Having acquired considerable riches (for those times), he lent to his royal master the sum of 1,033*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, as is said, or as this, with the fractions, seems an odd sum, we should be inclined to call it 1,550 marks, to which it amounts. For this he obtained an assignment of some portion of the fifteenth and tenth, granted by Parliament, 1456, and was also made a Knight of the Garter. At the battle of St. Alban's, he bravely fought in the King's army, where he was severely wounded. But, soon after, he went over to the Duke of York's party (1459), and was, in consequence, attainted by the Lancastrian Parliament. In this cause he fought bravely at Towton field, and was, in consequence, made a Baron, and had several important posts conferred on him, among which was the government of Calais. With a contemptible tergiversation,

he again revolted, and went over to the side of Henry VI. (which, however, was the rightful one, although his motives were corrupt or unworthy). Having raised forces, he joined Queen Margaret, before the battle of Tewksbury. He was appointed by John Earl of Somerset, to command the middle ward. The Earl's ardour having carried him onward in a very daring assault, he found himself unsupported by Lord Wenlock, and returning in great wrath, he found him, with his whole division, inactively drawn up in the market-place. Whether this was from policy, or whether he had an intention again to revolt, does not appear; but the Earl either did not take the trouble to inquire, or, knowing well the man, took the worst motive for granted, as, with one stroke of his battle axe, he struck off his head. He was buried in the collegiate church of Tewksbury. If his motive was at last good, in saving the rest of the army from the effects of Somerset's rashness, he certainly deserves pity; and it is scarcely likely that he could have meditated this last piece of treachery.

Besides the Wenlock Chapel, which he rebuilt, he built a mansion at Luton, called Someries; of which, or as some say, of a more modern structure, part of one large and strong tower remains. It was ascended by a very inclined plane, in place of a staircase, and had a whispering pipe, or tube, which conveyed the voice from the top to the foundation. There was also at Luton, a summer residence of the Abbots of St. Alban's, at which, doubtless, Wheathamstead superintended the erection of his chancel.

The Manor of Hoo, at Luton, belonged to an ancient family of that name, settled here before the Conquest. Sir Robert Hoo was Knight of the Shire in the reign of Edward I. Sir Thomas Hoo, K. G., was created Lord Hoo, of the same, and Lord Hastings, in 1447. This Manor was the dowry of his daughter, Anne, who married, in 1460, Sir Geoffrey Bullen, Lord Mayor of London. His grand-daughter, Anne Bullen, afterwards Queen of England, was born in 1507. This manor passed through the families of Farmer and Brocket, to the Napiers, and was purchased of them by the Marquis of Bute's family, who now possess it, with the principal Manor of Luton, also purchased of the Napiers.

Cicely de Beauchamp, of that ancient family, had some property in Luton. The ancient name of the town was Luygetun. The Church of Luton was purchased by the Abbot of St. Alban's, for eighty marks, of

Robert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, in 1166. It is described as very valuable, "parochialibus copiosa et opimis terris dotata;" the annual value was about 86*l.*, equal to 2,000*l.* in the present day. The various transfers and possessors of the Church are given at full length by Matthew Paris, and translated in the XXVIth Number of the Bibliotheca Topographica. It was finally confirmed to the Abbey, with Houghton Regis, and Battlesden in this county. Two priests were maintained out of it, to officiate in Luton Church, and the remainder was at the disposition of the cellarer, to be applied for the service of hospitality, to strangers visiting the Abbey; a feast was also to be given to the Monks, on their anniversary (or *Gaudy*) day.

At Farleigh, in Luton parish, was an ancient Hospital, given by Henry II. to the great foreign Hospital of Santingfield, in Picardy, to which the master and brethren were made subordinate. In 1379, William Wenlock was master, having been previously Rector of St. Andrew's, Holborn. It was as an alien Priory, granted by Henry VI. to King's College, Cambridge.

In the inquisition of the Ninth, 1340, some particulars of Luton occur which are not elsewhere mentioned; it must be remembered, that the Inhabitants of each place were interested in representing themselves as poor as they could.

Luton, or Luytone, rated at 82 marks, with the vicarage. About 200 Messuages in the Parish, were uninhabited; and six carucates of Land uncultivated, on account of the impoverishment of the Parish; there were no citizens or burgesses, but certain sellers and buyers of corn and "bras," (Brasium, Beer or Malt; *Du Cange*), and also of cattle, had cattle to the value of 45 pounds. It is said also, that the inhabitants were impoverished on account of the *burning* of the town, which had lately taken place.

And the following particulars of Luton, at the time of the Civil Wars, are taken from a cotemporary Pamphlet:

"The Royal forces, about 600 in number, marched towards Luton, in Bedfordshire, and thence took their circumference towards Bedford Town, not daring to stay long in a place, because of the close pursuit of the Parliamentary forces. Six troopers, who were loitering behind, and regaling themselves at the Prince's-Head Inn disarmed and with their *swords stuck in the ceiling*, were taken prisoners.

“ Upon their advance towards Bedford, Sir Michael Livesay’s forlorn of horse, fell upon the Duke’s rear-guard, within two miles of Luton Town’s end, and after the exchange of several pistols, and a hot dispute, the enemy were forced to retreat, with the loss of 15 men—six slain, nine wounded.

“ This day, a party of Major Gibbon’s troop fell upon some scattering forces of the Lord Duke’s, in the village of Marston, 14 miles distant from Luton, took eight or nine prisoners, and killed three of them; the rest made good their retreat towards Bedford.

The tradition of the place says, that one of Cromwell’s Officers was shot, for suffering himself to be surprised by the King’s troops, and was buried in the chancel: said by Dr. Prior, Vicar, to be one Major Buckinger.

“ The King’s troops got possession of Luton, by pretending to be some of the Parliamentary forces under Waller.”

Luton Market is still held on Monday, and is largely attended by Corn Dealers. Leland says of this place, “ Luton, a good Market Town for Barlye;” and this homely notice is all he takes of it. There are two Fairs, April 18th and October 18th.

The tradition of the place is (and tradition, says Dr. Johnson, is, *a priori*, undoubtedly of high authority), that Queen Anne Boleyn was born at Luton Hoo: and there is nothing to prove the contrary. Miss Benger (*Memoirs*) asserts, that she was born at Rochford, in Essex, but gives no authority. At all events, she had some connexion with this place. This Lady’s character is sufficiently known from History, of which the period at which she lived forms a very interesting part. It is a mixed one; but her virtues may perhaps be thought to over balance her faults and failings. If she walked over the ruins of Queen Catherine’s state to her exaltation, there are yet many circumstances to be considered, as palliating and extenuating her conduct. The King’s divorce was declared lawful, by authorities which she had not ability to controvert; the temptation of a Monarch’s hand was strong, and she was permitted and encouraged by her own family. She is described by her first lover, Wyatt, as of a very “ rare and fresh bewtie,” which doubtless appeared in its most becoming hue, and in its holiday graces, to receive the addresses of a Sovereign.

“ Indum sanguineo veluti violaverit ostro
Si quis ebur, vel mixta rubent ubi Lilia multa
Alba rosâ.”

A crimson blush her beauteous face o'erspread,
 Varying her cheek by turns with white and red.
 Delightful change! thus Indian ivory shews,
 Which with the bordering paint of purple glows,
 Or Lilies damask'd by the neighbouring rose.—*Dryden.*

She is not accused of having abused her high situation. Few, if any, now believe the base insinuations of her tyrant, which had a vicious and interested motive. She displayed many virtues, and kindly and liberally patronised the promoters of the Reformation; for which an interested reason can scarcely be assigned. And she met death in an exemplary manner, with cheerfulness and fortitude. These circumstances are sufficient to induce the hand of Charity to draw a veil over her failings.

The Marquis of Bute's seat, at Luton Hoo, or West Hyde, is a very handsome edifice, and will be much more regular and grand, as great part of it is now being rebuilt. Of this, and WOBURN ABBEY, and others, an account was intended to have been given, if this publication had been completed. The principal room in the interior, is the library, which is 146 feet long, and contains about 30,000 volumes: it is said to be inferior only to Blenheim; the ceiling is lightly and elegantly painted, as are those of some other rooms, by *Cipriani*. In this House is also a Chapel, which is fitted up with a beautifully carved Gothic wainscot and screens, brought from Sir Thomas Pope's chapel at Tittenhanger, in Hertfordshire; this carving is said to be one of the finest ancient specimens in wood in existence. Some fine engravings of it have been lately published. But the principal ornament and distinction of this Mansion, is the collection of PAINTINGS, one of the finest in England, and even Europe. It is said to be superior to the Houghton collection, which was lamented as a national loss; Dr. Johnson, after having seen Luton House, said "the number of the Paintings was beyond expectation, and even beyond hope." Here may be seen the most sublime, and almost super-human conceptions of Scriptural subjects; a great variety of depicted ideas from the fanciful and richly storied field of ancient Mythology; some fine Historical Pieces, and Views by native Artists; the grand Landscapes of Italy, and the splendid and characteristic designs of the Flemish Schools.

From you, blest Pair*, Religion deigns to claim
 Her sacred honours; at her awful name,
 High o'er the stars you take your soaring flight,
 And rove the regions of supernal light.

* Poetry and Painting.

Attend to lays that flow from tongues divine,
 Undazzled gaze where charms seraphic shine ;
 Trace beauty's beam to its eternal spring,
 And pure to man the fire celestial bring.

When round this globe on joint pursuit ye stray,
 Time's ample annals studiously survey,
 And from the eddies of Oblivion's stream,
 Propitious snatch each memorable theme.

Thus to each form in Heaven, and Earth, and Sea,
 That wins with grace, or awes with dignity,
 To each exalted deed, which dares to claim
 The glorious meed of an immortal fame,
 That meed ye grant. Hence to remotest age,
 The Hero's soul darts from the Post's page ;
 Hence from the canvas, still with wonted state,
 He lives, he breathes, he braves the frown of Fate :
 Such power, such praises, Heaven-born pair belong.
 To magic colouring, and creative song!

C. Alphonse du Fresnoy, de Arte Pictoriá.—Translated by Mason.

The number of Pictures of the first class, is said to be about 400.

Luton Park contains 1,500 acres. The Scenery, particularly about the House, is pleasing; the River Lea, which runs through it, supplies two pieces of water, one of 14 acres, and the other of 50. There are many fine trees of different kinds, amongst which the beech is predominant.

The Marquis of Bute's family is an ancient one in Scotland, of regal origin, being traced up to a son of King Robert II., to whom his father granted possessions in the Isle of Bute. They are allied to the Scotch families of Argyle, Ruthven, &c.; and to the English ones, of Northumberland, Ancaster, Kingston, Hertford, &c. &c. Of this family, were the celebrated Minister: Lady Wortley Montague, &c. &c. &c. The present Marquis, John Crichton Stuart, was born in 1793, succeeded to the Earldom of Dumfries 1806, and the Marquisate of Bute 1814. He married, in 1818, Maria North, eldest daughter of the Earl of Guildford. He has other Scotch and English titles, and is Hereditary Sheriff and Coroner of Bute, and Lord Lieutenant of Glamorganshire.

ARMS—Quarterly; Argent, a Lion rampant. Chequy and or, &c. &c.

SUPPORTERS—A Horse and a Stag.

CRESTS—A Demy Lion rampant, and a Dragon passant.

MOTTO—AVITO VIRET HONORE.





Printed by C. H. Munn

OSBORNE HOUSE, BRIGHTON.
The Property of Sir T. Osborne, Bart. one of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.
See also the view of the West Front, p. 107.

A. C. M. & Co. Lith.

CHICKSANDS.

THE Priory of Chicksands was founded in or about the year 1150, by Paganus, or Pain de Beauchamp, and the Countess Roisia, his wife, for nuns and canons, of the Order of St. Gilbert, of Sempringham. Simon de Beauchamp, their son, is said to have given to it the *Church* of Chicksand; but a query may be raised on this head, as it is not set down as belonging to it in Pope Nicholas's Taxation. Three charters are on record: the first, of Pain de Beauchamp, confirming several lands of his own gift, and those of others; 2d, of William, his son, do. do.; 3d, of King Edward II., giving license to John Blondel, to give to the monastery, the *Manor* of Chicksands; and this at the request of Lady Adomar de Valence, Countess of Pembroke. The description of their early possessions is as follows:— At Hawnes, the grange* and 400 acres, of the gift of Pain de Beauchamp

* "Granges, were the farms belonging to the Monastery, at which the Abbots had often Country houses. Thomas Lord Berkely, in 18 Edward I. (1290), being ill, went to a Grange of the Abbot of St. Augustin's Canterbury, for change of air, till he recovered. The Abbot's bill came to *two-pence!* which he received."—*Fosbrooke*. It is not much to the credit of his liberality, that the Visitor did not give an additional gratuity.—He might, one would think, have given a *penny* over. Or, had he been a man of enlarged mind, and willing by honourable means, to "win golden opinions from all kinds of men," he might have extended his munificence to *sixpence*.

and Roisia, some of which had belonged to Richard the monk, Avenel, and Warner of Hawnes, to whom they made a compensation. In Camp-ton, three virgates of their own gift, and half the domain from the gift of Adeliz, wife of Walter de Marcis; in Cayshou (Keysoe) and Scottou (Qy.?) whatever they have from the gifts of Roger Landos, Robert Faucilun and sixteen others; at Williton (Willington), a mill, with a mansion, and half a virgate of land; at Chicksands, the wood of Appeley (now called Chick-sands), except one part, which belonged to Olave, priest of Hawnes, and half a virgate, with a mansion, which belonged to Lefsten, the keeper of the said wood; twenty acres in Cople; the manor of Hargrave, in Northamptonshire; the chapel and lands of Estwic (Astwick); lands in Houghton, Meppershal, Lenslade, Wolverton, Chippenham (Wilts.), Nor-wich, &c. &c. &c.

The Countess Roisia was so passionately attached to her new founda-tion, that when her son Geoffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Essex (son of her first husband, who founded Walden Abbey) died, whom she had in vain tried to persuade to divert his benefactions from his father's foundation to her's, she took the very extraordinary and outrageous step of sending an armed body of men from Chicksands, to intercept his funeral, in the way from Chester to Walden, and to cause his remains to be forcibly interred at Chicksands, to which monastery she thus hoped that his relations would become benefactors. But the knights who attended the procession, being made acquainted with her intention, armed themselves, and re-inforced their guard, and so conveyed it safely to Walden. Roisia, however, con-trived to deprive the monastery of Walden of part of the usual perquisites, as they only obtained "his best horse and armour," but the "furniture of his chapel*" was given to Chicksands. The Countess Roisia died soon after, and was buried in the Chapter House at Chicksands.

In Pope Nicholas IVth's Taxation, 1291, the valuation of Chicksands was as follows, and was very considerable, for that early period:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|----|---------|
| Prior of Chicksand, rent in Bedford | - | - | 4 0 0 |
| Manor of Chicksand and Campton—is worth | - | - | 18 14 7 |

* This was perhaps very valuable, as nearly the whole of the walls might have been hung with damask or velvet, as they still occasionally are on the Continent. The furniture of John Duke of Bedford's Chapel, was "*de rubro Velveto, cum radiis aureis*"—of red velvet, radiated with gold.

CHICKSANDS.

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| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|------|----|----|
| Grange of Chapel of St. Thomas—land, rents, meadows | 6 | 17 | 0 |
| Grange of Heyseles—lands and rent | 1 | 15 | 0 |
| “ <i>Fruct, greg, et aial</i> ” | 3 | 15 | 4 |
| Gölon—ditto ditto ditto | 2 | 15 | 0 |
| Stanford-Pulhanger—mill and meadows | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| In Caysho—land, rents, and dove-houses | 7 | 3 | 0 |
| — fruits, flocks, and herds | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| Hawnes—lands, rents, and ‘ <i>cur</i> ’ | 5 | 12 | 0 |
| — fruits, flocks, and herds | 6 | 2 | 11 |
| Conington (Hunts) rent | 3 | 12 | 0 |
| Swyneshvred (Hunts)—land and meadows | 1 | 9 | 0 |
| — fruits, flocks, and herds | 2 | 13 | 4 |
| Molesworth (Hunts)—lands and meadows | 2 | 16 | 8 |
| — fruits, flocks, and herds | 2 | 8 | 8 |
| Ovton (Hunts) lands | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Northampton—rents | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| Hargrave (Northampton)—lands, rents, and mill | 6 | 5 | 9 |
| — fruits, flocks, and herds | 0 | 17 | 4 |
| London—St. Mary, Colecherehe | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| — St. Mildred’s on Walebrok | 2 | 13 | 4 |
| — St. Stephen’s in the Jewry | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Or Newenham (erased)—Linchelade | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| Tithes of the Vicarage of Caysho | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Or Newenham (as before) in Hawnes | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| Tithes of the Vicarage of the same | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| (Church of Chykesond), (separate) | (2) | 13 | 4 |
| Pension of Prior, from Tithes of Estwyke Church | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| Linthelad (Bucks)—lands | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Lower Wynchesdon—rents | 5 | 15 | 6½ |
| Goods (<i>bona</i>) of Prior, in parish of St. Martia at the gate, Norwich | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| Chippenham—lands, and “ <i>fetu aial</i> ” (pasture of herds) | 4 | 11 | 8 |
| Wolverton and Lathburie—lands, meadows, rents | 4 | 17 | 4 |
| Conpol—land, rent, and meadows | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| — fruit, flocks and herds | 2 | 8 | 8 |
| Houton, Wotton, Kembeston—lands and rents | 4 | 15 | 2 |
| — fruits, flocks, and herds | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| | £121 | 14 | 1½ |

It is possible that in this and the other extracts from Pope Nicholas’s Taxation, one or two items may have been accidentally omitted, as the possessions of each monastery are not put collectively (as they are in the valuation of 1535), but dispersed in different parts of the book: but great

CHICKSANDS.

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| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|-------------|----------|----------|
| Rabbit Warren and Water-mill of Chicksand | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| London | 20 | 8 | 0 |
| Domain land of the Priory | 28 | 1 | 10 |
| Hargrave | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Mulsworth | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| Houghton | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Swyneshed | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Rysley | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Pertnal | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| Bedford | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Sondhey | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Notley | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| Wolvton | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Conyngton | 2 | 14 | 4 |
| Northton | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Astwick | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Stondon | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| Clifton | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Langford | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Southyell | 0 | 2 | 8 |
| Stanford | 0 | 2 | 8 |
| Piston | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Hyll | 0 | 6 | 8 |
| Gravenhurst | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Chipnam | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| Tadlow | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Norwich | 0 | 6 | 8 |
| Fines, amercements, and other casualties—'communibus annis' | 1 | 13 | 4 |
| | <u>£230</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> |

Outgoings.—Mis' (Taxes), et Repris (reprises).

| | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| In reddit : resolut : divs personis videlt, (reserved rent to different persons) | | | |
| The Lord the King, for certain land in Mepshal, per annum | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Heirs of Earl of Kent, free rent of land in Camelton and Shefford | 0 | 5 | 7 |
| Heirs of Duke of Buckingham, for free rent in Mulsworth, Swyneshede, Staughton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| John Conquest, free rent in Houghton | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| John Seint John, Knight, for land in Cayesho | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Heirs of Thomas Saint George, for land in Tudlow | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Honour of Clare, free rent in Tudlowe | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| | <u>£1</u> | <u>12</u> | <u>11</u> |

CHICKSANDS.

Pens.

| | | | | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|-------|----|----|
| College of St. Edmund, Cambridge | - | - | - | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| M ^{ro} . de Watton, annual penc' | - | - | - | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| Abbess of Elstow | - | - | - | 0 | 6 | 8 |
| Commander of Bedlow | - | - | - | 0 | 6 | 8 |
| Priory of St Mary of Byllynton | - | - | - | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Priory of Hutchyn | - | - | - | 0 | 6 | 8 |
| Honor of Clare, annual penc' | - | - | - | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| | | | | <hr/> | | |
| | | | | £7 | 12 | 0 |

Feod : (Fees).

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|-------|----|---|
| William Gascoigne, Knight Senescal of the Domain of the Priory | - | - | - | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| James Dawn, Receiver of the same | - | - | - | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Silvester Todd, Bailiff of Chicksand with its members | - | - | - | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| Henry Hall, Bailiff of Cayssho, with its members | - | - | - | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| Philip Stringer, Bailiff of Notley, with its members | - | - | - | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| William Ragley, Bailiff of Cowpul, Bedford, and Sondhey | - | - | - | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| John Smith, Bailiff of Stotfold | - | - | - | 0 | 6 | 8 |
| John James, Bailiff of Shefford, with its members | - | - | - | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| | | | | <hr/> | | |
| | | | | £8 | 13 | 4 |

£230 3 4
16 6 4

Summa Clara £213 17 0

Taken by the same Commissioners as at Bedford.

The Priory was surrendered by the Sub-Prior, six Monks, and 18 Nuns, in 1538. In 1539, it was granted to one Robert Snow, of whose family it was purchased in 1576, by Peter Osborn, Esq., in whose family it continues to this day.

The situation of Chicksands, judging from the present appearance, was ever a highly pleasing and eligible one. It stands on a slight eminence, with gently rising hills at a short distance behind; along the valley in front, flows a brook, formed into a handsome stream, which, in one place, has now a fine artificial cascade; this brook forms one of the sources of the River Ivel. On the hills, at the back, is a very large and fine wood. The good Monks, it appears, well knew how to select for themselves, the finest spots and scenery, and to draw together all those objects, which were most

calculated to relieve the monotony of their cloistered, and we may truly add, unnatural course of life.

Rura mihi et rignis placeant in vallibus amnes
Flumina amem sylvasque.—*Vir.*

They were very particular in choosing sites where there were natural facilities for forming Fish-ponds, the use of which, on their prescribed fasting days, is obvious. They were accustomed to contrive for this purpose, and in order to be able to catch them with greater ease, two or three ponds on a slope, into the latter of which the fish were driven. Such pieces of water, are almost universally seen on the sites of Monasteries, and so were common appendages to old Mansions in general.

Setting aside the question, which yet is not properly a question, of the excellence and utility of the abolition of these institutions, (for all are now agreed on the subject), we cannot refuse some portion of sympathy to those who were thus summarily dismissed from their accustomed retreats, and those habitations which they had doubtless thought, would be the comfort of their old age. They did not make the system themselves, nor all its evils; and however vicious some of them might have been, we cannot be so uncharitable as to include all in the same sweeping condemnation. Such a sentiment, however it might, perhaps, suit the taste of a Calvin, would hardly have been that of Melancthon or Cranmer, whom we boast as our revered founders, and would still less approach the divine policy of their Master. It has been too usual, to attack the Monks with the weapons of ribaldry and insult; but we are happy that the cause of the reformed Church does not stand in need of such paltry support; if it did, we should have no great pleasure in defending it. If we have a clearer view of things, and a brighter light in which to walk, let us pity, rather than condemn with asperity, the mist in which they pursued their course; if they still farther darkened it by the murkiness of vice, let us remember that we are apt enough, in our more enlightened age, to do the same. And if the bright beams of innocence and charity ever pierced, as they *did* pierce, their clouded horizon, let us rather hail them with pleasure, than attempt to put on them that *extinguisher*, which is a weapon fit enough for bigotry, but never ought to be used by those, who wish, even at the remotest distance, to follow the bright guidance of Christian charity.

Some compensation was, however, given to the expelled Monks; for

there were among the men in office, those who had a better spirit than the Monarch, and some of his courtiers. And it is a most pleasing reflection, that two of the best and most esteemed Catholic Bishops passed the remainder of their lives in a happy seclusion, as the guests of a Protestant Archbishop, at Lambeth Palace.

We can easily conceive on this occasion, some of the Monks renewing the complaints of the dispossessed inhabitants of Mantua and Cremona.

Advena nostri

(*Quid numquam veriti sumus*) ut possessor agelli

Dixerat "Hæc mea sunt, veteres migrate coloni."—*Vir.*

The time is come I never thought to see,

Sad revolution for my farm and me,—

When a rude alien, in a surly tone,

Cries "quit, ye *Monks*, your hamlets and begone."—*Ring.*

Chicksands, is now the property of Sir John Osborn. The ancient Quadrangle preserves its form entire, but great part of it has been repaired and nearly rebuilt. Still the style has been very carefully preserved, and enough remains of the old building untouched, to constitute an interesting identity. There are very few instances of this kind in England, where the whole, or part of a ancient Monastery remains so entire, as to be used as a modern habitation. From these remains, this building appears never to have been of the first style of Monastic architecture, but rather neat and commodious, more in the style of a *Priory*, than an *Abbey*.

The south and east fronts were nearly rebuilt by *Ware*, about the year 1750. The other sides are in a more ancient state. On the west side, is a room, which has been used as a Chapel, which with another adjoining, used as a laundry, has the original plain groined roof, supported by low octagonal pillars. The area, in the interior of the square, is 64 feet by 51 $\frac{1}{2}$. The mullioned cloister arches, now used as windows, may be seen along great part of the lower story. The south and east sides, contain the principal rooms. These sides were also much improved by the late Sir Geo. Osborn. He erected the Porch, which is a very handsome one, with *crenated*, or indented battlements, and two grand pinnacles; and constructed the rooms and offices to the north of the Quadrangle, which are of brick, with stone mullions and facings, and have a neat spire turret of stone. In the interior, he made the hall or vestibule, by throwing into one, part of

the old cloister, used as a passage, and some part that had been degraded to the purpose of a cellar; and he made the Library, 40 feet by 20, by throwing down the partitions between the groined arches. These are the original groins, and are very neat, with octagonal pillars; there are one or two very grotesque corbels. The principal ornament, however, of the house, is the Hall, which has a grand and imposing appearance; it is supported in part, by the inner cloister arches, and the roof has magnificent and elaborate groining.

“ About the roof a maze of mouldings slim,
Like veins that o'er the hand of lady wind,
Embraced in closing arms the Keystone trim,
With hieroglyphs and ciphers quaint combined,
The riddling art, that charm'd the Gothic mind.”—*Fosbrooke*.

The walls are ornamented with fret-work niches; the staircase, and a gallery above, are in the same style. This is, we believe, modern work: the architect, employed by Sir G. Osborn, was *Wyatt*. The railing of the staircase is of brass. Three of the ancient windows above are filled with old stained glass, collected by Sir G. Osborn, the brightness of the colouring of which cannot easily be exceeded.

In the Drawing Room, is a very pretty little oriel, seen in the accompanying view, which has also stained glass. The Saloon is a neat room, supported by pillars, and containing several full-length portraits. In the upper part of the north side is a long apartment, called the Pigeon Gallery, having pigeons painted on the ceiling, the cause of which we do not exactly know. In this are several small pictures; amongst others, a portrait of Cardinal Pole. Here is, likewise, a portrait of Sir Charles Ventris, Knight, removed from a panel in the old manor-house of Camp-ton, which has on it the marks of several slugs, and this inscription: “ In the year 1645, Sir Charles Ventris, Knight Banneret, created by King Charles, for his bravery in the civil wars, was (in the night-time), by Oliver's party, shot at, as he was walking in this room; but happily missed him;”—a base attempt at assassination.

In this House is a full collection of Portraits of all the Osborn family, including the present Baronet and his family; and also those of Sir Thomas More, Wolsey, Edward VI., by Holbein, Charles I., Cromwell, a very fine one, by Sir Peter Lely, the Earl of Winchilsea, Admiral Byng, Sir Philip

Warwick, &c. &c., and also a curious one of Queen Catherine Parr, from whom Dorothea, wife of Sir Peter Osborn, was descended.

There are, also, the following paintings of merit, amongst others, belonging to Sir John Osborn :—

The Finding of Moses, by *Paul Veronese*.

The Adoration of the Magi, a fine old painting on three panels, by *Albert Durer*.

Luther, Calvin, and Socinius, in one painting.

Meleager and Atalanta, a copy from *Rubens'* picture in the Dresden Gallery.

Sir George Osborn constructed a room, in imitation of the Chapter-house at Peterborough, used as a bed-room, and placed in it a state-bed, which belonged to James I., having the initials J. A., with a crown. The traditionary account of it is, that it is the bed on which the Pretender was born; and that, upon that occasion, it became a perquisite of the chamberlain, who presented it to the Osborn family.

For many particulars, relative to Chicksands, the author has to return his thanks to the present proprietor, Sir John Osborn.

The grounds of Chicksands are very pretty, and the situation altogether highly pleasing. The wood called Appeley, and now Chicksands, contains about 300 acres, and is one of the largest in the county. The number of acres belonging to Chicksands, extra-parochial, is about 2,000.

The Pedigree of the Osborn family is as follows,—with these brief notices :—

Peter Osborn, of Purleigh, Essex; ob. 1442.

Richard Osborn, ob. 1471.

Richard Osborn, Tyld Hall, Essex; ob. 1544.

Peter Osborn, Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer of the Exchequer, and Privy Purse; Ed. VI. Imprisoned in Queen Mary's reign. In great esteem with Lord Burleigh, and a High Commissioner for Ecclesiastical Affairs, active and zealous in the Reformation; ob. 1592.

Sir John Osborn, Kt., Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer, married Dorothea, daughter of Sir John Danvers, and sister of Danvers, Earl of Danby; ob. 1623.

Sir Peter Osborn, Kt., twenty-two years Governor of Guernsey and Jersey, a firm royalist, and suffered much in the royal cause; he advanced large sums to Charles I., and was obliged to compound for his estates for

himself and his son, Sir Henry Osborn, at the sum of 3,737*l.* 3*s.*; ob. 1657.

Francis Osborn, Esq., his son, author of a celebrated treatise, called "Advice to a Son," and other works; ob. 1657.

Sir Henry Osborn, his youngest son, of esteemed learning and disposition; Treasurer of sick and wounded seamen; ob. 1675.

Sir John Osborn, Bart., so created by Charles II., as a small recompense for the sufferings of his family, during the Rebellion; ob. 1692.

Sir John Osborn, Bart.; ob. 1720.

Admiral Henry Osborn, his son, Vice-Admiral of the Fleet; born 1697.

John Osborn, Esq., died in the life-time of his father, 1718.

Sir Danvers Osborn, Bart., Governor of New York; ob. 1753.

Sir George Osborn, Bart., Groom of the Bedchamber to George III., K. B., installed as Proxy for Frederic Duke of York, 1772; a General in the army; ob. 1818.

Sir John Osborn, a Lord of the Admiralty, and Colonel of the Bedfordshire Militia: the present Baronet.

Chicksands is generally considered in connexion with the parish of Campton, the church of which has, on the north side of the chancel, separated by a wooden screen, a Chapel, containing the burying place of the Osborn family. In it are two plain and handsome altar tombs, of marble, with tablets above. These were erected in 1635, and commemorate Peter Osborn, Sir John Osborn, and Dorothy his wife; Henry Osborn, who erected them, &c. &c. &c. There is also a tablet to the memory of John Osborn, Esq., son of Sir Danvers Osborn, LL.D. Oxon. and Cam. and F.R.S., who, after several diplomatic employments, was ambassador at the Court of Saxony, and died at Rudolstadt, in that kingdom, in 1814. By his will, he left 100 guineas each, to *thirty-one* hospitals. "Amoris inane monumentum fraterni—struxit amore—Georgius Osborn." In the nave of the church are brasses for Richard Carlyll, Esq., and Johanna his wife, who died in 1489.

This parish is thus noticed in the Non. Inq. 1340:—

"Chykesonde, 2 marks.

"Camilton, 8 marks and a half. All the principal men in the parish lived in the hamlet of Shefford, and paid their tax in other parishes; *viz.* Meppershal, Clifton, Southgyvell, and Gravenhurst."

The hamlet of Shefford, in this parish, is a small town, population about 700. The market on Fridays, has been lately restored, and the place much improved in appearance and prosperity, a canal having been made, by deepening a brook, to join the Ivel at Biggleswade. It has four fairs; Jan. 23, Easter Monday, May 19, and October 10; of which the last, granted to Robert de Lisle, in the reign of Edward II., originally lasted six days. Here is a Chapel of Ease to Campton, lately repaired and enlarged; there is also a Roman Catholic chapel, with an endowment. Some houses and lands were left by Robert Lucas, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, to this town, to keep in repair the bridges, roads, and causeways, the remainder to be given to the poor.

THE END.

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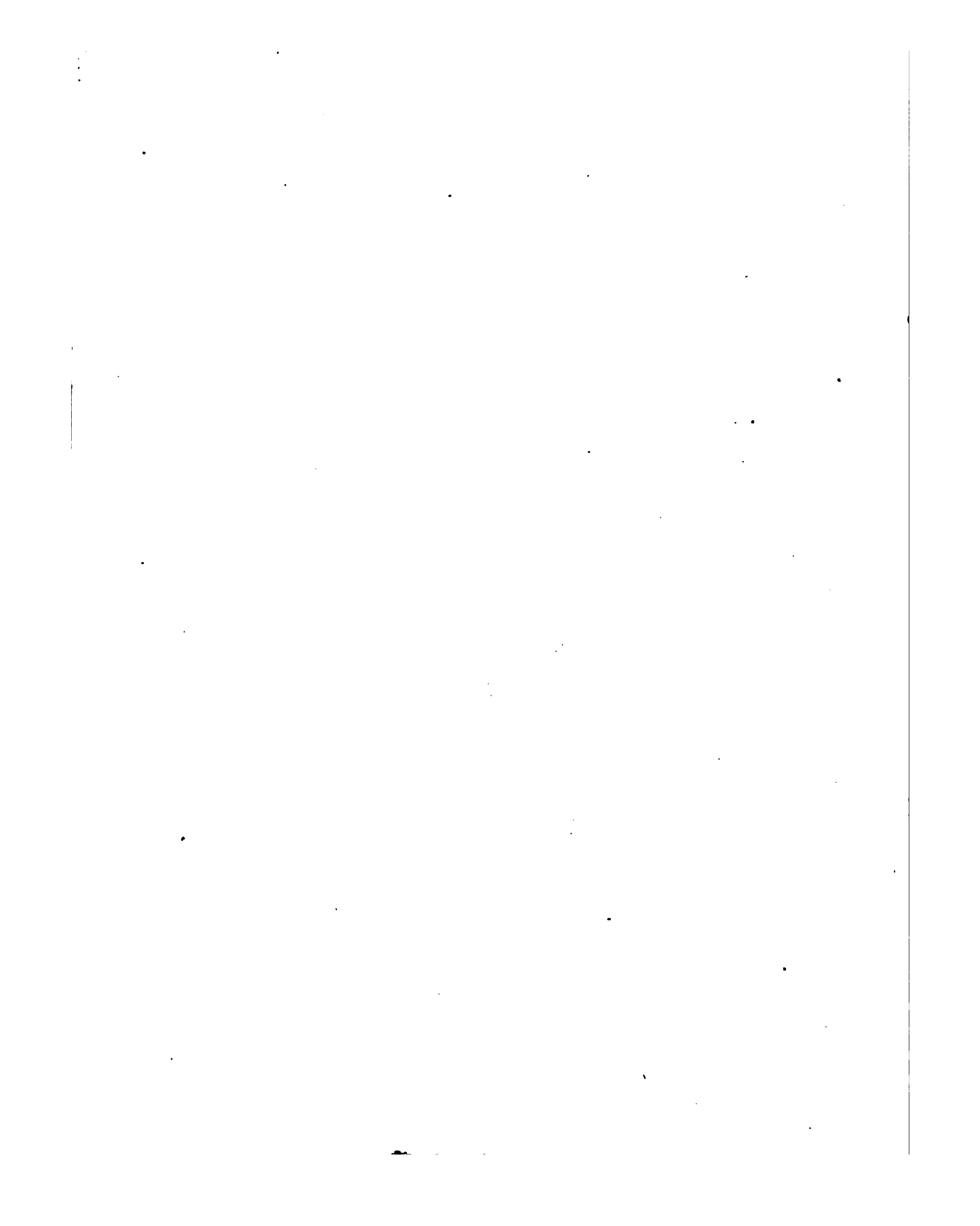
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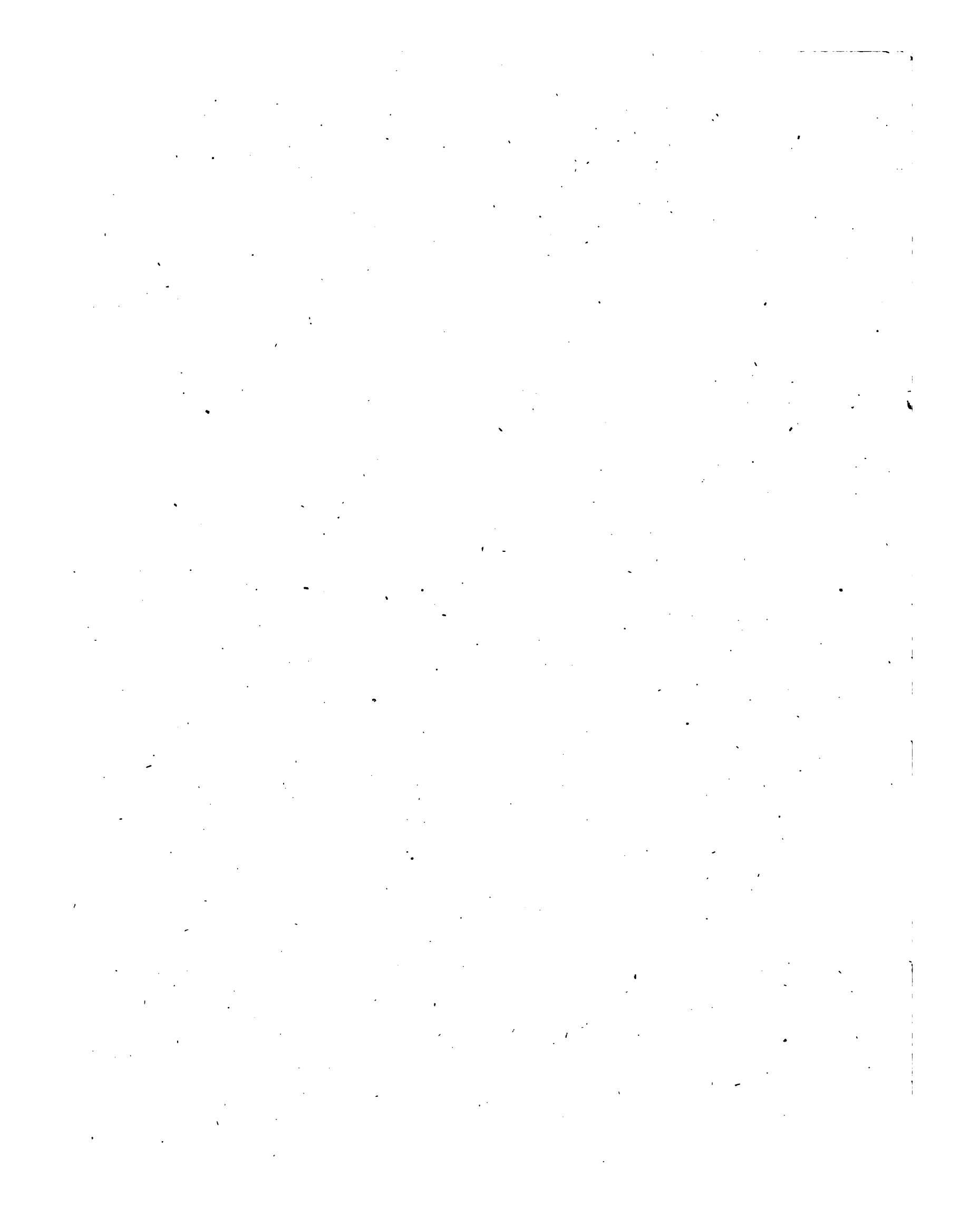
Page 25, l. 27 (note), To *nomm* was an ancient term in falconry, for a hawk's seizing its prey. This comes nearer to the present word than any we have found.

105, l. 28, King James I. visited Luton in 1605; *vide* his 'Progresses.'

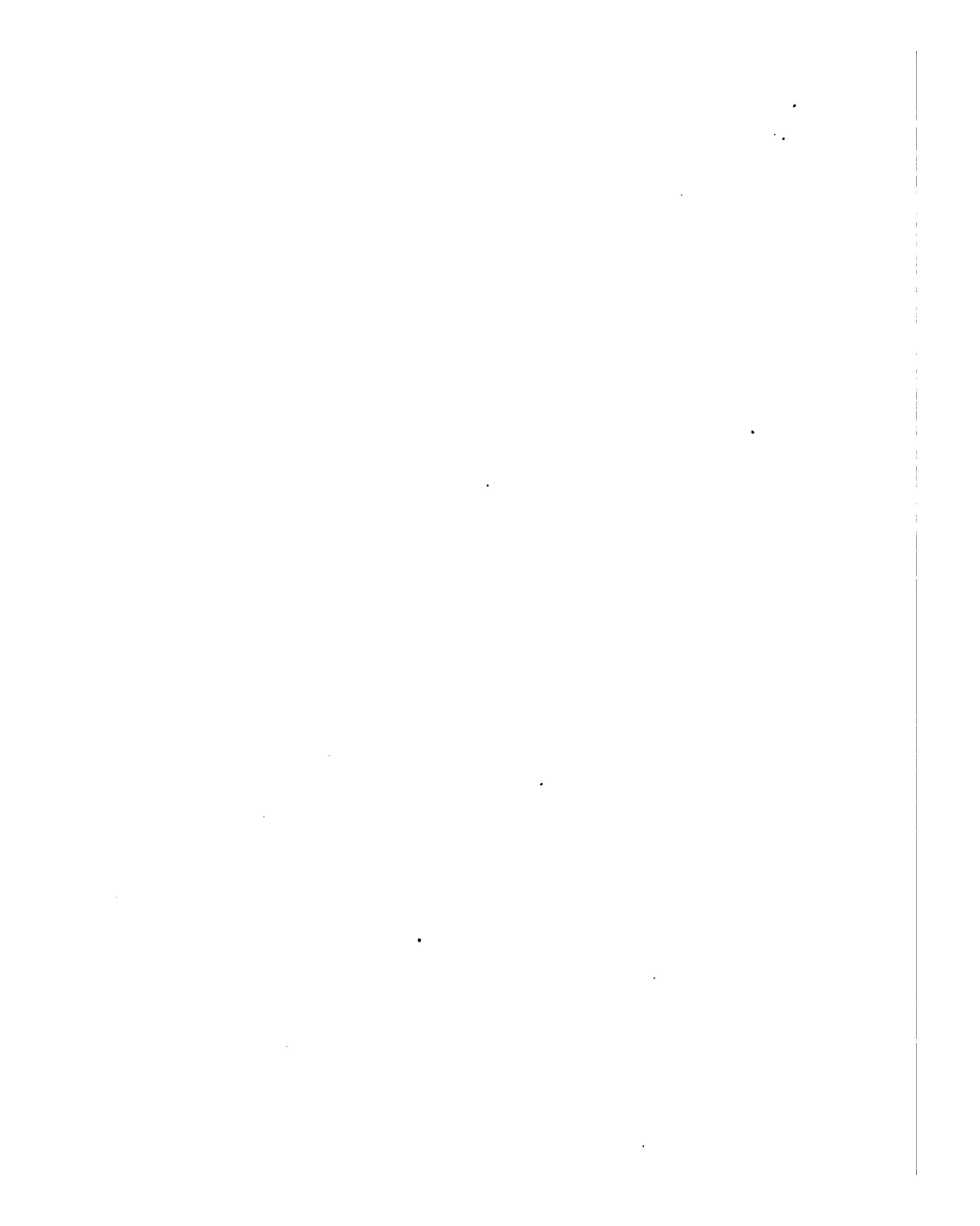
ERRATA.

- Page 21, l. 36, for 'was,' read 'were.'
25, — 31, — 'Maire,' read 'Marie.'
 — 'renthe,' read 'reuthe.'
26, — 2, — 'eight,' read 'eighty.'
26, — 22, — 'Mangonella,' read 'Mangonella.'
45, — 30, — 'abbots,' read 'abbes.'
66, — 5, — '1290,' read '1690.'
66, — 13, — 'distributed,' read 'exhibited.'
68, — 10, — 'candelabra,' read 'candelabrum.'
68, — 15, — 'Garnaret,' read 'Garrard.'
75, — 28, — 'Aibini,' read 'Albini.'
90, — 36, — 'plessed,' read 'pleased.'
91, — 14, — '1615,' read '1661.'
107, — 10, — 'exemplary.'
108, — 5, — 'when,' read 'then.'
116, — 11, — 'so,' read 'also.'
116, — 20, — 'a,' read 'an.'
118, — 7, — 'Socinius,' read 'Socinus.'







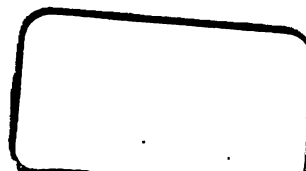


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